

# SE Colorado Region 19 Opioid Settlement Board

## April 24, 2023 via Zoom

### **Present**

Rick Butler  
Blaine Arbuthnot, Terry McMillian  
John Galusha  
Meagan Hillman  
Felix Lopez  
Rob Oquist  
Wendy Buxton-Andrade  
Christine Zeitvogel

Rose Pugliese

### Guests

Sarah Long  
Marissa Stoller  
Jose Esquibel, Mindy Baumgardner, Kristin Carpenter  
Sara Colalancia  
Kim Gonzales  
Dee Leyba, Arlene Cooke  
Matt Fischer, Christine Charron, Sarah Money  
Vince Benfatti, Taylor Hobby  
Doreen Gonzales  
Jude Solano  
Terri Schreiber  
Rob Miller  
Ellie Coughlin

### **County represented**

Baca  
Crowley  
Huerfano  
Kiowa  
Las Animas  
Otero  
Prowers  
Pueblo

Facilitator

Pueblo County Attorney's Office  
City of Pueblo  
Colorado Consortium  
Pueblo Department of Public Health  
Las Animas Huerfano County Health  
Otero County Health  
Southern Colorado Health Network  
Crossroads' Turning Points, Inc.  
SECAHEC  
Southern CO Harm Reduction  
The Schreiber Group  
Life Continues  
Valleywide

### **Call to Order**

Commissioner Buxton-Andrade called the meeting to order at 3:02 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 Ms. Zeitvogel.
  - The motion passed unanimously.

### **Approval of Minutes**

Commissioner Buxton-Andrade asked for a motion to approve the minutes from the April 10, 2023 meeting.

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

### **Facilitator Update**

Ms. Pugliese shared that Commissioner Buxton-Andrade and Ms. Zeitvogel met with Barefoot who will present their work on the logo and branding at the next SECOR meeting.

### **Discussion of Harm Reduction Analysis**

Kristin Carpenter from the Colorado Consortium for Prescription Drug Abuse Prevention presented information on harm reduction including the difference between public health departments and direct service, a table showing which region 19 health departments are participating in the fentanyl test strip and naloxone programs available through CDPHE, a 2021 needs assessment conducted in Crowley, Bent, Prowers and Otero counties, and heat maps depicting service shortages for primary care and SUD services. Her slides are attached.

Ms. Hillman stated that funding is the largest barrier to health departments providing these services and it would be good for health departments to have access to this funding. In Prowers and Kiowa County the health department is often looked to for harm reduction support. She stated that she can provide supports with funding.

### **Discussion of Prevention and Education remaining funds (\$338,869.77) and potential mini-grant program**

Commissioner Buxton-Andrade opened the discussion on providing one mini grant to each county in the amount of \$5,000 to use for Prevention and Education programs. Ms. Pugliese stated that the counties will need to report how they use the funds; this information will also be reported back to the AG's office for transparency, accountability and compliance. Ms. Pugliese will work with Ms. Long to develop an agreement for each county to sign. She also noted the need to amend the two-year plan. Ms. Zeitvogel shared that Exhibit A of the state MOU lists the approved uses and asked if it would be possible to have longer term grants. Ms. Hillman has received several inquiries about funding and expects to have a higher number of applications in future RFP rounds. Ms. Pugliese will send her contact list to all board members with the request to add names of people who should be receiving the RFPs.

- Commissioner Lopez moved to provide \$5,000 mini-grants to each county to promote prevention and education; seconded by Commissioner Galusha.
  - The motion passed unanimously.
- Commissioner Galusha moved to require a report of the way the funds were used at 6-months; seconded by Ms. Hillman.
  - The motion passed unanimously.
- Commissioner Galusha moved to open up a second round of funding for Prevention and Education using \$248,869.77 and holding back \$45,000 for a second round of mini-grants after the first six months; seconded by Commissioner Arbuthnot.
  - The motion passed unanimously.

### **Discussion of Pueblo County as custodian of documents and managing CORA requests**

Ms. Long stated that SECOR has received several CORA requests which she has been handling. She would like the board to make it official that Pueblo County will handle CORA requests for all SECOR counties. Pueblo County tries to get the documents out in 3 days. There is only a fee to the requestor if the request will take a lot of time. If there is a fee, it will be paid to the Pueblo County Attorney's office. Ms. Pugliese stated that other regions also have their fiscal agent handle CORA requests.

- Commissioner Lopez moved to have Pueblo County Attorney's Office handle CORA requests for all SECOR counties; seconded by Commissioner Arbuthnot.
  - The motion passed unanimously.

#### **Other business**

The RFP committee was waiting to hear from Ms. Carpenter before reviewing harm reduction proposals. The committee will make a recommendation on the harm reduction proposals at the next meeting.

#### **Next meeting**

The next meeting has been scheduled for May 15, 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 Arbuthnot.
  - The motion passed unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 3:49 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Christine Zeitvogel  
Secretary, SECOR