

Opioid Response Region 4 Council Agenda
February 6, 2023
10:00 am
Virtual Meeting Attendance

On February 6, 2023 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, Terry Hofmeister – Phillips County, Sheriff Dave Martin – Morgan County, Chris Richardson – Elbert County, Commander JD Ross – Sterling PD, Stan Hitchcock – Kit Carson County

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

Also present: Mike Leerar – Yuma County, Joe McBride – Logan County, Adam Gates – Yuma County, Gordon Westhoff – Morgan County, Tom Acre – Town of Wiggins

Also joining the meeting were special guests: Andrea Calhoon – Yuma County Administrator, Rhiannon Streight – The Steadman Group, Erika Greenburg – Centennial Area Health Education Center, Jennifer Mackender – Colorado Consortium for Prescription Drug Abuse Prevention, MJ Jorgensen – North Colorado Health Alliance, Heidi Williams – Colorado Attorney General’s Office Opioid Response Unit, Jack Patterson – Colorado Attorney General’s Office Opioid Response Unit, Mindy Baumgardner – Colorado Attorney General’s Office Opioid Response Unit, Ailala Kay – OMNI Institute, Wanda Lousberg – Recovery Representative

Minutes

Sheriff Martin moved to approve the minutes from January 3, 2023 minutes. Commissioner Richardson seconded the motion. It passed by unanimous vote.

Colorado Attorney General’s Office

Colorado Attorney General’s Office Opioid Response Unit Director Heidi Williams and staff presented an update on additional settlements negotiated recently and upcoming signature requirements for all participating local governments. Williams discussed the State Settlement dashboard available on the Attorney General’s website to provide information on settlement amounts and regional council information, requests, and regional plans. Also covered were upcoming dates and deadlines including required progress reporting for the region due September 15.

Williams notified the Council of the upcoming Opioid Abatement Council conference August 16-18 in Montrose, CO.

The Steadman Group

Rhiannon Streight of The Steadman Group provided a presentation to the Council regarding rural opioid abatement lessons learned from other regions for which The Steadman Group serves as facilitator. Focus for the presentation was on rural transportation challenges and solutions developed as well as funding opportunities for other regions within Colorado. Group members inquired of Streight as to various details of programs and funding opportunities experienced to date.

COAC Updates

Commissioner Weaver provided updates from the Colorado Opioid Abatement Council including the upcoming Colorado Opioid Abatement Conference in August.

Financial Reports

Andrea Calhoon reviewed financial reports to date and discussed the fluidity of financial report structure as additional funds move in and out for the organization.

Organizational Structure

The group reviewed changes to organizational structure following the resignation of Commissioner Byron Pelton as a County Commissioner representative. Chairman Weaver called for nominations to fill the vacant County seat on the Region 4 Opioid Council. Logan County nominated Commissioner Mike Burnell for appointment to the vacant County seat on the Region 4 Opioid Council. Sheriff Dave Martin nominated Morgan County Commissioner Gordon Westhoff to fill the vacant County seat on the Region 4 Opioid Council. The group tabled discussion to the March 7 meeting to allow both nominees the opportunity to be heard regarding interest in serving.

Dwayne Smith, Elbert County Public Health Director, was nominated to serve on the Advisory Council in conjunction with the other regional Public Health Directors.

The group renewed their call for municipal Board members as per the IGA. Three municipal seats have remained open due to lack of interest for municipal participation. Commissioner Weaver encouraged members to engage with municipal leadership to encourage municipal participation.

2 Year Abatement Plan

Ailala Kay at the OMNI Institute provided an update following last meeting's request for a proposal on additional areas of support in the coming months including research of additional funding opportunities, research on programmatic ideas, and general support for implementation of programs. The group requested a formal written proposal on the recommendations for review and consideration at the March 7 meeting.

Calhoon presented information on the recent request for proposals including the receipt of 5 requests for funding. Calhoon inquired as to the Board's pleasure in review of proposals and

issuance of awards. Commissioner Weaver requested a special meeting of the Board to be conducted in executive session to review proposals jointly and make awards during an upcoming open meeting. The meeting will be held following receipt and approval of a proposal by OMNI to create proposal evaluation rubrics and associated documents.

Unscheduled Business

Jennifer Mackender of the Colorado Consortium for Prescription Drug Abuse.

Next Meeting

The group planned the next Council meeting for Monday, March 7 at 10:00 am.

The meeting adjourned at 11:10 am.

Scott Weaver, Chairman