

SE Colorado Region 19 Opioid Settlement Board

July 17, 2023 via Zoom

Present

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

Rose Pugliese

Guests

Sarah Long
Jami Feld
Kristin Carpenter
Sarah Money, Christine Charron, Matt Fischer
Chares Davis, Rob Archuleta

County represented

Bent
Crowley
Huerfano
Kiowa
Las Animas
Otero
Prowers
Pueblo

Facilitator

Pueblo County Attorney's Office
Colorado Attorney General's Office
Colorado Consortium
SCHN
Crossroads' Turning Points

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 Galusha.
 - The motion passed unanimously.

Approval of Minutes

Commissioner Lopez asked for a motion to approve the minutes from the June 26, 2023 meeting.

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

Enter into an Executive Session pursuant to C.R.S. Section 24-6-402(e) for the purpose of determining positions relative to matters that may be subject to negotiations; developing strategy for negotiations and instructing negotiators related to harm reduction.

The board did not enter Executive Session.

Voting Item: Harm Reduction RFP awardees

Commissioner Buxton-Andrade presented several slides summarizing the funding awarded to a SECOR and the amount of funding SECOR has awarded to different programs. Commissioner Lopez stated that he did not think Las Animas or Huerfano Counties were ready for a syringe access program, but he could

support safe disposal. He recommended awarding Southern Colorado Health Network \$175,000, awarding Southern Colorado Harm Reduction \$50,000, and using the remaining funds to provide education in the region. Commissioner Arbuthnot stated that counties need the right to stipulate that a needle exchange program would not be supported in their county by SECOR funding. Commissioner Griego stated that many citizens in Pueblo County do not want syringe access programs. Commissioner Galusha stated that he did not want to provide funding that could be used to indirectly fund a needle exchange program. Ms. Hillman noted that harm reduction encompasses naloxone, safe disposal and other activities. Ms. Zeitvogel stated that she did not recall any of the proposals being for safe disposal and asked if any of the proposals fit what the board wants to fund. Commissioner Lopez asked if the board could ask for new proposals that provide exactly what the board wants to fund. Ms. Pugliese said that the board could fail the RFP and then request more specific proposals. Ms. Long agreed that the board could publish a more specific RFP listing the board's priorities and ask for a spending breakdown in the proposals. Commissioner Galusha recommended rejecting all the proposals and releasing a new RFP.

- Commissioner Galusha moved that the board reject all of the current proposals and release a new RFP; seconded by Commissioner Arbuthnot.
 - The motion passed unanimously.

Other business

Ms. Pugliese gave an update on the development of the website. Commissioner Buxton-Andrade and Ms. Zeitvogel are the committee members and worked with Barefoot PR on developing a resource form. Ms. Pugliese has asked SECOR members to send resource information to her for inclusion on the website. Barefoot PR will conduct focus groups on August 28 from 10 AM to 11 AM and again on August 31 from 9 AM to 10 AM to make sure that the website is user friendly and easy to navigate. SECOR members are invited to participate. Commissioner Buxton-Andrade asked SECOR members to encourage people with lived experience to participate in the focus groups. Commissioner MacDonnell asked if people will be able to provide feedback anonymously.

Barefoot PR asked that SECOR purchase the domains to use.

Ms. Pugliese will begin updating the two-year plan in August. It is due to the AG's office in September.

Ms. Feld shared that the COAC has determined that regional funds may be used to sponsor attendance at the opioid conference. The region may use second year funding for this. The COAC will also sponsor one attendee per region for all regions over 150 miles from the conference. The AG's office is hoping to release the updated numbers in August, and they expect the amount to be higher.

- The board provided direction to reimburse SECOR counties for expenses incurred to attend the opioid conference. Pueblo County will then invoice the AG's office and funds will be returned to the general fund.

Commissioner Buxton-Andrade asked if members wanted to have an in-person meeting in conjunction with the opioid conference.

Next meeting

The next meeting has been scheduled for July 31, 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 Griego.
 - The motion passed unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:52 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Christine Zeitvogel
Secretary, SECOR

APPROVED