

Opioid Response Region 4 Council Agenda
May 6, 2024
10:00 am
Virtual Meeting Attendance

On May 6, 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, Stan Hitchcock – Kit Carson County, Terry Hofmeister – Phillips County, Kevin Blankenship – City of Sterling, Adam Gates – Yuma County, Mike Leerar – Yuma County

Advisory Council Members: Spencer Green – Centennial Mental Health, Trish McClain – Northeast Colorado Health Department, Michelle Pemberton – Northeast Colorado Health Department, Jennifer Mackender Colorado Consortium for Prescription Drug Abuse Prevention, MJ Jorgensen – North Colorado Health Alliance, Kristin Carpenter – Colorado Consortium, Tonya Wheeler – Advocates for Recovery Colorado

Also present: Brandi Ritchey – Yuma County, Erika Greenburg – Centennial Area Health Education Center, Rebecca Stieb – Milestone Community Wellness, Jack Devie – Milestone Community Wellness, Mellie Ryan – Colorado ROOTS, Lindsey Simbeye – Velocity BioGroup, Shaun Wilson – Hope House Sterling, Ailala Kay – OMNI Institute, Stacey McClellan – OMNI Institute, Lauren Rosenbaum – OMNI Institute, Shon Reed – OMNI Institute

Minutes

Kevin Blankenship moved to approve the April meeting minutes, and Stan Hitchcock seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

COAC Updates

The COAC has not met since the last Region 4 meeting. There has been much discussion about the fall conference, and Commissioner Weaver and MJ Jorgensen are involved in the planning.

Financial Reports

Yuma County reviewed the financial report and gave updates on funding allocations to OMNI and the RFP grantees.

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

OMNI Evaluation Updates

OMNI shared the evaluation report that included data from the first quarter of the Transportation RFP.

Commented [SM1]: Can we add the dates? And where to find the report?

The council wanted to hear from partners about their impact and the gaps they were filling. Grantee representatives Spencer Green from CMHC, MJ Jorgensen from NCHA, and Tonya Wheeler from AFRC gave updates on the programs.

Next Prevention Workgroup

OMNI gave an update from the last Prevention Workgroup meeting. The Workgroup is working on identifying existing prevention programs and gaps in the Region. The committee asked participants to share an editable spreadsheet where people can add existing prevention programs. Link: [Prevention Spreadsheet](#)

Jail-Based MOUD Service Funding

An opportunity was presented to nominate a local jail to be recognized by the Colorado Department of Law and the Opioid Response Unit for their work in providing medications for opioid use disorder (MOUD). Awardees will receive a \$50,000 grant for MOUD work. The meeting participants expressed interest in nominating Sheriff Martin with the Morgan County Jail. Link to submit: https://coag.sjc1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_eOGFfRuS6EjVrBc

In related jail-based MOUD service funding news, a request for MOUD funding was presented to the Council on behalf of Sheriff Martin. State funding for MOUD services in local jails ended, and Sheriff Martin asked for funds from the Region 4 Council to cover the next fiscal year. Local jails submitted the requested funding amount, totaling \$124,000 for the Region.

Kevin Blankenship moved to approve the funding for jail-based MOUD services with a cap of \$124,000. Gordon Westhoff seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Grant Review Process

The Treatment and Recovery RFP closed. Four applications were submitted. Advisory members will complete an initial review and submit their recommendations, and then the Board will do a final review and select awardees.

Upcoming Grants/Funding Opportunities

OMNI presented several new grant opportunities available. Grants are posted to the Region 4 website.

Unscheduled Business

Commissioner Weaver proposed a “trade show” of community organizations working in the OUD/SUD space to get to know the people doing the work in the community.

MJ Jorgensen announced they are working on a stigma reduction convention that could add time for introductions and networking opportunities.

Mellie Ryan shared Colorado ROOTS' Eastern Plains Addiction Care Symposium on 6/6. RSVP at the link <https://forms.gle/Kmzb8mKskSNknwh28>

Jennifer Mackender shared a learning opportunity from the Colorado Consortium for Prescription Drug Abuse Prevention for peer support professionals and anyone who wants to learn more about peer work. <https://corxconsortium.org/peer-support-lunch-and-learns/>

The meeting was adjourned at 11:02 am.

Next Meeting

The May meeting will be held on Monday, June 3, 2024, at 10:00 am.

Scott Weaver, Chairman