



Region 9 Opioid Settlement Governance Committee

October 10, 2024

Meeting Virtual via Zoom

<https://uso2web.zoom.us/j/3563330150?omn=81366381102>

1:00-3:00pm

DRAFT MINUTES

Representation	Name	Present (Y/N)	Delegate present? (Y/N)
Appointed by the Arapahoe County Board of County Commissioners	Bill Holen	N	
Appointed by the Arapahoe County Board of County Commissioners	Leslie Summey	Y	
Public Health Director of the Arapahoe County Public Health Department	Jennifer Ludwig	N	Y Penny Grande
Director of the Arapahoe County Human Services Department	Cheryl Ternes		Y - Jessica Williamson
The Arapahoe County Sheriff	Tyler Brown	N	
Representative appointed from a municipal law enforcement agency within the AC Region	Police Chief Dustin Varney	Y (joined at 1:30pm)	
Representative appointed from the County Court system or District Attorney's Office or their designee by the BOCC.	John Kellner	Y	
Rep appointed by the City of Aurora	Francoise Bergan (Aurora)	Y	
Rep appointed by the City of Centennial	Mayor Stephanie Piko	Y	
Rep to represent the west side of the County, appointed by majority vote of the Cities of Englewood, Sheridan and Littleton	Steven Ward (Englewood)	Y	
Rep to represent the east side/smaller communities of the County, appointed by majority vote of the remainder of the municipalities	Trish Stiles (Bennett)	N	

Quorum met? Yes.

Participants:

- Rhiannon Streight, TSG
- Brianna Robles, TSG
- JK Costello, TSG
- Todd Weaver, Finance Director Arapahoe County

- Emilie Van Haecke, LPC with Englewood Police Department
- Sarah Hornbuckle, Associate Exec Director Hornbuckle Foundation
- Calli Tucker, Crisis Intervention Program Administration, City of Aurora
- Sarah Prager, AllHealth
- Ben Stincer, Full Circle Program
- Donna Norton, Hornbuckle Foundation
- Cindie Strickland, Hazelbrook Sober Living

Agenda

1. Welcome
 - a. Rhiannon Streight (Steadman Group) handed the facilitation over to Brianna Robles, who is transitioning into the main facilitator role for the region.
 - b. Brianna went through roll calls and introductions, asking Council members to put their name, role and organization in the chat.
2. Governance
 - a. **Approval of 9/12 minutes**
 - i. **1st: Commissioner Summey**
 - ii. **2nd: Mayor Stephanie Piko**
 - iii. **No opposition – minutes pass**
 - b. Scheduling in-person meetings
 - i. Council discussed frequency of their meetings, deciding to maintain the current monthly cadence of virtual meetings and to meet in person quarterly beginning in January. Virtual meetings will continue throughout November and December.
 - ii. Rhiannon suggested to re-visit the conversation in January about frequency, given there are some elected turnover (i.e. DA John Kellner term ends Jan 2025)
 - iii. Calendar out in-person for January
 1. **January 9 1-3pm MST**
3. NACo Opioid Peer Exchange: Commissioner Summey Report-out
 - a. Commissioner Leslie Summey reported on the 3rd annual NACo Opioid Peer Exchange that was hosted in King County, Washington. She reviewed 3 programs: Recovery Cafe, Chief Seattle Club and Interagency's Recovery Academy. Leslie emphasized the importance of cultural competency when helping those with substance use disorders after visiting the native-led Chief Seattle Club. She also shared her experience at a Recovery Cafe, noting the value of listening to those in recovery instead of imposing solutions. Leslie expressed excitement about creative approaches to addressing opioid issues in their Region.
 - b. Council discussed the concept of recovery high schools. It was clarified that these schools cater to students recovering from substance use disorder or co-occurring disorders, with referrals coming from counselors, the county, or self-referral. The Colorado school's (5280) success was highlighted, with a mixed model of mainstream and recovery students and a lower than average free and reduced price lunch rate. The school's unique approach of having an AA meeting followed by group activities was also discussed. Leslie expressed her gratitude for the

opportunity to learn and gain valuable information, while Rhiannon suggested exploring potential funding concepts and involving young people from Arapahoe County. Leslie also mentioned the involvement of the director of the Chief Seattle Health Center from Colorado Springs and the recognition of Arapahoe County in a NACo opioid solution center publication.

i. Arapahoe County highlight! <https://www.naco.org/resource/harm-reduction>

c. Questions / Discussion:

- i. Are students referred or do they self enroll? Each school operates differently, so both depending on resources and availability in the county.
- ii. JK mentioned that the 5280 school in South Denver has a wide range of geographic service areas, all the way up to Boulder.
- iii. Commissioner Summey offered to put together a follow up with information. There is also an option to bring localized options to present to R9 in early 2025 (Full Circle, 5280, etc)

4. Program Spotlight - Hazelbrook

a. Cindie Strickland from Hazelbrook presented the Sober Living program to council. She discussed the success of Transitional Safety Zones (TSZ). Sarah from Hornbuckle pointed out how effective and feasible the TSZ's are and that Hornbuckle frequently refers clients to TSZ at Hazelbrook. Cindie shared details about Hazelbrook's TSZ program that helps individuals struggling with addiction access safe detox and support services.

b. Questions / Discussion:

- i. General areas of the TSZs? Houses all over Aurora, 4 houses in the Lakewood area, 1 in Arvada and 3 in the Thornton area.
- ii. Emilie asked about the referral process? Walk-ins are welcome, you can fill out an online application to be screened to be admitted. If there's bed space, they will not turn people down. Very low barrier to enter the TSZ.
- iii. Does Hazelbrook offer any sort of detox? No.
- iv. Houses are certified by CAR. All houses in the state have to be certified by CAR - only one certifying body for recovery residences in the state.
- v. Are you looking to expand your current services? Cindie doesn't think they're expanding TSZ right now, but often Hazelbrook is expanding housing. She mentioned they also just started a workforce program for men.
- vi. Is there anything Hazelbrook needs that Region 9 can support? Cindie deferred to Tristen or Jess for this question.

5. Strategic Planning

a. Program Process Updates

i. Workforce Development & Awareness Campaign

1. Kendra from Arapahoe County provided an update on the Workforce Development and Awareness Campaign projects that the small workgroups did a great job scoping out work. The sole source agreements are being finalized with providers. Will be

finalized shortly. Work can start immediately, especially with the awareness campaign.

- ii. REFLECTION: Rhiannon asked how the Council felt about sole sourcing versus the RFP process.
 - 1. Members discussed that it was much easier, but the Council should be cautious to prioritize systems that are easier because we may be losing out on innovative ideas and new organizations.
- b. Co-Response, *AllHealth data update*
 - i. Rhiannon shared data from the AllHealth data dashboard on co-response. The data conversation arose from the conversation in Council about how SUD-centric co-response programs actually are. Sarah Prager, from All Health, discussed the data and dashboard findings. She mentioned they're responding to about 7 calls per day, most of which are welfare checks. 274/2600 were labeled as SUD. 871 persons served had a documented pre-existing SUD condition. 31% of referrals involved substance use directly. Sarah mentioned that likely, the referrals classified under 'behavioral health' have some sort of substance use involvement. She mentioned that co-response is successful at keeping people out of jail, given what the data reports. Sarah also talked about how most calls take place on weekdays around lunch time.
- c. Detox
 - i. Update from JK Costello (TSG): First draft of RFP is underway. The RFP from the last round is being revamped, limiting medical and residential services and really looking at law enforcement drop off for behavioral health issues as the primary service.
 - ii. Rhiannon presented the idea of Council hosting a **Sounding Conference** to gather interest and information about detox needs in the county. The sounding conference was a suggested from Arapahoe County procurement, as a replacement for an RFI. We would like to host this before the end of the year (November). It is a brainstorming session with providers and organizations in the area to discuss needs and ideas for standing up a detox program. Are there barriers that are preventing providers from going for this opportunity? Arapahoe County and TSG will host and facilitate the detox sounding conference, but we need support from Council to help us get the right people in the room.
 - 1. Should we include Douglas County? For the sounding conference, we want it specific to Arapahoe.
- d. Rhiannon explained that detox and co-response are still gaps in this county, and that the landscape for these projects is shifting. She suggested to take a step back in planning to re-assess the landscape and program gaps (i.e. Sounding Conference for detox and additional data collection for co-response from Dustin Varney & the county). In 2025 we will re-group in workgroups and develop how we will go about next steps with detox and co-response.
- e. Evaluation goals for new projects

- i. Brianna shared the RE-AIM evaluation framework for Region 9 that included the draft goals for the 2 new programs: workforce development and awareness campaigns. Council took time to review the goals but had minimal questions or discussion. Steadman will finalize the details of the goals and begin to incorporate them into the evaluation plan.
- 6. Yr 2 Funding Discussion (15 mins)
 - a. Hornbuckle request
 - i. Additional funding for Hornbuckle’s program was discussed, with Sarah Hornbuckle explaining its unexpected success and need for increasing funding to manage the workload. Donna Norton, the director of a program, expressed her passion for helping homeless individuals and her goal to raise funds for winter clothes. She also shared her experience of having to fund the program herself due to lack of funding. The discussion also highlighted the challenges faced by Donna in her outreach program, including finding suitable sober living and treatment facilities for the people she served. The evaluation of the program was also discussed, with a focus on the number of people served and their transition into other programs. Sarah Hornbuckle was present during the discussion and emphasized the resilience needed for this emotionally demanding work. She also highlighted the need for additional funding to support the program and provide livable wages for the peer coaches.
 - b. Questions / Discussion?
 - i. Does Hornbuckle keep records of receipts? Yes, all receipts can be provided. Every quarter, they submit receipts and a financial report.
 - ii. Do the outreach costs go to new clients or will the new money go to existing clients? New clients.
 - iii. Dustin Varney suggested that Hornbuckle request more funding to ensure that program is covered (like administrative fees, etc). Kendra suggested that we can move forward with the current request, and Hornbuckle can create a second amendment to present to council in the next few months.
 - c. **Vote to approve the additional \$48100 for Hornbuckle + the opportunity to present to council for a further amendment**
 - i. Motion: Francoise Bergen**
 - ii. Second: Mayor Piko**
 - iii. Oppositions: none**
 - iv. Decision: PASS**
- 7. Closing (10 mins)
 - a. Updates
 - i. Council briefly discussed experiences from Recovery Month and the Colorado Opioid Abatement Conference.
 - b. Next meeting: 11.14.24 (virtual)
- 8. Next Steps
 - a. Hornbuckle Foundation to provide updated budget requests for potential additional funding at the November meeting.

- b. Kendra to work with Hornbuckle Foundation on processing the approved \$48,100 additional funding and potential amendment.
- c. Steadman Group to incorporate new program goals for workforce development and campaigns into the evaluation plan.
- d. Council members to review and provide feedback on program goals table sent in follow-up email
- e. Steadman to organize a sounding conference for detox providers by end of year.
- f. Detox work group members to help identify and invite relevant stakeholders to sounding conference
- g. Council members to attend November 14th meeting or find alternates to ensure quorum for voting
- h. Steadman to schedule in-person meeting for January 9, 2025.
- i. Steadman to monitor infrastructure grant opportunities and assess potential applications for the detox project.
- j. Steadman to follow up with Aurora Fire Rescue regarding co-responder data
- k. Council to revisit co-responder and detox efforts in early 2025 strategic planning
- l. Steadman to outreach to 5280 & Full Circle for Council presentations