

Opioid Response Region 4 Council Agenda
February 5, 2024
10:00 am
Virtual Meeting Attendance

On February 5, 2024, at 10:00 a.m. Board members, Advisory Council members, vested partners, community members from across the Eastern District, and staff from the Colorado Attorney General Opioid Response Unit 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, Ben Ferree – Town of Limon, Greg Tacha – Town of Limon, Chris Richardson – Elbert County, Stan Hitchcock – Kit Carson County, Terry Hofmeister – Phillips County, Mike Brownell – Logan County, Kevin Blankenship – City of Sterling, Mike Leerar – Yuma County

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 Jorgensen – North Colorado Health Alliance, Director of Addiction Response, Tonya Wheeler – Executive Director, Advocates for Recovery Colorado

Also present: Angela Govea – Milestone Community Wellness, Jennifer Mackender – Colorado Consortium for Prescription Drug Abuse Prevention, Rebecca Steib – Milestone Community Wellness, James Kuemmerle – Colorado State University, Office of Engagement and Extension, Kandi Jamison – Northeast Colorado Health Department, Mindy Baumgardner – Colorado Attorney General’s Office, Dayna DeHerrera-Smith, Ailala Kay – OMNI Institute, Stacey McClellan – OMNI Institute.

Minutes

OMNI noted that the changes have been made to the January meeting minutes, regarding rewording Kit Carson on page 8 to “Kit Carson and Cheyenne Counties,” as well as removing the repeated “the” on page 4. Kevin Blankenship moved to approve the minutes with those changes made and Chris Richardson seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

COAC Updates

Commissioner Weaver gave the COAC update.

The COAC approved all amendments to the NCHA and CMHC RFP’s, used the infrastructure money, and expanded all RFP’s. More COAC meetings are coming up in the next few weeks.

Financial Reports

Commissioner Weaver noted that Region 4 received \$664,000 in 2022 which was used to fund the infrastructure RFPs in 2023. The council currently has about \$950,000 in funding.

Commissioner Weaver noted that most of the expenses have been paid for OMNI's consulting services.

Transportation RFP Grantee Evaluation Update

OMNI discussed how they have been working with Centennial Mental Health Center and the North Colorado Health Alliance to build baseline evaluation reports. These reports will be used as a comparison to show how these organizations benefited from their infrastructure funding.

Gordon Westhoff asked about the data regarding the transportation services in the Baseline Report. OMNI staff clarified that the data in these reports represent services before infrastructure funding. Spencer Green noted that there was a mixture of patient types that were all moved toward a higher level of care. When Centennial transported their patients, they were willing to go voluntarily even though they were ordered to receive higher-level care. Law enforcement was only involved when patients refused to be transported and became aggressive.

Recipients of the Transportation RFP provided updates about their programs.

Spencer Green provided the update for Centennial. Spencer stated that Centennial received a Non-Emergent Medical Transport (NEMT) grant for services in Morgan and Logan Counties. Centennial will expand into Washington County and Yuma County and is looking for opportunities to move into Lincoln County and Kit Carson County. Their services get folks to and from their outpatient treatment sessions. More people have received treatment services due to increased access to transportation funded by the RFPs.

MJ Jorgenson from NCHA shared that a brand-new site will open on February 8, 2024, at 216 N. 3rd Street, Sterling, CO. MJ will send out a flyer with details. He also shared that NCHA's staff has received training through CRAFT, a statewide curriculum based on self-care, coping, and supporting your person. They have moved folks already throughout the region and will be moving forward with rights of care for treatment and recovery services.

Commissioner Weaver asked NCHA about submitting their financials. MJ said that they are revising the funding section and will submit their financials by the end of the day. OMNI had submitted their financials via email and told Commissioner Weaver to reach out with any edits.

Upcoming Grants/Funding Opportunities

Mindy Baumgardner noted that the Innovation Grant is now open, and the grant name has been modified from "Innovation" to "Impact." The Infrastructure Grant will come out this spring, and the link to the Opioid Response Strategic Impact Grant can be found here: <https://coag.gov/funding-opportunities/>. The Notice of Intent to Apply is February 13, 2024, and the application deadline is March 8, 2024.

The upcoming grant opportunities were posted in the chat.

The Work-Based Learning Incentive is coming soon.

Other grants included: COAC: Opioid Response Strategic Impact Grant (February and March 2024 deadlines), Rocky Mountain Public Health Training Center (RM-PHTC): Mini-Grants (February 2024 deadline), Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant Program (JAG) (February 2024 deadline), Supporting Coloradans in Recover Through Non-Clinical Programs (February and June 2024 deadlines), SAMHSA: Grants to Expand Substance Use Disorder Treatment Capacity in Adult and Family Treatment Drug Courts (April 2024 deadline), SAMHSA: State Pilot Program for Treatment for Pregnant and Postpartum Women (April 2024 deadline), Rural Emergency Medical Services Training Grant (May 2024 deadline).

Commissioner Weaver asked the council if these grants were helpful in notifying Region 4 partners about funding opportunities. MJ Jorgenson noted that NCHA will look over the RFP guidelines for the Substance Use Treatment, Adult and Family Court, and JAG grants as they apply to their team. Spencer Green noted that the Drug Court grant is something they will look at and use those funds to bolster their programs.

Mindy Baumgardner noted that the Colorado Attorney General's Office is seeking nominations for County Jails who have shown excellence or demonstrated progress in providing medications for opioid use disorder and connections to the community upon release. She provided a link to the survey here:

https://coag.sjc1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_eOGFfRuS6EjVrBc.

Jennifer Mackender noted that these grant opportunities should allow space for the council to discuss what these grants mean and for collaborators on this Zoom call to go over the grants together.

Dayna DeHerrera-Smith wanted to make sure the grant opportunities are statewide and not within the reach of the 10-county region. OMNI confirmed that these grants are statewide and make note of it if they are not.

MJ Jorgenson asked if there are priorities in the working groups OMNI created that can go over funding, like the strategic impact grant. They also noted that NCHA applied for and received more funding to do Overdose Prevention throughout the region.

January Meeting

OMNI thanked everyone who was able to join January's meeting over Zoom.

OMNI staff noted that the goal is to hold these 3-hour meetings on an annual basis to look over what is happening, priorities, and next steps. The minutes are on the Region 4 website, where folks can go over previous agendas, meeting minutes, and grant opportunities at <https://yumacounty.net/commissioners/regional-opioid-council/>.

OMNI also noted that the meeting was a discussion of priorities highlighted from the survey and a general discussion of results. Treatment and Recovery were highlighted as the top two priorities with Prevention as a third priority. An action item from the January meeting was to set up work groups focused on Prevention, Treatment, and Recovery. The work groups have either met or are going to meet this week.

Commissioner Weaver asked if there are enough members in these work groups. OMNI staff responded that there was good participation but noted that they do not have representation from every part of the region and that there is likely expertise missing from the groups.

Jennifer Mackender from the Consortium asked if invites for these work groups go to monthly meeting attendees or to those who showed interest in attending. OMNI staff responded that everyone who showed interest in attending during last month's meeting were invited, and OMNI encourages everyone to reach out to partners who might be interested. Interested individuals can email OMNI at reg4support@omni.org.

OMNI staff noted that there is a meeting scheduled for the Treatment and Recovery work group this week, on February 6, 2024. The Prevention work group met last week and had great attendance and participation. Commissioner Weaver shared his interest in attending the Treatment and Recovery meeting.

Commissioner Weaver noted that the council will plan an in-person meeting in the spring or summer. He also suggested inviting members from Region 4 for the larger COAG meeting in September.

Trish McClain provided an update on the Prevention workgroup. The group met last Tuesday, January 30, 2024. She noted that the region wants to be mindful of leveraging resources rather than duplicating them. The group wants to make sure the region considers all the information that is actively available in the community. The group wants to conduct a scan to understand better what is going on in the region. A short-term goal the Prevention workgroup came up with was looking at connections with school districts. The region could work with school districts if they have an evidence-based substance use prevention curriculum but do not have the funding so that the region can assist with funding. In the long term, the workgroup thinks it is important to examine regional data and analyze them to see what is going on in the region and how we can build upon those efforts (e.g., ways to connect organizations to naloxone training and education). The group wants to focus on reaching out to folks who are working in the prevention realm and any coalitions, schools, etc.

Rebecca Steib gave updates from the Milestone Community Wellness. They received their results from their Community Health Needs Assessment and will be working with the data soon.

OMNI noted that the Treatment and Recovery workgroup will discuss ideas and input for the next RFP development for Region 4 funds. OMNI will be adding to the topic of grants and services that this council can apply for during this workgroup meeting.

Unscheduled Business

Commissioner Weaver noted that March 4, 2024, did not work for the next monthly meeting, as the quarterly Eastern ETPR meeting conflicts with this date and time. OMNI staff asked the board if March 11, 2024, works better, and they all agreed on this date.

Mindy Baumgardner noted that March 15, 2024, is the next funding request deadline and Commissioner Weaver reminded folks to keep this date in mind during the next work group session.

Jennifer Mackender noted that the Consortium has provided links on their website for folks who are interested in testifying or learning about the bills for prescription drug abuse prevention at: <https://corxconsortium.org/resources/legislature/>.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:59 am.

Next Meeting

The March meeting will be held on Monday, March 11, at 10:00 am.

Scott Weaver, Chairman