



OMNI INSTITUTE REPORT

Colorado Opioid Region 4 Treatment and Recovery RFP Evaluation Report

Colorado ROOTS

Background

In 2022, the Colorado Region 4 Council contracted OMNI Institute (OMNI) to perform a strengths and needs assessment of the existing opioid use disorder/substance use disorder (OUD/SUD) services in the region. Using secondary indicator data and primary data gathered from providers in the area, it was determined that there are significant gaps in the availability of OUD/SUD treatment and recovery services across Colorado’s Region 4.

In its second round of funding, the Council awarded the Colorado Rural Opioid & Addiction Treatment System (CO ROOTS) with funds to improve access to treatment and recovery services in the region through care coordination, educational programming, and technical assistance. The CO ROOTS network currently comprises over ten Eastern Plains hospitals or health systems as well as numerous addiction treatment specialists and peer support organizations. Through their efforts, providers and individuals with OUD and other SUDs alike are more easily able to access education on comprehensive addiction care and connections to services.

As the contracted evaluator, OMNI worked with CO ROOTS to develop a comprehensive set of indicators to showcase the impact of their programming on care coordination and education within Region 4. This evaluation report provides a detailed account of the grantees' activities during the first quarter of the grant period (October 1, 2024 – December 31, 2025).

Year 1 Quarter 1 Grant Accomplishments



8/10
Region 4 Counties
were Directly
Served



Onboarded a **New**
Peer Support
Organization



Created **Clinical**
Resources and
Guidelines



Launched the
ROOTS Report
Monthly
Newsletter



Recruited Two New
Hospital Partners to
Join the **ROOTS**
Network



8/9 Facilities have
Fully Onboarded to
Provide
Buprenorphine



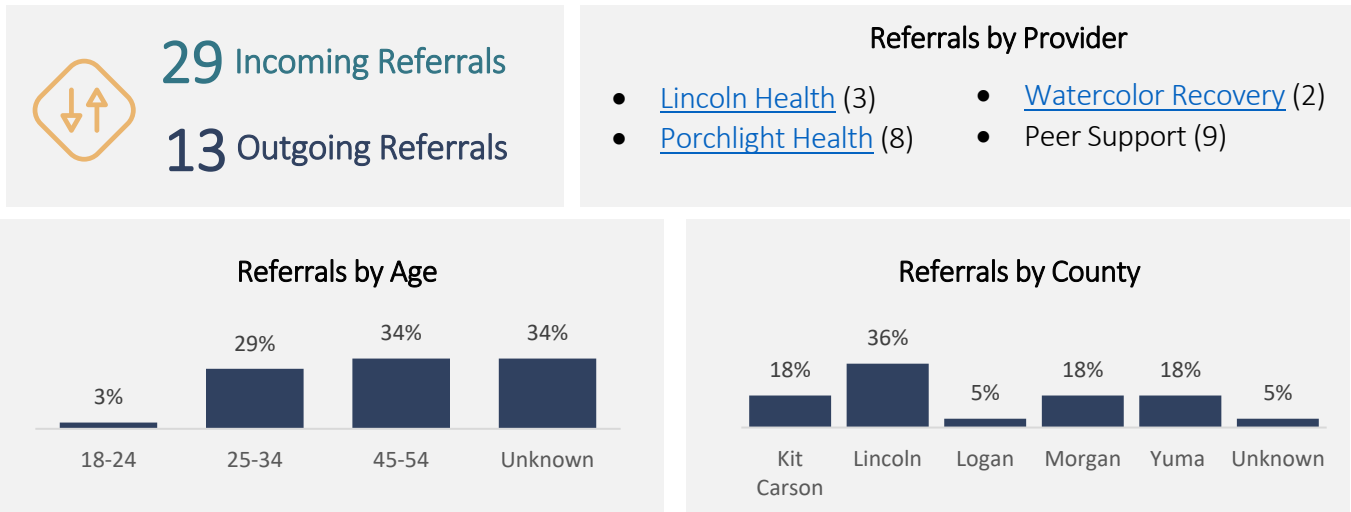
11
Hospitals Became
Involved in **New**
Initiatives



6
Partners Became
Involved in **New**
Initiatives

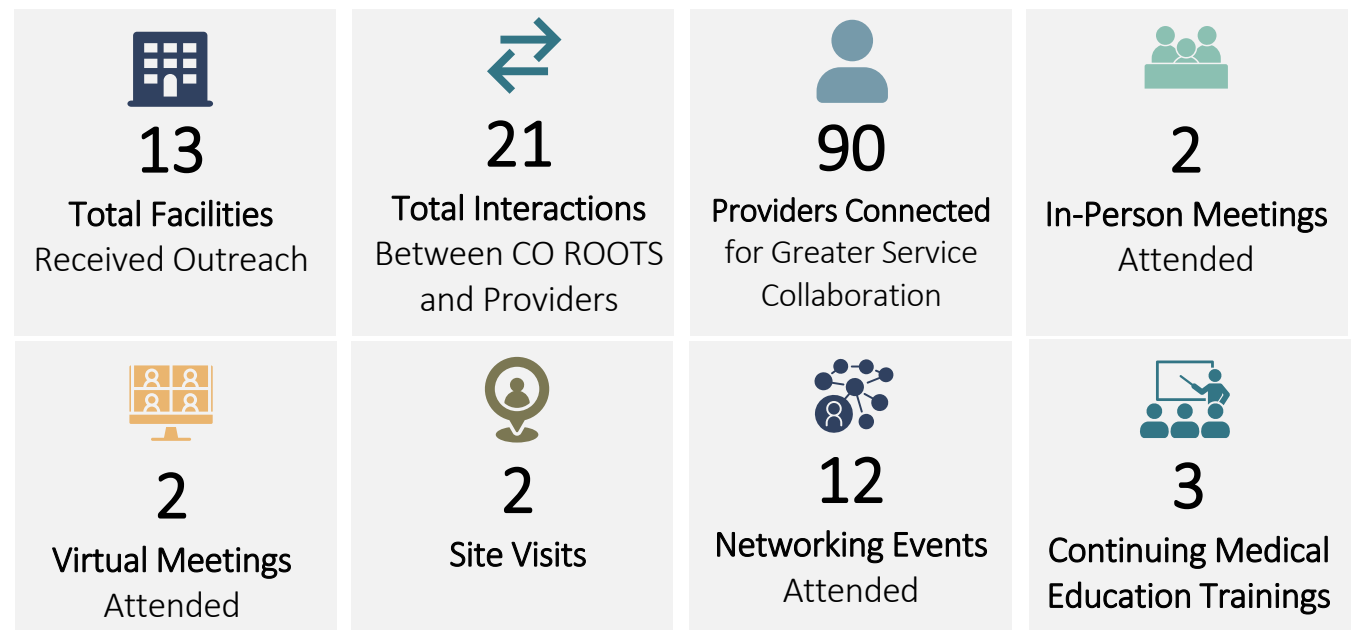
Care Coordination

CO ROOTS provides care coordination for referred patients with OUD/SUD to see clinicians who are able to provide appropriate care. Care coordination is provided for each of the four American Society of Addiction Medicine (ASAM) levels of care (Outpatient Care, Intensive Outpatient Program [IOP/HIOP], Residential, and Inpatient) and peer recovery. Hospitals and clinics can refer patients through an online form, available at www.coloradoroots.us or by calling 719-96-ROOTS.



Education & Outreach

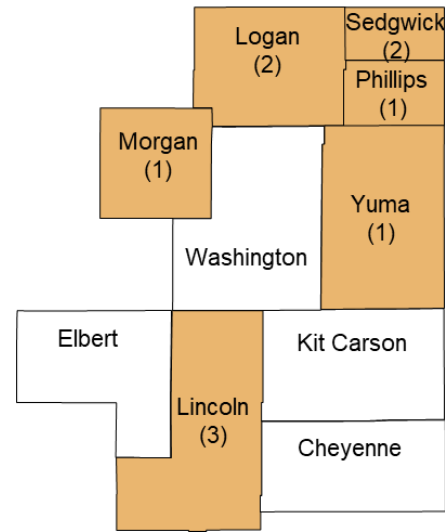
CO ROOTS hosts educational and outreach events for SUD providers in Region 4. They host and attend rural leadership and implementation meetings in an effort to communicate with each facility and build relationships between partners. Outreach is done with individual providers as well as the Eastern Plains Healthcare Consortium (EPHC), which is comprised of partner hospitals from across Region 4. In addition to the EPHC, which represents all counties in the region, CO ROOTS had interactions with facilities in Lincoln, Logan, Morgan, Philips, and Yuma counties during Q1.



Technical Assistance

The CO ROOTS warmline provides hospitals and prescribing clinicians access to addiction care specialists. Specialists can help guide treatment decisions and aid in the adoption of evidence-based practices. Colorado ROOTS tracks warmline utilization and the nature of calls to gain further insights into the training needs of hospitals in the Eastern Plains.

This map showcases CO ROOTS technical assistance engagement numbers (including the patient lines, text, and warmline) by county in Region 4. In Q1, CO ROOTS provided technical assistance to **six of the 10 counties in Region 4**, in addition to Kiowa County, just south of the region.



Program Feedback

During the first quarter of funding from Region 4, CO ROOTS took great steps towards building connections to care through provider networking and referrals. Providers and patients alike have expressed appreciation for CO ROOTS networking efforts, capacity building, and technical assistance. As seen in the quotes below, several individuals within Region 4 have accessed CO ROOTS services and received care that they may otherwise have gone without.

Success Stories



Patient Referral Success

“The patients that we have referred to ROOTS and have participated in your program have had excellent results and feedback. There are 3 patients that have done inpatient treatment, transferred to your program and 2 outpatient referrals.” – Region 4 Service Provider



Helping Patients Get the Care they Need

“We worked with a patient for several weeks, connecting them to Peer, Outpatient services and Inpatient Withdrawal Management. This person was verbalizing being ready for treatment but really was hesitant to take the leap and they kept postponing their detox. We continued to offer services and meet them where they were at. After completing Detox at Lincoln Health, the patient called back simply to thank us for sticking with them, encouraging them to get care and supporting them through this huge step. They had initiated peer coaching and outpatient treatment after detox.”
– Region 4 Service Provider



Increased Partnerships and Referrals

“There has been an increased utilization of the ROOTS referrals portal compared to the two previous quarters. The recruitment of Sterling Regional Medical Center & Haxtun Health as well as initial meetings with Common Spirit St. Elizabeth, means ROOTS has the potential to be partnered with every hospital in the region.” – CO ROOTS Staff

Challenges

Although CO ROOTS has made progress in the first quarter, providers and the CO ROOTS staff have noted several hurdles left to be overcome. In particular, a lack of withdrawal management services, inconsistent patient screening practices, and stigma and bias within the healthcare system have left some Region 4 residents uncomfortable in seeking the help they need.

To help reduce these challenges, CO ROOTS has worked with each hospital system across Region 4 to develop individualized screening protocols that can be implemented within their social history screening practices. If adopted by the hospital systems, these screening practices would aid in providing a standardized screening protocol to better ensure that each patient receives the services they need. Further, to increase the capacity of local services, CO ROOTS has been working with a provider in the northeast portion of Region 4 to implement withdrawal management services.

Lack of Local Resources



“There is a lack of in-person local resources. There is not even close to enough mental health and addiction resources in our area. No detox facility, no meetings or programs for groups in this area, a lack of access to withdrawal management services and residential treatment programs. Also, to some extent, travel/distance to Hugo is an issue.” – Region 4 Service Provider

Policy and Technical Issues



Substance use disorder screening practices are inconsistent across hospital system and providers have faced learning management system issues and barriers which reduce continuing education opportunities.

Stigma and Bias



There remains community and medical system stigma and bias which can limit a person’s willingness to seek services.



COLORADO ROOTS

RURAL OPIOID & ADDICTION TREATMENT SYSTEM