

# **Opioid Response Region 4 Council Agenda**

**August 7, 2023**

**10:00 am**

## **Virtual Meeting Attendance**

On August 7, 2023, at 10:00 a.m. 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, Chris Richardson – Elbert County, Terry Hofmeister – Phillips County, Stan Hitchcock – Kit Carson County, Mike Brownell – Logan County, Kevin Blankenship – City of Sterling, Greg Tacha –Town of Limon, Sheriff Dave Martin – Fort Morgan

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

Also present: Erika Greenburg – Centennial Area Health Education Center, Jennifer Mackender – Colorado Consortium for Prescription Drug Abuse Prevention, MJ Jorgensen – North Colorado Health Alliance, Wanda Lousberg – Red Sea Crossing Colorado, Kristin Carpenter – CO Consortium for Prescription Drug Abuse Prevention, Angela Govea – Milestone Community Wellness, Rebecca Stieb – Milestone Community Wellness, Dan Schellenger, Jim Kuemmerle – Colorado State University, Office of Engagement and Extension, Ailala Kay – OMNI Institute, Stacey McClellan – OMNI Institute, Lauren Rosenbaum – OMNI Institute

### **Minutes**

The July meeting minutes were approved without edits. Stan Hitchcock moved to approve, and Mike Brownell seconded.

### **COAC Updates**

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

In two weeks, they will announce the awardees for the Colorado Opioid Abatement Infrastructure Funding application.

There is an upcoming meeting with Sen. Hickenlooper to present on what has been achieved with the opioid abatement funding in Colorado. Colorado is leading the country in distributing abatement funding. If the meeting is open to the public, more information will be sent to the Council on how to attend.

### **Financial Reports**

There are no significant financial updates to report. Following up on previous news, it was reported that OMNI Institute has been paid for its services.

### **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.

There will be more money coming from the State than originally projected. The amount of money will be announced at the COAC Conference.

### **Upcoming Grants/Funding Opportunities**

Stacey McClellan went through upcoming grant opportunities.

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

### **Transportation RFP Grantee Update**

MJ Jorgensen reported that NCHA doesn't have any large updates. They are in the process of procuring the vehicles and have live job postings.

Spencer Green from Centennial Mental Health reported they hired a secure transport employee as well as a coordinator who will start shortly. They are finalizing their draft of policies and procedures and received certificates for secure transport. They have 3 non-EMT drivers they're ready to make offers to. They have an upcoming Medicaid licensure visit and the delivery of a new van. They are getting ready to launch the program.

OMNI is starting the evaluation process for NCHA and Centennial.

### **Harm Reduction Presentation**

Rebecca Stieb of Milestone Community Wellness gave a presentation on Milestone's harm reduction work including their work to provide mobile services to small towns not currently receiving services including supplying Naloxone and fentanyl test strips. They have a kick-off event for Overdose Awareness Night, on August 31 from 6-7 p.m.

OMNI shared a one-pager with information about what harm reduction is and what harm reduction services are approved to use abatement funding on.

### **Abatement Plan Review**

In this month's abatement plan review, it was reported that the Region will be receiving a lot more money in the future. As the Council plans future RFPs, it was noted that the previous RFP covered Treatment and Recovery. Priorities that have not received funding yet include Prevention and Education, Harm Reduction, and Criminal Justice. OMNI provided info on what types of actions can be taken for these priorities. The next steps include learning more about the remaining priority areas, selecting one prioritization area for the next RFP, and starting the evaluation process of the current RFPs.

Commissioner Weaver will use the COAC conference to learn from other regions how they are using their funds and how successful their programs have been.

### **Unscheduled Business**

The next meeting falls on Labor Day so OMNI will send out a Doodle poll to find a new meeting time.

Terry Hofmeister asked for Milestone Wellness' website. It was provided: [milestonecommunitywellness.org](http://milestonecommunitywellness.org)

Dan Schellenger asked about joining the board. He will reach out to OMNI with his information.

### **Next Meeting**

The next Council meeting is planned for Tuesday, September 12 at 10:00 a.m. (This date and time was decided outside of the regular meeting time.)

The meeting adjourned at 10:51.

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Scott Weaver, Chairman