

Opioid Response Region 4 Council Agenda

June 12, 2023

10:00 am

Virtual Meeting Attendance

On July 10, 2023 at 10:00 am Commissioners from across the Eastern District attended a virtual meeting to continue the work of the Opioid Response Region 4 Council. Present were:

Board Members: Scott Weaver – Yuma County, Terry Hofmeister – Phillips County, Stan Hitchcock – Kit Carson County, Sheriff Dave Martin – Morgan County, Mike Brownell – Logan County

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

Also present: Tonya Wheeler – Advocates for Recovery Colorado, Angela Govea – Milestone Community Wellness, Daniel Schellenger - Milestone Community Wellness Board Member, Rebecca Stieb -- Director, Milestone Community Wellness, Kristin Carpenter -- CO Consortium , Wanda Lousberg -- Red Sea Crossing Colorado, MJ Jorgensen – NCHA, Ailala Kay – OMNI Institute, Stacey McClellan – OMNI Institute, Lauren Rosenbaum – OMNI Institute

Minutes

The May meeting minutes were approved without edits. Terry Hofmeister moved to approve, and Sheriff Martin seconded.

COAC Updates

Region 4 submitted the Colorado Opioid Abatement Infrastructure Funding application. The Council's request included money to fund OMNI Institute's continued consulting work and funding for the transportation RFPs awarded to Centennial Mental Health and Northeast Health Alliance. Commissioner Weaver is on the committee reviewing applications but won't participate in determining funding for Region 4.

The COAC conference is taking place August 16-18. Ailala Kay and Stacey McClellan will be attending from OMNI Institute. The second round of abatement funds will be announced on the last day of the COAC conference on August 18. Jack Patterson announced that there is accommodation available from COAC for one representative from Region 4. It will be determined who will receive these accommodations.

There was a motion by Terry Hofmeister to amend the contract with OMNI Institute to add travel funds for Ailala to attend the COAC conference. Mike Bronwell seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Financial Reports

As of the meeting, total revenue equaled \$261, 568.54 and expenses equaled \$0. It was brought to Scott's attention that the council had not paid OMNI. A new invoice will be sent and OMNI will be paid ASAP.

Organizational Updates

There are still two municipality board member seats vacant on the Council. Commissioner Weaver asked members to reach out to municipality representatives to join future meetings to potentially join the board later.

The Region 4 website now has links to each month's grant opportunities report.

Commissioner Weaver requests that the next meeting focus on next steps and future funding priorities.

Upcoming Grants/Funding Opportunities

Stacey McClellan went through upcoming grant opportunities. Grant opportunities presented this month had far-off deadlines.

Grants included: Supporting Coloradans in Recovery Through Non-Clinical Programs (October 2023 deadline) and Rural Emergency Medical Services Training Grant (May 2024 deadline).

It was requested that if a community organization wants a letter of recommendation from the Council for a grant application that the request be sent no later than two weeks before the grant is due. A month or two is preferred.

Transportation RFP Grantee Update

MJ Jorgensen reported that NCHA is looking at space for an expanded services location in Sterling, drafted a professional services agreement, and put internal processes together for the purchase of vehicles.

Spencer Green from Centennial Mental Health reported they are moving forward with the project. They have hired a transportation coordinator to help manage the program. They are in the midst of purchasing the van and getting vehicles online for the project. The week of the 17th is full of interviews for drivers. They received dispatch software and are currently training on the software. They hope to have the program running by early August.

OMNI plans to talk with grantees about putting in place evaluation plans towards the end of July.

NCHA has a signed contract with the Council to receive funds. Centennial has not signed an official contract with the Council. MJ will send their contract to Spencer so Centennial can create a similar contract to send to the Council for signatures.

It was reiterated in the June meeting by Sheriff Martin that the ability of Commissioner Weaver to sign completed contracts with RFP grantees was included in his motion.

Abatement Plan Review

Stacey McClellan presented a review of the abatement plan. Allocations to date included \$156,602 to Centennial Mental Health and \$495,789 to NCHA with \$58,230 of remaining funds from the first round of funding.

Jack Patterson noted that the year two estimates presented are lower than what will be awarded because they do not include new settlements from Allergan, CVS, Teva, Walgreens, and Walmart. Region 4 can expect to have a significantly higher amount of funding than initially estimated.

OMNI took a poll of attendees' future funding priorities. Results were: Recovery – 57%, Treatment – 50%, Criminal Justice – 43%, Prevention and Education 21%, Harm Reduction – 14%. OMNI specified that this was just an initial poll and that more polls will be provided before priorities are established.

The next steps of the abatement plan include targeting additional grant funding and connecting with community organizations that can benefit from funding.

Unscheduled Business

Rebecca Stieb of Milestone Community Wellness announced that Milestone is scheduled to start receiving funding for their first harm reduction grant beginning August 1 for mobile harm reduction. Rebecca asked the council for thoughts on how to make the work more targeted. They are also planning an overdose awareness event on August 31 and a resource fair on September 2. Those interested in being involved in these events can reach out to her. Rebecca will send an information sheet on Milestone to Ailala to distribute to the Council.

Tonya Wheeler announced a Rally for Recovery on August 23 at the Logan County Courthouse in Sterling. She will send information to Ailala so OMNI can send it out to the Council.

Terry Hofmeister wanted to recognize Jack Patterson on his Rookie of the Year award presented by Colorado Attorney General Weiser.

Jack Patterson posted that COAC will be having a regional learning forum on August 3 which will focus on preparing for the 9/15 funding request deadline. Send requests to be added as R4 representative to opioids@coag.gov.

Next Meeting

The next Council meeting is planned for Monday, August 7 at 10:00 a.m.

The meeting adjourned at 10:52.

Scott Weaver, Chairman