

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

On November 6, 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, Stan Hitchcock – Kit Carson County, Terry Hofmeister – Phillips County, Mike Brownell – Logan County Commissioner, Kevn Blankenship – City Manager for City of Sterling

Advisory Council Members: Trish McClain – Northeast Colorado Health Department, Michelle Pemberton – Northeast Colorado Health Department, Advisory Member, Spencer Green – Centennial Mental Health, MJ Jorgenson – North Colorado Health Alliance, Director of Addiction Response, Tonya Wheeler – Executive Director, Advocates for Recovery Colorado, Jennifer Mackender – Colorado Consortium for Prescription Drug Abuse Prevention, Dwayne Pace – Haxtun Health, James Kuemmerle – Colorado State University, Office of Engagement and Extension

Also present: Brandi Ritchey – Yuma County, Erika Greenburg – Centennial Area Health Education Center, Kristin Carpenter – Colorado Consortium, Jack Patterson – Opioid Response Units, Colorado Attorney General’s Office, Angela Govea – Milestone Community Wellness, Ginger Williams – Colorado State, Darlene Carpio – Representative Ken Buck’s Office, Kandi Jamison – Northeast Colorado Health Department, Mindy Baumgardner – Colorado Attorney General’s Office, Dayna DeHerrera-Smith – Front Range Clinic, Ailala Kay – OMNI Institute, Stacey McClellan – OMNI Institute, Lauren Rosenbaum – OMNI Institute, Christina Chavez – OMNI Institute

Minutes

The October meeting minutes were approved. Mike Brownell moved to approve, and Chris Richardson seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

COAC Updates

Commissioner Weaver noted that there were no significant updates from COAC.

Financial Reports

The most up-to-date financial reports were shared. Most of the funding has gone to pay for OMNI’s services. Commissioner Weaver stated that the Council is waiting on how the infrastructure funding will be distributed, so this will delay how the money is paid out.

Kevin Blakenship moved to approve the financial reports, and Chris Richardson seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Transportation RFP Grantee Evaluation Update

Spencer Green gave an update for Centennial. They will provide evaluation baseline data to OMNI within the next two days. Centennial is fully staffed for NEMT drivers. Spencer Green stated that one NEMT driver resigned, however, Centennial conducted interviews today and should finalize their new hire by the end of this week. Centennial has a van for local peer services where they will transport individuals to programming and mentioned that the rate of secure transportation has not slowed down. The wheelchair van is in service and fully detailed with all the necessary equipment to help transport individuals.

MJ Jorgenson gave an update for North Colorado Health Alliance. The two vehicles have been acquired and the Health Alliance is looking at grand openings in Sterling. They are moving forward and will provide medicated assisted treatment on-site. There are now six naloxone kiosks for the Health Alliance.

Commissioner Weaver noted that the revised grant proposals emailed to OMNI will be sent out to the board. He also mentioned that funding amounts have changed for Centennial and NCHA and to look out for those changes.

Upcoming Grants/Funding Opportunities

Lauren Rosenbaum went through upcoming grant opportunities.

The Career Pipeline, Round 2, and the Work Based Learning Incentive are coming soon. Other grants included: Co-Responder Expansion (November 2023 deadline), Behavioral Health Workforce Peer Support Professionals (November 2023 deadline), Reaching Rural: Advancing Collaborative Solutions (December 2023 deadline), Supporting Coloradans in Recover Through Non-Clinical Programs (February and June 2024 deadlines), Notice of Special Interest (NOSI): Utilizing Telemedicine or Other Remote-Based Platforms to Develop and Support Treatments for Substance Use Disorder (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).

Survey/Polling Updates and Dissemination Support

OMNI discussed the Region 4 Opioid Prioritization Survey results thus far. There were 19 responses as of the meeting. It was noted that although the number seems low, it is a good start for a survey of this nature. OMNI went over the survey representation and discussed how Morgan County had the greatest representation, but other counties had a very low response rate. Attendees were urged to share this survey with their networks and across their social media platforms.

MJ Jorgenson stated that he will send out a reminder to his networks regarding this survey. He also mentioned that North Colorado Health Alliance has trainings in Wray and Phillips County coming up, so he will share out the survey there as well. There was a discussion around providing a paper version of the survey for people without internet access to fill out. Jennifer

Mackender offered up the idea of calling and interviewing folks to do the surveys versus sending out survey links. She also suggested sending out the survey to at least two individuals that folks know after this meeting ends, so no one forgets about the survey. Ailala Kay suggested that sharing this survey in the Region's local newspapers would be helpful. Stacey McClellan mentioned that OMNI reached out to the organizations represented on the resource scan dashboard as part of the survey dissemination process.

Unscheduled Business

Commissioner Weaver mentioned that the in-person meeting will be held during the week of January 8th. He suggested hosting the meeting in Yuma County and then opened the floor to folks to see if they had any other suggestions for locations. Terry Hofmeister suggested Logan County being an option and Trish McClain suggested the Auditorium in Sterling or the meeting room at Quintech in Yuma County.

Commissioner Weaver started a discussion around the role of the Advisory Committee. He hopes that the Advisory Committee will play a larger role in Council meetings and between monthly meetings to share their expertise. The website will be updated with the new Advisory Committee members.

Trish McClain stated that naloxone kiosks are getting positioned in the Northeast Colorado Region, but they have not done a lot of advertising for where these kiosks are available. She mentioned that they do not have a department to advertise these kiosks and her department does not have the funding to do this. Commissioner Weaver asked if Region 4 should advertise these kiosks and Tonya Wheeler said yes. Commissioner Weaver suggested advertising these kiosk locations on the board's website, individual county websites, and Facebook county pages. It was noted that everyone should promote opioid-related resources, regardless of if they work for an opioid-related organization to help fight stigma in the community around getting the help they need.

Jennifer Mackender stated that there needs to be a leader to push out prevention and education resources. She suggested that folks come together for 30 minutes to see what everyone has to share out. MJ Jorgenson, OMNI, Erika Greenberg, James Kuemmerle, and Trish McClain mentioned that they would be interested in attending.

Mindy Baumgardner announced the Colorado Opioid Data Workgroup has been meeting and that someone from Region 4 should represent the Region in the workgroup. The next meeting will be held on December 1st from 12pm-1pm. OMNI said they will begin attending these meetings moving forward.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:00 am.

Next Meeting

The December meeting will be held on Tuesday, December 5th, at 10:00 am. (This was determined outside of the meeting due to scheduling conflicts).

Scott Weaver, Chairman