

**Opioid Response Region 4 Council Agenda**  
**September 10, 2024**  
**11:00 am**  
**Virtual Meeting Attendance**

On September 10, 2024, at 11:00 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, Ben Ferree – 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, Adam Gates – Yuma County

Advisory Council Members: MJ Jorgensen – North Colorado Health Alliance, Jennifer Mackender – Colorado Consortium, Tonya Wheeler – Advocates for Recovery Colorado, Trish McClain – Northeast Colorado Health Department, Michelle Pemberton – Northeast Colorado Health Department, Valerie Boyd – Kit Carson County Public Health

Also present: Brandi Ritchey – Yuma County, Erika Greenburg – Centennial Area Health Education, Mellie Ryan – Colorado ROOTS, Sarah Arntt – New Vision, Jack Patterson – CO AG’s Office, Misty Peterson – Washington County, Izzy Pike – Colorado Health Network, Ailala Kay – OMNI Institute, Melissa Rorie – OMNI Institute, Lauren Rosenbaum – OMNI Institute, Shon Reed – OMNI Institute

**Minutes**

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

**COAC Updates**

There was another reminder that the COAC Conference will take place on September 30. The Infrastructure Grant RFP will be released soon.

**Financial Reports**

OMNI reviewed the financial report and gave updates on funding allocations and additional funds to expect next month.

Mike Brownell moved to approve the September financial report. Terry Hofmeister seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

**2024/2025 OMNI & Colorado ROOTS Contract Discussion**

Two new contracts were presented to the Board for approval.

The first contract was submitted by OMNI and included additional funding for the new evaluation projects related to the Treatment and Recovery RFP awarded to CO ROOTS and the Region 4 Jails receiving funding for MOUD services.

The second contract was submitted by CO ROOTS as the awardee of the recent Treatment and Recovery RFP.

Discussion of the contracts was positive.

Kevin Blankenship moved to approve both contracts. Mike Brownell seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

OMNI and Colorado ROOTS will share their contracts with the Board for signatures.

### **OMNI Evaluation Updates**

OMNI shared Quarter 3 data from the Transportation RFP recipients. The data showed numbers for CMHC remained stable and NCHA had growth in the number of clients transported. Data can be viewed on the Region 4 [website](#).

MJ Jorgensen of NCHA was present at the meeting and able to field questions about the results.

OMNI noted that they are meeting with CO ROOTS to discuss their evaluation plan.

### **Upcoming Grants/Funding Opportunities**

OMNI shared the Colorado Community Initiated Solutions Grants from the Colorado Health Foundation. There was interest among several participants in this group. Discussion will continue outside the meeting to plan for potential submissions. Grants are posted to the Region 4 [website](#).

Discussion was held around who was interested in pursuing the upcoming Infrastructure Grant.

### **Recap of In-person Planning Meeting**

OMNI opened the floor for a debrief of the Region 4 in-person planning meeting that was held on 8/7 in Yuma County hosted by NCHA. The agenda included a morning learning session and an afternoon discussion including potential infrastructure grant collaboration.

### **Conference Discussion**

Time was saved for discussion of the upcoming [COAC conference](#) on September 30 and the [Rethinking Addiction & Recovery Conference](#) on October 1.

Region 4 is being highlighted at the conference and Region 4 representatives will be giving presentations.

A request was made to bring up the barriers of supplying the buprenorphine patch through Medicaid at the conference.

### **Unscheduled Business**

- Advocates for Recovery shared their [Rally for Recovery](#) on September 28.

### **Next Meeting**

The September meeting will be held on Monday, October 7, 2024, at 10:00 am.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:01.

---

Scott Weaver, Board Chair