

SWCORC

Regularly scheduled meeting

1/6/22

Minutes

- A. Initial meeting with non-voting members was called to order @ 10:30am-Liz Smith, Chair presiding. In attendance:

Voting Members

Commissioner Liz Smith, Chair
Vice Chair, Carol Friedrich
Secretary/Treasurer Sue Hansen
Commissioner Greg Levine
Commissioner Hilary Cooper
Sheriff Justin Perry
Undersheriff Quinn Archibeque
Jennifer Sherwood
Kari Commerford

Non-Voting Members

Sarah Stangbye
Melissa Hall
Dr. John Tarr
Cory Jenkins
John Pandolpho
Judge Steve Patrick
Dr. Paul Drayson-Mews
Steven Otero
Doug Hanshaw
Wendy Crank

Guests

Jessica Eaddy
Adriene Gomez
Sarah Lampe

- B. Agenda was approved, motion by Commissioner Levine, seconded by Undersheriff Archibeque
- C. Minutes from December meeting approved, motion by Carol Friedrich, seconded by Hilary. Unanimously passed.
- D. Chair Smith gave a brief description of the status of the Opioid Settlement and the focus of the SWCORC.
- E. Sarah Lampe from Trailhead Institute gave a status update. The scope of the contract with Trailhead Institute will be addressed in 3 phases. The first phase will be to scan and collect locally sourced regional/county strategic plans, community assessments, state wide and national plans. Once these plans are compiled with the "alignment tool" then gaps in the plans will be identified. Trailhead Institute has already conducted several interviews and have 5-10 scheduled. She asked if any of the non-voting members would

be interested in being interviewed. Phase 2 will be the retreat on February 23 and the last Phase 3 will be final decision making and developing a functional plan to work from. Sarah indicated she would send a draft of the phase 1 work so we could review and post on the website. Dr. Grayson added he would like to have a chance to review prior to the retreat in February.

Location of the retreat was discussed. Previously we discussed meeting in Ridgway at the Chipeta Lodge. It was brought to the attention of the council that Ridgway is implementing additional Covid precautions and the original location may not be feasible. Commissioner Smith suggested we review the location and logistics with Sarah Lampe offline.

Heidi Williams, Director of the Opioid Response Effort through the Attorney General's office. She joined the meeting at 11:15am to share updates with regard to the ongoing lawsuits.

SWCORC members had discussed at a previous meeting the need to have separate legal counsel. We asked Heidi about this and she indicated that SWCORC was the only region who had expressed a concern about potential separate legal counsel. Most other councils are using internal legal counsel but she offered that the Attorney through the AG's office who is most involved in the Opioid Response and committed that if we were interested we might invite him to our next meeting to discuss the need of having separate legal counsel.

Dr. Grayson asked about an update on funding streams and when we might expect funding to be allocated to the councils. Heidi shared that the Sackler funding was delayed through a pause by the presiding judge, so the lawsuit is on hold for now. The good news is that there is still a 400 million dollar allocated due to the state of Colorado. McKenzie has already sent 8 million to the State, Mallinkrodt will be settling shortly and the expected draw down to the State would be around 25 million. More information to come in the next few weeks.

Commissioner Cooper asked for a recap on how the allocation is distributed.

- 20% goes to Municipalities and small towns

- 60% goes to the Regional Abatement fund and connected to the 2 year plans that we're currently involved in.

- 10% goes to an Infrastructure fund to be used for gaps in other funding sources

- 10% goes to the AG's office for oversight and administration of the grants.

Municipalities, small towns and counties have the ability to retain or reallocate their share to the Regions. There will be a on line mechanism to make decisions about how

the resources will be distributed. The Statewide Council will release funding upon review and approval of the Regional Plans.

Commissioner Cooper shared that there might be some confusion with the municipalities about their options for the funds. Municipalities and small towns get a smaller share of the funding so perhaps they will find it beneficial to allocate their funds to the Regional Councils once they see the plans.

Commissioner Levine asked Heidi what the Stage funding would be used for. Heidi is hoping that they can use those for a statewide prevention message campaign to highlight the risks of Opioid Addiction, general awareness and school campaigns to educate youth. The AG's office will be working on a re-entry program for incarcerated individuals to make sure as they exit there will be access to resources, such as reconnection with Medicaid and other support services.

Kari Commerford expressed concerns that any statewide messaging be sensitive to rural areas where the messaging may have a different focus. Heidi indicated they were sensitive to differences in metro and rural areas and as such the messaging might have different emphasis.

Commissioner Smith asked if Heidi was seeing the municipalities and small towns reallocating their resources to the Councils. Heidi cited Mesa County (their region is comprised of a single county) and they are pooling their funding to have the greatest impact. Although she admitted this is easier in a single county region and may be more difficult in multi-county regions such as SWCORC.

Commissioner Cooper underscored that it is our responsibility to communicate the benefits of pooling funding to those entities.

Heidi mentioned that each entity is responsible for the annual reporting of expenditures, so smaller entities may be less responsive to that responsibility due to staffing challenges.

Carol Friedrich brought up the point that since there are multiple funding streams flowing to the counties, such as OBH, ARPA, grants and other sources, and could present a challenge and result in duplication of services. Heidi's new Deputy Director Jaime Feld, would be keeping track of all the streams of money and will be a great resource to help track the funds.

Commissioner Smith asked about how Heidi anticipated the flow of money for the Regions. The Johnson and Johnson payment should come this Summer sometime and the hope is that after this year a more predictable flow of money can be expected.

Commissioner Cooper asked about the Fiscal Agent assignment and Heidi confirmed that the Fiscal Agent needs to be a County or Municipality. After the money is received the Councils could contract with a separate entity such as a council of governments to manage the grants.

Heidi concluded and Commissioner Smith resumed with the agenda.

The designation of the Fiscal Agent was discussed and Montrose County was chosen. Commissioner Levine made the motion and it was seconded by Commissioner Cooper. Motion passed.

The designation of the non-voting member was considered. In the event of a tie the non-voting member would be the tie breaker. There was discussion about the engagement of the non-voting member tie breaker-specifically that whomever was chosen needed to be able to attend the SWCORC meetings regularly. Commissioner Smith called for anyone who had an interest upon which Doug Hanshaw from the 7th Judicial Problem Solving Court volunteered and assured the members that he would indeed be present and active.

Commissioner Levine made a motion to accept Doug Hanshaw, it was seconded by Sue Hansen and motion passed.

Carol Friedrich had a question about voting members from the same county and how we would keep track of that. We'll discuss further at the next meeting.

Next meeting is February 3rd @ 10:30am

Meeting was adjourned.