



## Region 9 Opioid Settlement Governance Committee

### DRAFT MINUTES

February 13, 2025, 1:00pm-3:00pm | Virtual Meeting

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 Malkelky	Y	
The Arapahoe County Sheriff	Tyler Brown	N	N
Representative appointed from a municipal law enforcement agency within the AC Region	Police Chief Dustin Varney	N	N
Representative appointed from the County Court system or District Attorney's Office or their designee by the BOCC.	John Kellner (Amy Padden)	N	Y
Representative appointed by the City of Aurora	Francoise Bergan (Aurora)	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)	N	N
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	

Quorum? No: Steadman Group advised on the need for voting member confirmation of appointment.

#### Participants

1. Kendra Davis, Arapahoe County
2. Ron Carl, Arapahoe County Attorney
3. Doug Robinson, Cherry Creek Village representative
4. Dana Murphy Parker, UC College of Nursing
5. Omar Montgomery, Cherry Creek School District (CCSD)
6. Jane McCulloch, Colorado Health Network
7. Sarah Prager, AllHealth Network
8. Melissa Mouton, 5280 High School
9. Tristan Maddox, Hazelbrook

10. Todd Weaver, Fiscal
  11. Denise Taylor, Town of Bennett
  12. Devin Granbery, City of Sheridan
  13. Kristin Carpenter, Colorado Consortium for Prescription Drug Abuse Prevention
  14. Emily Van Haecke, Englewood Police Department
  15. Nicky Kulish, AllHealth Network
  16. Ben Stincer, FullCircle Program
  17. Brianna Robles, Steadman Group
  18. Rhiannon Streight, Steadman Group
  19. Burke Fishburn, Steadman Group
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1. Welcome: Brianna Robles, Steadman Group, welcomed participants, reviewed the agenda, and conducted the Roll Call.
    - a. Governance
      - i. Council appointments and reappointments
        1. There was discussion on the need for appointments or reappointments from various regions and law enforcement representatives.
        2. Voting members will provide official communication for these appointments.
        3. Steadman Group will add tracking of Council member terms.
      - ii. Meeting quorum and voting: There was a lack of quorum due to pending official documentation for voting members.
      - iii. December 2024 and January 2025 Meeting Minutes Approval: Tabled due to no quorum
      - iv. Chair and Vice Chair Nominations: Nominations for the 2025 chair and vice chair positions were discussed.
        1. Francoise Bergen was nominated for Region 9 Council Chair.
        2. Council will prepare for the next meeting to officially vote on the Chair and potentially a Vice Chair.
  2. Strategic Planning & External Requests Review workgroup discussions from 1/08
    - a. Funding, Utilization, and Community Initiatives: Rhiannon Streight, Steadman Group, discussed the available funds and the upcoming funding request on March 15th, including the following issues.
      - i. There was discussion about the importance of clear utilization of funds and the need for a strategic approach to funding.
      - ii. Transportation: Participants discussed transportation resources, focusing on non-emergency medical transportation (NEMT) and other local options.
        1. Challenges include gaps in service for non-Medicaid users and limited service areas. Examples from other regions were shared to illustrate potential solutions.
        2. Data showed that transportation services can reduce healthcare costs, lower criminal justice expenses, and improve treatment

retention outcomes. The potential for significant cost savings was highlighted.

3. Discussion also focused on the challenges of scheduling transportation through Medicaid, the high costs of maintaining company vehicles, and the need for transportation options for clients without Medicaid or private insurance coverage.
  - iii. Upstream prevention: Upstream prevention was mentioned as a topic with subtopics like wraparound services for high-risk populations. However, it was noted that these would not be reviewed in the current meeting.
  - iv. Culturally competent campaigns: The need for culturally competent campaigns and messaging was acknowledged, with a suggestion to expand existing campaigns. However, this was not a focus for the current meeting.
  - v. Family Support Services
    1. Participants discussed the need to focus on family support services, discussing data and return on investment, and linking these services to broader themes.
    2. The importance of integrating family support into treatment and recovery for substance use disorders was highlighted, showing improved outcomes when the family is involved.
    3. There was specific mention of the Nurse Family Partnership program, which provides home visits for first-time mothers, and the Nurse Liaison program, which works with families referred by human services. These programs could be adapted to support families impacted by substance use disorder.
    4. The discussion also covered the need for collaboration between agencies to support children whose parents have substance use disorders. Various programs were discussed, including school-based therapy, mobile support services, and community-based initiatives.
    5. The need for accessible, no-cost services for families and youth was emphasized, along with the importance of meeting clients where they are.
  - vi. Youth-based recovery: Participants discussed the importance of youth recovery programs and highlighted their benefits, such as increased self-esteem, social support, and decreased substance use. They also discussed evidence-based approaches, such as aftercare services, 12-step programs, and recovery communities. The goal was to explore connections to family support services.
  - vii. Collaborative Care Clinic: An external request to establish a collaborative care clinic was presented as part of a larger initiative requiring regional cooperation beyond Region 9.
- b. Recovery atmosphere in Arapahoe County

- i. There was discussion on the county's score of 3 out of 5 in the Norc Recovery Ecosystem Index. Participants noted a gap in youth-specific recovery opportunities. Data from the Healthy Kids Colorado Survey was presented, showing a decrease in marijuana and electronic vape use among students in Arapahoe County between 2021 and 2023.
    - ii. The meeting highlighted the limited research on the return on investment for recovery programs, noting a pilot program that saved taxpayers \$44 for every dollar spent.
3. External requests and funding: The council discussed external requests for funding, emphasizing that they are not obligated to fund these requests. They considered the potential of inviting organizations to present their ideas for further exploration.
  - a. START Center Funding Request: The START Center requested over \$200,000 to support 75 children and families in Arapahoe County by covering therapy costs not reimbursed by insurance. The program focuses on trauma and family support to reduce substance abuse.
  - b. Full Circle Funding Request: Full Circle requested \$50,000 to expand services in Arapahoe County. They use a peer-led model offering free family group sessions and have shown positive outcomes in other counties.
  - c. Recovery 2.0 Funding Request: Recovery 2.0, a recipient of city funding, seeks additional support for a project in Aurora. They need less than the initially requested \$400,000 due to new funding channels.
  - d. One-Stop Shop for Opioid Treatment: A proposal for a comprehensive care model for opioid use disorder, involving collaboration across regions and using existing clinics as training sites.
  - e. Discussion on External Requests
    - i. The Council discussed the potential for issuing RFPs to gather more information on concepts like youth prevention and collaborative care.
    - ii. The Council agreed to create a survey to gauge interest in these concepts and to gather more information on external requests. The survey will be sent out in a follow-up email.
4. Detox Market Sounding Event
  - a. This is an event to gather feedback from providers on detox and withdrawal objectives, aiming to identify obstacles and challenges.
  - b. The event will be recorded and made available to the Council.
5. Closing
  - a. New Council meeting approach, prioritization, and Council roles: Steadman Group asked for feedback on the new meeting approach, including how to present data and prioritization. They received positive feedback on the tailored approach and the inclusion of more data.
  - b. Region 9 Opioid Abatement Council 1-pager: Brianna briefed on the proposed Region 9 Opioid Abatement Council 1-pager. The draft will be shared in the follow-up email.
  - c. Satisfaction survey: Brianna briefed on the [End of Year Council Survey](#) on the Steadman group's performance. This will also be shared in the follow-up email.

- d. The next Region 9 will be 03/13/25 (virtual) and will focus on 3/15 funding request potential priorities and dollar allocations.
- 6. The meeting concluded at 2:55pm.