

Opioid Response Region 4 Council Agenda
July 11, 2022
10:00 am
Virtual Meeting Attendance

On July 11, 2022 at 10:00 am Commissioners from across the Eastern District attended a virtual meeting to establish the Opioid Response Region 4 Council. Present were:

Board Members: Scott Weaver – Yuma County, Byron Pelton – Logan County, Dave Martin – Morgan County Sheriff, Terry Hofmeister – Phillips County, Chris Richardson – Elbert County, JD Ross – Sterling PD

Advisory Council Members: Spencer Green – Centennial Mental Health, Valerie Boyd – Kit Carson County Public Health, Trish McClain & Michelle Pemberton – Northeast Colorado Health Department

Also present: Tom Acre – Town of Wiggins, Tony Wells – Washington County, Gordon Westhoff – Morgan County

Also joining the meeting were special guests: Andrea Calhoon – Yuma County Administrator, Wanda Lousberg – Recovery Representative, Katie Gelman, Stacy McClellan & Ailala Kay – OMNI Institute, Commissioner Liz Smith – Gunnison County, Gini Pingnot – Colorado Counties, Inc.

Minutes

Commissioner Hofmeister moved to approve the minutes from the June 6 and June 23, 2022 minutes as presented. Commissioner Richardson seconded the motion. It passed by unanimous vote.

Council Documents

The group reviewed the status of regional opt in/out processes for regional local governments. Commissioner Weaver requested that members reach out to the Counties and Municipalities that are currently listed as not having completed the process and encouraging them to make a selection prior to the end of the month deadline. Weaver reminded the group that the opt out selection aligns with participation in the regional council and that the opt in selection retains independent participation by the local government.

2-Year Study Status

Andrea Calhoon provided an update on the submission of the final 2-Year Study report and the subsequent request for reimbursement to Yuma County and a brief discussion was held on the flexibility of the plan moving forward as additional opportunities are identified and explored.

Gunnison County Behavioral Health Needs Assessment

Commissioner Liz Smith from Gunnison County issued a presentation on Gunnison’s work on behavioral health and opioid response including the Rural Communities Opioid Response Grant Program administered through the Health Resources and Services Administration and a

regional behavioral health needs assessment conducted for the Gunnison County region. Commissioner Smith reviewed the value and results of the behavioral health needs assessment. The group inquired of Smith as to the value of approaching the needs assessment on an individual county level as opposed to a regional level. Smith reported that Gunnison County and the associated municipalities have strategically decided to opt in to the State Opioid Response Program leaving them out of the applicable regional council. Smith reviewed the strategy involved in that decision and the plans for regional funding use in her area based on the existence of the regional strategic plan.

The group solicited additional feedback from Smith regarding trends and priorities identified in Gunnison County and their associated region and discussed with Smith the weight and importance of regional data in construction of a regional plan. Smith provided some sample data dashboards that have already been created and serve as a good model for foundational data reporting and aggregation without expending substantive resources on creation of a new model.

Commissioner Pelton initiated a conversation with Smith regarding regional transportation needs in light of the similarities between Gunnison and Region 4 regarding distance to physical treatment centers. The group compared allocation of Criminal Justice Funding, staffing for implementation, and the importance of intentionality in funding due to the limited fund availability. Smith offered to provide copies of various documentation developed and utilized by Gunnison County throughout their assessment and implementation process.

Project Prioritization and RFP Process

The group briefly discussed the strategy for prioritizing projects and developing RFPs for projects in the coming months. Representatives from the group will initiate a regional transportation conversation with NECALG at this month's meeting to determine what information is needed to assess opportunities for potential partnership. Commissioner Westhoff reported on foundational conversations held with the Executive Director of NECALG.

Upcoming Presentation – Centura Health Fort Morgan

Calhoon reported on the planned presentation by Centura Health of Fort Morgan at the August meeting to discuss potential partnership options and opportunities.

OMNI Team Updates

Ailala Kay of The OMNI Institute provided an update on their intention to remain in touch and attend meetings to provide support to the group as needed for forward progress.

Additional Discussion

Commissioner Weaver discussed the remaining three municipal vacancies on the board and encouraged the group to seek and encourage municipal members for the Board of Directors. The group addressed Mr. Tom Acre of the Town of Wiggins regarding potential board membership. Mr. Acre will take the request to his Town Board and get back to the Council.

Commissioner Richardson will reach out to representatives from the Town of Elizabeth, who have been regularly active in group discussions as well.

Next Meeting

The group planned the next Council meeting for the first Monday in August, August 1 at 10:00 am.

The meeting adjourned at 10:55 am.

Byron Pelton, Chairman