



Region 9 Opioid Abatement Council

May 8, 2025, Virtual Meeting, 1-3pm

Meeting Minutes: DRAFT

Representation	Name	Present (Y/N)	Delegate present (Y/N)
Appointed by the Arapahoe County Board of County Commissioners	Rhonda Fields	Y	
Appointed by the Arapahoe County Board of County Commissioners	Leslie Summey	N	
Public Health Director of the Arapahoe County Public Health Department	Jennifer Ludwig	Y	
Director of the Arapahoe County Human Services Department	Dan Malkelky	Y	
The Arapahoe County Sheriff	Tyler Brown	N	
Representative appointed from a municipal law enforcement agency within the AC Region			
Representative appointed from the County Court system or District Attorney’s Office or their designee by the BOCC.	John Kellner		Y (Amy Padden)
Representative appointed by the City of Aurora	Francoise Bergan (Aurora)	Y	
Representative appointed by the City of Centennial	Mayor Stephanie Piko	N	
Representative to represent the west side of the County, appointed by majority vote of the Cities of Englewood, Sheridan, and Littleton	Steven Ward (Englewood)	Y	
Representative to represent the east side/smaller communities of the County, appointed by majority vote of the remainder of the municipalities	Trish Stiles (Bennett)		Y (Denise Taylor)

Quorum? **No**, some individuals are not present and the Council still does not have a law enforcement representative.

Participants

1. Kendra Davis, Arapahoe County
2. Nicky Kulish, RN- AllHealth Network
3. Dana Murphy-Parker- University of Colorado College of Nursing
4. Allison Dodge- One chance to Grow Up
5. Sarah Prager Clinical VP- AllHealth Network
6. Julianne Collins, Sr. Account Manager- Amélie Company
7. Tristan Maddox Derington- Hazelbrook
8. Calli Tucker, Crisis Intervention Program Admin- City of Aurora
9. Theodora Barychewsky- Colorado Coalition for the Homeless
10. Lisa Battan- City of Aurora Interventions Programs

11. Devin Granbery- City of Sheridan
12. Julie Dreifaldt- One Chance to Grow Up
13. John Jackson- City of Greenwood Village
14. Todd Weaver, Finance Director- Arapahoe County, Fiscal agent Region 9
15. Anessa Minner-Lee- Outreach Director, Antelope Recovery
16. Kent MacLennan, Executive Director- Rise Above Colorado
17. Amy Padden, DA18
18. Henny Lasley, ED- One Chance To Grow Up
19. Brianna Robles, Steadman Group
20. Burke Fishburn, Steadman Group
21. JK Costello, Steadman Group
22. Courtney Lange, Steadman Group

Proceedings

1. Welcome
 - a. Brianna Robles, Steadman Group, opened the meeting, conducted a roll call, and reviewed the agenda. There was no quorum, as the Council needs to confirm voting member appointments in writing. Efforts will be made to find a replacement appointment for the law enforcement position on Council, and to complete the final appointment from the east side / smaller communities of Arapahoe County. After appointments are completed, a chair election will also be conducted.
 - b. There was no recovery story today. Brianna shared the link to sign up to share.
2. Governance
 - a. Membership Check In: A law enforcement representative is still needed to fulfil voting member appointments to the Region 9 Council.
 - b. Meeting Minutes Approval was deferred as there was no quorum. For reference, the May meeting will need to approve these and the following minutes:
 - i. [December 2024](#)
 - ii. [January 2025](#)
 - iii. [February 2025](#)
 - iv. [March 2025](#)
 - v. [April 2025](#)
3. Strategic Planning and Workgroups
 - a. Where we've been
 - i. Funded 11 entities in 2024 and the evaluation final presentation is in June 2025.
 - ii. Identification of potential new priorities including: family services, youth recovery, and transportation.
 - iii. Ongoing detox efforts: the market sounding event in February 2025, RFP planning to take place by the workgroup
 - iv. Pending external requests: we have heard from 2 of 5 requests so far, will hear the remaining 3 today
 - b. Where we're headed

- i. Council will now begin working on draft scopes of work for potential new funding priorities and will see the final evaluation and dashboard development in June. There is a break in July. In August, Council will get a finance update and will determine continuation of funding to current programs. In September, RFPs will be developed for any decided-upon new funding priorities.
 - ii. The next funding request deadline is September 15th, 2025. Council will need to decide which are the new priority areas and funding amounts for continued programming of previously contracted vendors.
 - iii. Council members discussed and requested a 1-pager from TSG to see a timeline/summary of where we are going between now and October. Members and organizations requested as early a timeline as possible for RFP development and solicitation, advocating for a “longer” drafting period.
 - c. Workgroup Tasking: Scope of Work and Allocation Worksheet.
 - i. Workgroups broke out for about 25 minutes to brainstorm scopes of work and allocation amounts for potential new priorities and detox efforts.
 - 1. [Family Services / Youth Recovery](#)
 - 2. [Transportation](#)
 - 3. [Detox](#)
- 4. Program Spotlights: Community Campaigns funded by Region 9
 - a. Rise Above:
 - i. Presented to Council on upstream substance use prevention campaigns for adolescents with recent entry into opioid use prevention work.
 - ii. Provided insights on campaign performance in prevention- 237,600 clicks and 3.4 million impressions (\$45,000 investment).
 - iii. Reviewed potential campaign opportunities with a youth target audience.
 - iv. Council Discussion:
 - 1. Council members would like to see a partnership with Aurora Public Schools similar to the partnership with Cherry Creek Schools. Training and educational resources are free to use for interested organizations. The campaigns were developed with youth on staff and data from youth focus groups; multiple layers of youth feedback.
 - b. Amelie:
 - i. Presented on “Keep the Party Safe” advertisements enacting behavior change after being tasked by the Colorado Consortium for Prescription Drug Abuse Prevention to develop a state campaign that provides education to make informed choices. This campaign was tailored to Arapahoe County for this initiative.
 - ii. Campaign goals include increasing awareness and educating individuals about the dangers of fentanyl, encouraging and understanding safe use and harm reduction.
 - iii. Budget: \$45,000- 56 day campaign, ages 12-44 target audience

- iv. Performance: 2.9 million impressions, 13k digital ad clicks, 12k website sessions
 - v. Reinvestment Opportunities: amplify what is working and strategically expand reach, develop variations of top-performing and improve targeting, develop naloxone kits for education in high traffic areas
 - vi. Council Discussion:
 - 1. Is distributing naloxone in high traffic areas contributing to the encouragement of using opioids? Amelie reports they are not aware of research that suggests this but notes the priority here is to serve adults that are already making the choice to use opiates.
5. External Request Presentations
- a. Next, Council heard from 3 organizations with pending external requests for funding or other requests.
 - b. One Chance to Grow Up
 - i. This is not a funding request, but rather a request to share information on findings and the organization.
 - ii. Addressing marijuana and THC use as prevention from a pathway to opioid use, presented data and research on how early marijuana use increases risk of future opioid use and addiction.
 - c. START Center
 - i. Stress, Trauma, Adversity Research and Treatment Center discussed how trauma is a leading cause of engaging in substance use (2-4x more likely to become substance dependent compared to a youth without trauma).
 - ii. START Center treats children of all ages + their families, firm belief the youth cannot recover without family members being okay
 - iii. Requesting funding because billing through insurance providers and medicaid most often result in a loss in funds, limited capacity to take high-acuity clients because funds are not always available
 - iv. Requesting \$225,000 to serve 75 youth providing trauma therapy
 - d. Collaborative Care
 - i. This is not a funding request, but rather a request to share information on an idea for funding and cross-regional collaboration.
 - ii. Proposal: working with Advanced Practice Nurses (APN) to lead a clinic to ensure low barriers to Medications for Opioid Use Disorder and any other co-occurring disorders
 - iii. 5 Potential sites for an APN-led clinic to serve Arapahoe County residents.
 - iv. Collaborative Care Model: CARN-AP, Psych NP, Family NP, Therapist, Case Manager, Peer Recovery Coach
 - v. Do not have a set budget or request right now but wants to begin the conversation here and with other important players in Denver Metro and Adams County.
6. Updates
- a. Addressing Federal Impacts and Council Response
 - i. Saved topic for next meeting
 - b. [Conflict of Interest Policy](#)

- i. The Steadman Group has drafted the Conflict of Interest Policy and is looking to Council for feedback so it can be approved and adopted by consensus in the next meeting

7. Closing

- a. The next meeting will be held virtually on June 12th from 1-3pm. Topics include:
 - i. Workgroup tasking on scopes of work and allocation amounts
 - ii. Final evaluation presentation
- b. The meeting concluded at approximately 2:59 pm.