

Opioid Response Region 4 Council Agenda

August 1, 2022

10:00 am

Virtual Meeting Attendance

On August 1, 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: Byron Pelton – Logan County, Scott Weaver – Yuma County, Dave Martin – Morgan County Sheriff, Terry Hofmeister – Phillips County, JD Ross – Sterling PD, Stan Hitchcock – Kit Carson County, Ben Ferree – Town of Limon

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, Nathan Tyree – Town of Brush, Gordon Westhoff – Morgan County, Mark Turner – Sedgwick County, Kevin Blankenship – City of Sterling, Kathy Olofson – Town of Holyoke, Garold Roberts – Phillips County,

Also joining the meeting were special guests: Andrea Calhoon – Yuma County Administrator, Wanda Lousberg – Recovery Representative, Ailala Kay – OMNI Institute, Ken Fellman – Yuma County Attorney, Darlene Carpio – Congressman Ken Buck’s Office, Heidi Williams – Colorado Attorney General’s Office, Nicole Milo & Amber Quartier – Centura Health, Matt Richardson, Riverbend Professionals

Minutes

Commissioner Hofmeister moved to approve the minutes from the July 11, 2022 minutes as presented. Sheriff Martin seconded the motion. It passed by unanimous vote.

Director Heidi Williams

Director Heidi Williams of the Colorado Opioid Response Unit at the Colorado Attorney General’s Office provided updates from the State level. Williams requested that each local government review their local contact and send updates as necessary. Williams reported that the settlement payments have been received by the State and will sit in an account in New York until such time as they are requested. Williams reported that State funds are being held elsewhere to ensure they are maintained separately from the Colorado General Fund and also that funds may roll over from year to year as necessary. Williams and her office are working on compiling resources for complimentary funding sources that will be published and available to the regional councils. Also discussed was the upcoming State opioid conference and the anticipated disbursement of regional and local funds in the fourth quarter of 2022. Williams notified the group that an opportunity to amend local 2-year plans is anticipated to open in March should the Council determine a need for change.

OMNI Institute

Ailala Kay of the OMNI Institute reported that they are on standby to assist with the development and management of the regional grant-making process when the council reaches that point.

Amber Quartier, Centura Health

Amber Quartier, representing Central Health's Behavioral Health Initiative Team, joined the meeting to introduce their program and provide an overview of potential service work for the Regional Council to consider. Quartier provided information on initiatives in emergency department management of opioid use disorder, alternative medication and treatment options to opioids, Narcan distribution efforts, and workforce development innovations. Quartier also discussed Centura's efforts to embed treatment services into local primary care settings to mitigate the stigmatization of treatment and to make treatment more accessible and approachable to those in need. Quartier provided the Centura website for behavioral health and opioid treatment resources as www.centura.org/care-and-health/behavioral-health?opioid.

Wanda Lousberg Project Overview

Guest Wanda Lousberg was recognized to provide an overview of her planned program and to discuss ways it may align with regional priorities. Lousberg reviewed her goal of establishing local transportation services for treatment and other criminal justice-related needs. The Council discussed liability assignment for various types of transportation and Sheriff Martin provided updates on the law enforcement perspective on criminal justice transportation. The group determined there is likely space for volunteer services to provide transportation for court-mandated outpatient treatment and voluntary treatment. Sheriff Martin also discussed resources currently available to local law enforcement for funding of criminal justice behavioral health transport available through Centennial Mental Health. Spencer Green of Centennial Mental Health reviewed services currently available in the region through their organization.

RFP Process

Calhoon discussed the next steps of developing requests for proposals to align with the 2-year study. Sheriff Martin will inquire of local law enforcement at the upcoming regional Chiefs and Sheriffs meeting to identify what gaps in services are seen by local law enforcement. Spencer Green and the local health departments will also share any thoughts their organizations have with Calhoon, who will work with the OMNI Institute to aggregate and organize the input for the Council's future review. Calhoon will also coordinate with Ken Fellman, the Council's attorney, to begin drafting a template agreement for provision of services funded with Region 4 Opioid Council funds.

Next Meeting

The group planned the next Council meeting for the second Monday in September, September 12 at 10:00 am.

The meeting adjourned at 11:10 am.

Byron Pelton, Chairman