

Opioid Response Region 4 Council Agenda

March 11, 2024

10:00 am

Virtual Meeting Attendance

On March 11, 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, Chris Richardson – Elbert County, Sheriff Dave Martin – Fort Morgan, Stan Hitchcock – Kit Carson County, Terry Hofmeister – Phillips County, Mike Brownell – Logan County, Kevin Blankenship – City of Sterling, Adam Gates – Yuma County

Advisory Council Members: Spencer Green – Centennial Mental Health, Trish McClain – Northeast Colorado Health Department, Director of Addiction Response, Jennifer Mackender – Colorado Consortium for Prescription Drug Abuse Prevention

Also present: Angela Govea – Milestone Community Wellness, Ginger – Colorado State, Rebecca Steib – Milestone Community Wellness, Dayna DeHerrera-Smith – FRC, Don Stader – Stader Opioid Consultants, Mellie Ryan – Stader Opioid Consultants, Jack Devie – Milestone Community Wellness, Danna Wilson – Sedgwick County, Jack Patterson – Colorado Attorney General’s Office, Jonathan Judge – Rise Above Colorado, Lori Lundgren – Phillips County Department of Human Services, Mindy Baumgardner – Colorado Attorney General’s Office, Shaun Wilson – Hope House Sterling, Tasha Harris – Sedgwick County Coroner, Mellie Ryan

Minutes

The Council noted a need for corrections in the February meeting minutes. “Eastern DPR meeting” was changed to “Eastern ETPR meeting” on page 4. Kevin Blankenship moved to approve the minutes with those changes made, and Terry Hofmeister seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

COAC Updates

Commissioner Weaver gave the COAC update.

The COAC approved three out of the four amendments presented in the original plan. No funding increases or decreases have occurred. Commissioner Weaver announced that the next COAC conference will be held on September 30, 2024, and will be held in Loveland.

Commissioner Weaver encouraged participation from across the region, as the conference is going to highlight Region 4 and the Council’s efforts. More information will be provided to the Council as plans are finalized.

Financial Reports

OMNI received the financial report and indicated that there were no changes from last month.

Commissioner Weaver added that he received new invoices that will be paid once expenses are placed into the proper funding categories (e.g., infrastructure or the state's general funding money).

OMNI Evaluation Updates

OMNI provided updates on the Transportation RFP evaluation. OMNI collected the second round of data from NCHA and CMHC and is currently building an evaluation report for the first quarter of the grant. OMNI will send out a draft to the Council when it is completed. Reports will be generated quarterly moving forward.

Commissioner Weaver noted that this report could be highlighted at the September conference.

Workgroup Debrief

A member of the Treatment and Recovery Workgroup gave the Council a debrief of the last meeting. The group discussed combining Treatment and Recovery services into a single RFP, as having a combined RFP would allow applicants to hit more points on a single grant application. Those opposed to this strategy worried it could lead to fewer recovery-focused awards than having a recovery-only RFP. Additionally, the group wants to know from the Council what the funding pool will be, as this will impact how they identify funding opportunities. The group further discussed incentivizing hiring local professionals and individuals who know the community and plan to stay in the region. Lastly, the group discussed how individuals who complete treatment should have ongoing support and that sober activities/events need to be planned for the community.

Commissioner Weaver responded that the Council is willing to provide the funding needed to meet the needs as determined by the group. Regarding workforce funding, the Council expressed hesitance in using abatement funding for salaries as the grants will run out, but rather focusing on efforts that ensure workforce sustainability.

OMNI gave the Prevention Workgroup debrief. The group wants to understand the prevention efforts that already exist before moving forward. Workgroup members will gather information and bring it to the next workgroup meeting. The Connect Effect campaign was an example of existing prevention efforts. Scheduling for an April meeting will happen soon.

It was suggested that workgroups could review the evaluation reports to help as they build out the next RFP.

OMNI told attendees who wanted to join a workgroup to email reg4support@omni.org and to share the email with anyone outside the meeting they thought should join.

Next Region 4 RFP Format Decisions/Board Vote

March 15, 2024, is the deadline for the Council to request additional funds from the State. OMNI asked the Board if they wanted them to start this process, and they agreed to proceed.

OMNI sent the Board revisions of the new RFP draft and asked the Board if they felt comfortable moving forward with the format. The board indicated that they felt comfortable. OMNI will disseminate the RFP. Meeting participants will receive this RFP and are encouraged to send it out to those who would benefit from this funding.

OMNI started a discussion on letters of support requests. OMNI wants to put these letters of support requests into more formal processes to avoid additional burdens on the Board. OMNI will create request forms that can be accessed on the Region 4 website. Requests should allow the Board two weeks' notice. OMNI will support the process by providing the Board with snapshot requests. It was discussed that a recent grant gave preference to letters from regional councils, which caused an influx of last-minute requests.

It was suggested that an ad hoc task force be created to review letters of support from folks from the region. OMNI will create criteria for Board members to follow when reviewing letters of support and will have the Board review them collectively.

COAC representatives noted that there will be a third round of funding coming out soon and to prepare strategies for asking for letters of support.

The need for an official Region 4 letterhead was discussed, and the option of using Yuma County's logo was proposed.

Upcoming Grants/Funding Opportunities

OMNI gave an update on the upcoming grant and funding opportunities. The grants included 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), SAMHSA: Screening, Brief Intervention and Referral to Treatment Program (April 2024 deadline), SAMHSA: first Responders-Comprehensive Addiction and Recovery Act (April 2024 deadline), SAMHSA: Building Communities of Recovery (April 2024 deadline), Rural Emergency Medical Services Training Grant (May 2024 deadline), HRSA: Rural Communities Opioid Response program RCORP-Impact (May 2024 deadline), Supporting Coloradans in Recovery Through Non-Clinical Programs (June 2024 deadline).

Time was given for an open discussion of grant opportunities and possible connections between participating organizations.

Don Stader mentioned that he is applying for the RCORP grant. If there are EMS agencies interested in the EMS grant, Don would like to recruit more agencies for this, along with

recruiting naloxone agencies for naloxone training. Don provided his email address for those who want to connect on EMS grants: don@naloxoneproject.com.

Don Strader also mentioned that NHP is partnered with 11 hospitals in Eastern Colorado and is receiving additional training and referral systems. Information can be found at <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1jaLuOdvv2gu3TWyOdmd2pBXOdBSAyMc/view?usp=sharing>;

Dayna DeHerrera-Smith noted that she's done EMS-related work as well and can connect folks with information on managing these efforts and applying for RFPs.

Commissioner Weaver brought up that the Board has been receiving inquiries from law enforcement entities into funding for body scanners implemented in jails. More research will be done in this area.

Unscheduled Business

There was no unscheduled business discussed.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:03 am.

Next Meeting

The April meeting will be held on Monday, April 1, at 10:00 am.

Scott Weaver, Chairman