

Opioid Response Region 4 Council Agenda
December 5, 2023
10:00 am
Virtual Meeting Attendance

On December 5, 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, Kevn Blankenship – City Manager for City of Sterling

Advisory Council Members: Valerie Boyd – Kit Carson County Public Health, Trish McClain – Northeast Colorado Health Department, Michelle Pemberton – Northeast Colorado Health Department, Spencer Green – Centennial Mental Health, MJ Jorgenson – North Colorado Health Alliance, Director of Addiction Response, Jim Kuemmerle – Colorado State University, Office of Engagement and Extension, Kandi Jamison – Northeast Colorado Health Department

Also present: Brandi Ritchey – Yuma County, Erika Greenburg – Centennial Area Health Education Center, Jack Patterson – Opioid Response Units, Colorado Attorney General’s Office, Angela Govea – Milestone Community Wellness, Dayna DeHerrera-Smith, Ailala Kay – OMNI Institute, Stacey McClellan – OMNI Institute, Lauren Rosenbaum – OMNI Institute

Minutes

The November meeting minutes were approved. Terry Hofmeister moved to approve, and Chris Richardson seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

COAC Updates

Commissioner Weaver was unable to attend the latest COAC meeting.

Jack Patterson gave a COAC update, including that 15 out of the 19 regions have requested funds thus far. Local governments that have requested funds have started to receive them. COAC is working on reporting and will share it at the leadership forum. They also hope to publicize the next round of infrastructure funding soon. Jack discussed that the COAC Outcomes Data Reporting Workgroup has put together a proposal for COAC to view. OMNI representatives have begun joining these meetings.

Financial Reports

The council discussed that there have been no financial changes since last month. The Region did receive infrastructure grant money for a total of \$376,878, but this total had not been posted yet, so it is not in the expense report. The only expenses to date are OMNI’s services and the lawyer’s services.

A clarification was made regarding State Grant vs. Federal invoicing moving forward; the settlement funds are under Federal, and the infrastructure funds are under State.

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

Transportation RFP Grantee Evaluation Update

Commissioner Weaver had a question for Spencer regarding the contract from Centennial. Commissioner Weaver needs to ensure the contract is signed before the money is given out. Spencer will check with the office about getting those signatures.

Commissioner Weaver opened the floor to hear updates from the RFP grantees and to discuss their submitted amendments to their original transportation RFP awards. The RFP amendments were requested by the Board as a result of the additional funding received by both organizations through the Colorado Infrastructure Grant.

Spencer Green gave an update for Centennial. Centennial is providing transportation to appointments so that lack of transportation is no longer a barrier to treatment. They hired 4 drivers to run their services. In November, they provided 86 total rides and have received great reviews from people using the services. Centennial has set up a dispatch system, and additional proposals will expand the radius to 60 miles, which would include Washington and Yuma County. They would also take into account of Akron, Yuma, and Wray, which would require \$95,000 in additional infrastructure dollars. They would require one FTE driver and one new vehicle. They would also need \$3,200 for marketing programs such as radio ads and newspaper print ads. They would then contact other programs to advertise these services to bring in more clients from other communities.

There was some confusion on the Centennial proposal and if it requires changes to the original RFP. OMNI will talk to Spencer with Centennial after the meeting to help finalize their new proposal. Pending an update, a vote on the new proposal was tabled.

MJ Jorgenson ran through the North Colorado Health Alliance's amended RFP proposal. NCHA carved out dollars to increase leadership presence in the east; a 0.5 FTE for Northeastern Colorado for the NCHA team will be matched from organizations to be a full FTE. Equipment for new staff was added, and there has been an increase in funds for community outreach and engagement. This increased funding will allow NCHA to have a potential secondary location for a resource shop. They have already opened a new spot in Sterling, and the funds are going towards the rent. The cost of vehicles from the date of the original budget until now has increased, so there are additional funds allocated for vehicles. There are also added funds for front-range clinics to provide services at the hub.

Kevin Blakenship moved to approve the NCHA's scope changes, and Terry Hofmeister seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

It was also discussed that NCHA has already spent money toward their grant allotment and is waiting on their accounting team to submit reimbursements to the Council.

Upcoming Grants/Funding Opportunities

The upcoming grant opportunities were posted in the chat.

The Career Pipeline, Round 2, and the Work Based Learning Incentive are coming soon. Other grants included: Colorado HIV and AID Prevention Program RFA (January 2024 deadline), Overdose Data to Action Grant Fund (December 2023 deadline), Medication Unites Implementation and Operation RFP (December 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 30 responses as of the meeting. OMNI went over the survey representation and discussed how Morgan, Sedgwick, and Yuma County have the greatest representation, and other counties had a very low response rate. OMNI shared a simpler paper version of the survey with the council that the community can print and share in the hope of collecting additional information from community members without access to the online survey. Completed paper surveys should be scanned and emailed to OMNI, who will record the results.

January Meeting

Time was spent planning the logistics of the January in-person meeting. In addition to a networking and team-building opportunity, the meeting will be used to decide the topic and scope of the Council's next RFP.

Logan County Commissioner Brownell will arrange the location of the meeting to be held in Sterling on January 8th from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

OMNI will work on the agenda and summarize and present data from the recent poll. A calendar hold will be sent to the council.

Communications

OMNI discussed building a listserv where the council can share information in real-time. On this listserv, OMNI will share information, reports, and dashboards. Council members can also share their events. The individuals included in the listserv will be board members and the advisory committee. Folks can add community members as well.

Meeting attendees liked the idea of a listserv. OMNI will work on creating it.

Advisory Committee

The website will be updated with the new Advisory Committee members.

Unscheduled Business

The floor was given to Advisory Committee members with updates.

Trish McClain is working with NCHA about naloxone kiosks and working on a media campaign.

Jim Kuemmerle mentioned that he can be a liaison with CSU if the council wishes to connect with anyone from the University.

MJ Jorgenson is working on an educational tour and marketing campaign for resources in the region. He will send dates and times to the council soon.

There were no comments from the general public.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:57 am.

Next Meeting

The January meeting will be held in person on Monday, January 8th, at 10:00 am. The location for this meeting in Sterling is TBD.

Scott Weaver, Chairman