



**Region 9 Opioid Abatement Council**  
 March 13, 2025, Virtual Meeting  
**Meeting Minutes: DRAFT**

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<b>Representation</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Present (Y/N)</b>	<b>Delegate present (Y/N)</b>
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	
Representative appointed from a municipal law enforcement agency within the AC Region	Police Chief Dustin Varney	Y	
Representative appointed from the County Court system or District Attorney’s Office or their designee by the BOCC.	John Kellner (Amy Padden)		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	
Representative 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? 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. Omar Montgomery, Cherry Creek School District (CCSD)
4. Sarah Prager, AllHealth Network
5. Melissa Mouton, 5280 High School
6. Todd Weaver, Fiscal
7. Denise Taylor, Town of Bennett
8. Kristin Carpenter, Colorado Consortium for Prescription Drug Abuse Prevention
9. Ben Stincer, FullCircle Program
10. Brianna Robles, Steadman Group

11. Burke Fishburn, Steadman Group
12. JK Costello, 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 complete appointments by April to enable voting. After appointments are completed, a chair election will also be conducted.
  - b. Recovery Story: Tess shared her recovery story
2. Governance
  - a. Meeting Minutes Approval was deferred as there was no quorum. For reference, the April meeting will need to approve these and the following minutes:
    - i. [December 2024](#)
    - ii. [January 2025](#)
    - iii. [February 2025](#)
3. Strategic Planning; There was discussion that Region 9 has over \$2 million immediately available for spending, with \$1.2 million set aside for detox needs.
  - a. \$2.2 million is available in the Region 9 account
  - b. \$9.7 million additional available to be requested as of January 2025
  - c. The next steps will be to discuss allocations for available funds in the April and May Council meetings.
4. Workgroups
  - a. Available Region 9 Funding
5. Detox Strategic Planning
  - a. Market Sounding Event Update: The market-sounding event was successful, and further planning will continue. Twelve attendees provided feedback on permitting and licensing processes
  - b. Cost analysis: At the April meeting, JK Costello, Steadman Group, will present a cost analysis of detox and walk-in centers.
  - c. Other discussion points
    - i. Council should consider how much to invest in the detox initiative and what percentage of overall funds should be allocated.
    - ii. \$1.2 million can be set aside.
    - iii. Additional funds can be requested in September 2025.
    - iv. A better idea of the costs for the detox walk-in center, including permitting costs, will be available in April.
    - v. There may be potential delays in detox facility planning due to permitting and licensing challenges.
  - d. Workgroup: The detox workgroup will convene again to identify the next steps before the April meeting.
  - e. Discussion Points
  - f. 1.

- g. Discussion on Reserving Funds
  - h. Next Steps
6. New Potential Funding Priorities Workgroups: The Council broke into workgroups to discuss specifics and further explore all three priorities (below).
    - a. Youth Recovery
    - b. Family Services
    - c. Transportation
    - d. Workgroup Report Out & Discussion
  7. Workgroup reports results
    - a. All three priorities (youth recovery, family services, transportation) are important and should be explored, but they may be implemented at different times.
    - b. Youth Recovery: They discussed gaps and needs such as access to programs, awareness, and community-based teams. They emphasized the importance of funding to prevent youth from entering the justice system. Challenges include engaging youth and parental buy-in.
    - c. Family Services: The workgroup focused on whether families know about available services and the stigma associated with addiction. They discussed the need for cultural navigators, anonymous call centers, and housing support. Transportation: The workgroup identified transportation as a barrier to accessing services. They discussed potential funding for transportation solutions through existing grantees and sustainability challenges. The Council expressed a preference for not administering the program directly.
    - d. Youth Recovery and Family Services overlap: The Council also discussed the overlap between youth recovery and family services, emphasizing the need for complementary programs and the challenges families face when dealing with addiction. The Council plans to develop Requests for Proposals that complement each other and explore adding transportation services to existing programs.
  8. External requests: The Council reviewed external requests from Region 9 and discussed inviting organizations to present their programs. They emphasized the importance of aligning these requests with Council priorities. The Council will explore external requests further and may invite organizations to present their programs.
  9. Closing
    - a. Brianna reviewed the End-of-Year Council survey results regarding satisfaction with facilitation, program evaluation, and engagement. Overall, the Council is satisfied with the current facilitation and program impact. Respondents suggested a social event for Council members.
    - b. The next meeting will be on April 10, 2025, from 1:00 to 3:00 p.m., at a location TBD. There is potential for community presentations in the April and May meetings for external requests.
  10. The meeting concluded at approximately 2:40pm.