

Opioid Response Region 4 Council Agenda
October 11, 2023
1:00 pm
Virtual Meeting Attendance

On October 11, 2023, at 1:00 p.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, Gordon Westhoff – Morgan County, Greg Tacha – Town of Limon, Terry Hofmeister – Phillips County, Mike Brownell – Logan County, Kevin Blankenship – City of Sterling

Advisory Council Members: Spencer Green – Centennial Mental Health, Trish McClain – Northeast Colorado Health Department

Also present: Jennifer Mackender – Colorado Consortium for Prescription Drug Abuse Prevention, Rebecca Stieb – Milestone Community Wellness, Ailala Kay – OMNI Institute, Stacey McClellan – OMNI Institute, Lauren Rosenbaum – OMNI Institute, Christina Chavez – OMNI Institute

Minutes

The September meeting minutes were approved with edits to an incorrect date for the upcoming October meeting. Gordon Westhoff moved to approve, and Kevin Blankenship seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

COAC Updates

Commissioner Weaver noted that there was not a lot to update from COAC. The next dates for the Council to request funds are November and March. A decision on when to apply was discussed later in the meeting.

Financial Reports

There was no change from last month's report. There have not been any funding reimbursements.

Transportation RFP Grantee Update

MJ Jorgensen was not present at the meeting, but OMNI shared a written update for NCHA. Highlights from the message include that they hope to have vehicles purchased by October 13, have successfully hired 1.5 FTE out of the 2.5 granted, moved to a new location in Sterling, CO, and are finalizing their baseline data report for OMNI. MJ asked about the usage of the original grant funding in addition to the Infrastructure Funding granted by the State. They noted a desire to leverage both sets of funding.

Spencer Green gave an update for Centennial. They are fully staffed and running their transportation program in Sterling and Fort Morgan. Spencer noted that the State has denied

NEMT licenses and put a moratorium on accepting new licenses due to fraud. A handicap-accessible van will start transporting clients thanks to Region 4 grant funding.

Commissioner Weaver gave background information to new meeting participants on the RFP process and contracts. After discussing if NCHA and Centennial should be awarded the original transportation RFP in addition to the Infrastructure Grant funding, it was decided that NCHA and Centennial will present plans to the board for how they would use the additional funding. The board will then vote on whether to amend the RFPs. If the board does not vote to approve the amendment, the RFP will need to be retracted and reopened to the public.

Upcoming Grants/Funding Opportunities

Stacey McClellan went through upcoming grant opportunities.

The first was the Behavioral Health Workforce Peer Support Professionals coming soon. Other grants included: RFI on Behavioral Health Administration – Developing a Thorough Statement of Work for BHASO Contracts (October 2023 deadline), Supporting Coloradans in Recovery Through Non-Clinical Programs (February and June 2024 deadline), Notice of Special Interest (NOSI): Utilizing Telemedicine or Other Remote-Based Platforms to Develop and Support Treatments for Substance Use Disorders (January 2024 deadline), Walmart Local Community Grants (Quarter 3: August-October and Quarter 4: November-December deadline), Rural Emergency Medical Services Training Grant (May 2024 deadline).

Resource Scan Update

OMNI presented the initial findings of the resource scan which included a preliminary dashboard with an interactive map showing the prevention, treatment, recovery, harm reduction, and justice resources already in the Region. The map will be updated after the prioritization survey is completed and will act as a living document to be updated as needed in the future.

Survey/Polling Region 4 Community on Priorities for Funding

OMNI discussed the upcoming funding prioritization survey which will identify current programming and gaps to help the Council determine where to spend upcoming funding and RFPs to develop. Survey participants will include Region 4 Council members, Advisory Committee members, and community members with knowledge of substance use disorder resources in the area and those with lived/living experiences related to receiving substance use disorder care in the Region. A flyer will be provided to assist in survey collection. The survey is not currently available in Spanish but can be translated if the need exists.

Opioid Dollar Request Timetables

Funding request timetables were presented. The next deadline is November 15 2023, followed by March 15 2024. It was noted by COAG that requests made in November will likely not be received before January. Because the Region is actively collecting information for new priorities, the Region is still working to spend the first round of funding, and because the money does not disappear, it was decided that the Council will wait until the March 2024

deadline to request funding. This will ensure the funding request is accurate and in line with the priorities of the Region.

Front Range Clinic Spotlight

Dayna DeHerrera of the Front Range Clinic discussed the services they provide including 60 points of care across the state. Dayna highlighted that the clinic provides services in various locations, accepts multiple types of insurance, and offers a sliding fee scale for those without insurance. They offer treatment for all types of substance use disorders and recently began offering hepatitis C treatment and psychiatric services. Despite some locations not being open 5 days a week, individuals can start their care at any location and continue at the closest one to their home. Dayna explained that their office provides ambulatory, medically supervised withdrawal services in Fort Morgan and Sterling. Spencer asked about the types of medications used in induction, to which Dayna clarified they use all FDA-approved medications except for Methadone. Contact information for Dayna: ddeherrera@fronrangeclinic.com. For appointments: 1-866-MAT-STAT & 1-866-628-7828.

Unscheduled Business

Mike Brownell mentioned a request from his local sheriff's officer around funding for body scanners for inmates. Gordon Westhoff mentioned that there is a grant available for body scanners and that he will pass the information along to the Council.

Commissioner Weaver discussed the idea of holding an in-person mini-conference. At this meeting, the Board can meet with RFP submitters, and provide longer educational presentations than a typical monthly meeting agenda can allow. Commissioner Weaver and OMNI will brainstorm for what this mini-conference could look like.

Trish McClain asked for ideas about a Naloxone awareness campaign as her agency has gotten Naloxone kiosks and is looking to put one in Sterling. There is currently one in Fort Morgan.

The following events and resources were shared in the chat:

The Consortium's Annual Meeting is taking place Thursday, October 26, 2023 at the CU Anschutz Medical Campus in Aurora, virtual attendance is available. Registration closes on Friday, October 13, 2023. To register: <https://corxconsortium.org/2023-annual-meeting/>

Adams County's ROAC has RFPs open with a 11/3 deadline. Website and application link here:<https://rmpartnership.org/collective-work/addressing-the-opioid-crisis/adams-county-opioid-abatement-grant/>

The meeting was adjourned at 1:58 pm.

Next Meeting

The November meeting will be held on Monday, November 6, at 10:00 am.

Scott Weaver, Chairman