

SE Colorado Region 19 Opioid Settlement Board

June 12, 2023 via Zoom

Present

Kim MacDonnell
Blaine Arbuthnot, Terry McMillian
John Galusha
Meagan Hillman, Dennis Pearson
Felix Lopez
Rob Oquist, Shawn Mobley
Wendy Buxton-Andrade
Eppie Griego, Christine Zeitvogel

Rose Pugliese

Guests

Sarah Long
Jose Esquibel
Sarah DeVore, Meg Schaeffer
Charlie Davis, Rob Archuleta, Ginger Whatley, Elizabeth Riffle
Rick Ritter
Matt Fischer, Christine Charron, Sarah Money, Jaime Harrell
Nicole Shannon
Terri Schreiber

County represented

Bent
Crowley
Huerfano
Kiowa
Las Animas
Otero
Prowers
Pueblo

Facilitator

Pueblo County Attorney's Office
Colorado Consortium
SAS
Crossroads' Turning Points, Inc.
Crowley/Otero County Health Dpt.
Southern Colorado Health Network
Spark the Change
The Schreiber Group

Call to Order

Commissioner Buxton-Andrade called the meeting to order at 3:00 PM. Eight counties were represented during the meeting.

Approval of Agenda

Commissioner Buxton-Andrade asked for a motion to approve the agenda.

- Commissioner Lopez moved to approve the agenda; seconded by Commissioner Griego.
 - The motion passed unanimously.

Approval of Minutes

Commissioner Buxton-Andrade asked for a motion to approve the minutes from the May 15, 2023 and May 22, 2023 meetings.

- Commissioner Arbuthnot moved to approve the minutes; seconded by Commissioner MacDonnell.
 - The motion passed unanimously.

Presentation from Jose Esquibel, Prescription Drug Consortium, on harm reduction

Mr. Esquibel from the Colorado Consortium for Prescription Drug Abuse Prevention gave an educational presentation on harm reduction and stated that the Consortium can link the board to subject matter experts and has 4 regional subject matter experts. Kristin Carpenter is the representative for Region 19.

While drug overdose deaths decreased last year, the rate is still alarmingly high, and Region 19 has a very high rate of opioid prescribing. He suggested that education for prescribers and patients is needed in this area of the state. Mr. Esquibel stated that the Consortium has created response strategies for prevention, harm reduction, treatment, recovery and criminal justice and encouraged the board to concentrate on evidence-based approaches. He defined harm reduction, discussed risk reduction and illicit drugs, addiction as a brain disorder, and harm reduction services. He suggested having Ms. Carpenter share her presentation on the cost savings that result from harm reduction. The following data source was provided: <https://cdphe.colorado.gov/preventing-prescription-drug-misuse>. Additional information could be obtained from local coroners, hospital emergency departments, and the Colorado Hospital Association.

Discussion on infrastructure funding and mobile services

Ms. Pugliese asked if the board was interested in applying for a future infrastructure grant to set up mobile services to take services to people. Commissioner Lopez supported doing additional research to determine what would be most cost effective. Commissioner Galusha added that some services would be best provided on a local basis, for example, through health departments. Commissioner Buxton-Andrade asked board members to send ideas to Ms. Pugliese to help her prepare for a future application.

Discussion of Logo (Barefoot)

Each county stated their preferences for the seals and logo marks provided by Barefoot PR.

County	Seal	Logomark
Bent	2	6
Crowley	8	3
Huerfano	2	3
Kiowa	2	3
Las Animas	7	6
Otero	2	3
Prowers	2	3
Pueblo	7	6

Seal #2 and Logomark #3 were most popular. These will be used as the primary options for the website, but any of the options can be used.

Discussion of Letter of Support for SAS for the Colorado Opioid Abatement Innovation Challenge

Ms. DeVore and Dr. Schaeffer presented SAS’s proposal and requested a letter of support for their application to provide substance use disorder analytics to create a statewide dataset that can also provide regional insights and be used to plan and evaluate interventions.

Commissioner Buxton-Andrade asked for a motion to approve the letter of support for SAS.

- Commissioner Galusha moved to provide a letter of support for SAS; seconded by Commissioner Lopez.
 - The motion passed unanimously.

Other business

Ms. Pugliese asked if the board wanted to look at more data regarding harm reduction. Commissioner Galusha asked for more discussion of harm reduction before any votes are taken and to discuss updating

the funding plan for year two. Commissioner Lopez asked to have Ms. Carpenter share her presentation on harm reduction costs/cost savings at the June 26, 2023 meeting. Ms. Pugliese stated that the board can roll the harm reduction funding into year two's budget. Ms. Pugliese would also like to allow more time for board questions following future presentations.

Requests for letters of support are beginning to be received more frequently and Ms. Pugliese asked for guidance on how to manage them. Commissioner Buxton-Andrade expects to receive requests with minimal turn-around time. Ms. Long recommended the board avoid on-line voting by email and stated the board can delegate the approval of letters of support to the chair and vice-chair. The chair and vice-chair will take this guidance and the decision will be ratified at the next meeting.

Ms. Pugliese asked board members to send her their headshots for the website.

Next meeting

The next meeting has been tentatively scheduled for June 26, 2023 at 3 PM.

Adjournment

Commissioner Buxton-Andrade asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting.

- Commissioner Lopez moved to adjourn the meeting; seconded by Commissioner Galusha.
 - The motion passed unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:15 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Christine Zeitvogel
Secretary, SECOR