

# SE Colorado Region 19 Opioid Settlement Board

## Meeting date: June 27, 2022, 3:00 PM – 4:00 PM

This meeting was held via Zoom.

### **Present**

Rick Butler  
Kim MacDonnell  
Blain Arbutnot, Terry McMillian  
John Galusha  
Meagan Hillman, Dennis Pearson  
Felix Lopez  
John Hostetler, Shawn Mobley, Rob Oquist,  
Amy White-Tanabe  
Wendy Buxton-Andrade  
Christine Zeitvogel

Rose Pugliese

### Guests

Sarah Long  
Kyle Miller  
Jose Esquibel  
Stacey Samaro, Phil Cruz, Ginger Whatley,  
April Ramos  
Chanelle Stewart  
Olivia Leyva, Lindsay Dunbar  
Jude Solano, Kathy Cline  
Ed Brown  
Nanci Gonzalez

### **County represented**

Baca  
Bent  
Crowley  
Huerfano  
Kiowa  
Las Animas  
  
Otero  
Prowers  
Pueblo

### **Facilitator**

Pueblo County Attorney's Office  
Lamar Police Department  
CO Consortium for Prescription Drug Abuse Prev.  
  
Crossroads' Turning Points, Inc.  
Health Solutions  
Pueblo Department of Public Health  
Southern Colorado Harm Reduction

### **Call to Order**

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

### **Approval of Agenda**

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

- Councilman Butler moved to approve the agenda; seconded by Sheriff Mobley.
  - The motion passed unanimously.

### **Approval of Minutes**

Commissioner Buxton-Andrade asked for a motion to approve the minutes from the last meeting.

- Ms. Zeitvogel moved to approve the minutes; seconded by Commissioner Lopez.
  - The motion passed unanimously.

### **Facilitator Update**

Ms. Pugliese asked if all counties had received their award letter for the settlement. Baca and Crowley counties were not sure and Ms. Pugliese will follow up with those counties. Ms. Pugliese offered to assist counties with explaining the award process to municipalities. She stated that as facilitator she does not have a lot of information but can track down information. Commissioner Lopez asked for a list of municipalities that have completed the opt-in/opt-out process. Some municipalities do not understand that they will be required to report to the AG's office if they keep the funds. Commissioner Buxton-Andrade will request the list of awards by municipality within the region.

Ms. Pugliese reported that Region 19 will receive front loaded funding of \$2,342,687.40 for the first year and \$993,274.81 the second year with total funding over 18 years anticipated to be \$16,833,818.44. Ms. Pugliese reported that the state will not require RFPs for start-up costs like website development, promotion, logo development, QR code, social media and business cards. Ms. Pugliese reported that Jamie Feld has shared that there will be a separate infrastructure fund from the AG's share that will cover some of these items. Commissioner Buxton-Andrade explained that it will be necessary for the region to apply for the infrastructure funds and the southwestern and northeastern quadrants of the state will get priority since they have no treatment centers. Commissioner Buxton-Andrade further stated that unexpended funds and interest generated will roll forward to future years and will be held in a separate account by Pueblo County. Ms. Pugliese noted that Region 19 is ahead of the AG's office and there may be a risk of spending regional funds on start-up costs that could be covered by the AG's funds. Mr. Esquibel shared that the Behavioral Healthcare Continuum Gap Grant may allow for infrastructure and that county governments are eligible applicants.

Counties that opt-out of receiving the funds will never have to account for the funds because it will go directly from the national administrator to the region. Regarding opting-in and out, counties and municipalities can change their status, but the AG's office has asked that opt-out status not change more than once per year.

Commissioner Lopez stated that the state is reserving some funds for capital construction and he asked if the funds can be leveraged. Region 19 has not yet identified capital construction needs.

Commissioner Lopez asked how the RFPs will be reviewed. A five-member subcommittee will review applications and make recommendations to the entire board for a vote. Commissioner Lopez also asked about board member liability. Ms. Long suggested that all board members consult their legal representation for their opinion. Counties and municipalities do not need to have IGAs with Pueblo County regarding the funds because Pueblo County is contracted with the state to handle the funds coming into Region 19. The RFP process will be public and transparent.

Commissioner Buxton-Andrade reported that the state will cover the cost of a facilitator through the summer.

Ms. Pugliese suggested requesting proposals sequentially by funding area and asked if the board would want to cap the amount to be awarded to each area. Commissioner Lopez recommended staying as close as possible to the percentages listed in the two-year plan. Commissioner Buxton-Andrade stated that Pueblo County would also need a budget for the funding by the end of the calendar year. The budget will include an administrative/miscellaneous line. The opioid abatement council will determine if the funds will be issued to providers as grants or reimbursement grants after the two-year plans have been reviewed. The opioid conference will have a virtual option, but they are not yet sure if it will allow virtual participation or only be a recording.

**RFP Process Discussion**

Ms. Pugliese led the board in a discussion of the RFP process she sent out for review. Quarterly reports will be required for grantees. Commissioner Lopez asked to add a conflict of interest disclosure prior to awarding any contracts. Ms. Pugliese asked board members to review the evaluation criteria prior to the next meeting.

**Other business**

There will be only one meeting in the month of July.

**Next meeting**

The next meeting is scheduled for 3:00 PM on July 25, 2022.

**Adjournment**

Commissioner Buxton-Andrade asked for a motion to adjourn.

- Commissioner Galusha moved to adjourn; seconded by Sheriff Mobley.
  - The motion passed unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:03 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Christine Zeitvogel  
Secretary, SECOR