



Region 9 Opioid Settlement Governance Committee

December 11, 2025

Hybrid Meeting: 7272 S. Eagle St, Centennial, CO 80112,
Community Room

Roll Call of Voting Members

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	Y	
Public Health Director of the Arapahoe County Public Health Department	Jennifer Ludwig	Y	
Director of the Arapahoe County Human Services Department	Dan Makelky	Y	
The Arapahoe County Sheriff	Tyler Brown (Carl Anderson)	Y	
Representative appointed from a municipal law enforcement agency within the AC Region	Lonnie Eddy	Y	
Representative appointed from the County Court system or District Attorney's Office or their designee by the BOCC.	John Kellner (Joel Zink)	N	Y
Representative appointed by the City of Aurora	Francoise Bergan	Y	
Representative appointed by the City of Centennial	Mayor Stephanie Piko	Y	
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 (Bennet) (Denise Taylor)	Y	

Quorum (6) **Yes**

Additional Participants

The following individuals participated in or observed the December 11, 2025 Region 9 Opioid Abatement Council meeting.. This list includes non-voting attendees who were not included in the official roll call. These are individuals who indicated their presence in the chat. Some may be missing, if joined late, etc.

Name	Organization / Affiliation
Sara Miller	Otowi Group
Montelle Tamez	Otowi Group
Kaylee Rivera-Gordon	Otowi Group
Omar Montgomery	Cherry Creek School District; NAACP
Tristan Derington	Hazelbrook Community Organization
Nicky Kulish	AllHealth Network, RN
Theodora Barychewsky	Colorado Coalition for the Homeless
Betsy Craft	ACPH
Carl Anderson	Arapahoe County
Heather Lin	Arapahoe County Finance
Todd Weaver	Arapahoe County Finance
Doug Robinson	Cherry Hills Village
Jack Patterson	COAG

Proceedings

- 1. 1:00pm: Welcome (5 minutes)**
 - a. Montelle Tamez, Otowi Group, welcomed the Region 9 Opioid Abatement Council and provided an overview of the agenda.
 - b. Roll call was conducted and a quorum was established.
- 2. 1:05pm: Governance (5 minutes)**
 - a. Motion to Approve [November Meeting Minutes](#):**
Motion: Francoise Bergan moved to approve the November minutes.
Second: Jennifer Ludwig
Vote: No opposition; motion passed.
- 3. 1:10pm: Strategic Planning [Partner Survey](#) Development (35 minutes)**
 - a. The primary focus was on reviewing a survey designed to inform strategic planning efforts, with voting members being asked to review the survey for any missing, unnecessary, or confusing elements. The group discussed the need to

identify the appropriate target respondents, with voting members taking the lead in responding, while other attendees were encouraged to provide input. Otowi emphasized the importance of the survey in guiding strategic planning decisions and mentioned that the survey would be distributed electronically, with further details on the distribution plan to be discussed.

- b. Participants discussed what items were missing, unnecessary, or needed clarification. Key suggestions included adding community awareness in prevention efforts, addressing program sustainability in changing funding environments, and balancing inputs from those familiar with different treatment areas. The group agreed to capture concerns about duplication of services and innovation in the field. They also discussed the potential inclusion of housing and homelessness service providers, though this point was left open for further clarification.
 - c. The group agreed to form a small team to review the survey again before the January meeting, with Jennifer Ludwig and Doug Robinson volunteering to participate.
- 4. 1:45pm: Guest Presentation: Withdrawal Management (45 min)**
- a. Ryan Mueller, M,ed, LPC, LAC--State Opioid Treatment Authority, Behavioral Health Administration .
 - b. Ryan presented on withdrawal management services, explaining the physiological basis of withdrawal, the role of ASAM standards in treatment, and the different levels of care available, including outpatient, intensive outpatient, and residential settings. The meeting focused on changes to detoxification services in Colorado, particularly the elimination of 3.2 social detox services. The discussion also covered other levels of care, including 3.5 and 3.7 residential treatment, and addressed questions about sober living facilities and integrated treatment approaches.
- 5. 2:30pm: Continuation of Current Programs (5 Minutes)**
- a. We did not receive materials from Tribe Recovery and Cherry Creek School District in time for this meeting and they have asked to present in January.
- 6. 2:35pm: Funding New Strategies Update (10 min)**
- a. Co-Response and Family Services workgroups need additional time to review/interview applicants and will come to the January council meeting with their recommendations for funding.
 - b. The Withdrawal Services RFQ is posted and the Pre-Bid webinar was successful with many follow up questions from applicants.
 - a. It's become clear that this timeline needs to be extended to accommodate the big ask from potential applicants.
- 7. 2:45: State Infrastructure Grant**
- a. Letters of Acknowledgement
 - a. Signing [letter of acknowledgement](#) for Grant Writing Infrastructure from University of Colorado
 - i. The group decided they can support this and Francoise Bergan will sign the letter as Chair of the Region 9 Opioid Abatement Council.
 - b. Implementation Partner Request

- a. Otowi discussed a request for infrastructure grant funding from an entity, explaining the eligible entity groups and the need for careful consideration before approving such requests. The group explored questions about the process, liability, and administrative burden, deciding to gather more information before making a decision.
- b. Decision to have Otowi, along with Francoise Bergan and Jennifer Ludwig, gather additional information from the requestor and share with the council. Potential for an emergency meeting to vote on this item in between now and the scheduled January 8th meeting.

8. 2:50pm Thank you to Mayor Piko and Welcome to Amy Tharp

- a. Council Chair, Francoise Bergan, gave some parting words for Mayor Stephanie Piko and thanked her for her service. Mayor Piko has served on this council since its inception and was instrumental in so many ways to its success. Thank you for your service!
- b. Amy Tharp, the new representative for City of Centennial, was introduced to the group. She has been engaging in meetings for the last few months to get up to speed. She joined via phone and said hello to the group.

9. 2:55pm: Updates and Closing

- a. [Data Dashboard](#) is live
- b. Next meeting is January 8, 2026 on Zoom.

10. Meeting Adjourned

11. Action Items

Task	Responsible Party	Due Date
Review revised Survey	Otowi Group, Doug Robinson & Jennifer Ludwig	Before next meeting
Follow up to Letter of Acknowledgment	Kendra Davis	ASAP
Follow up with implementation requestor	Kendra Davis, Jennifer Ludwig & Francoise Bergan	ASAP