

Boulder County Opioid Operations Board

09/29/23

Attendees: Ashley McDonald, Becky Milanski, Georgia Babatsikos, Hilda Zamora Hursh, Jordan Goto, Mila Long, Monica Alix Rotner, Nico Goldberger, Wendy Schwartz, Trina Faatz, Ronnie Vasquez

Staff Support: Tucker Eurman, Kelly Veit, Jordan Buggert

Updates:

Kelly Veit, Behavioral Health Hub Program Manager, provided updates to the Opioid Operations Board.

- Welcome New Opioid Contract Administrator, Jordan Buggert!
- State Updates:
 - Plan submission option for November 15 was confirmed.
 - State Infrastructure Grants:
 - Desire from the state to see cross-regional applications.
 - Currently, Infrastructure Grants are still focused on rural regions.
 - There will be two grant cycles each year.
 - Innovation Grants:
 - \$4m this year, additional funding rounds in future years.
 - State encouraged past applicants to keep applying.
 - Connect Effect- Public Awareness Campaign with COAG:
 - Upcoming mini-grant opportunities: local entities to distribute materials.
- Updates from the BCROC:
 - Updates on funding amount – 2023/2024 \$4.4m, expecting \$1.8m ongoing.
 - Funds don't expire, not expecting to spend all \$4.4m this year.
 - Discussed recommended approach to short and long-term planning:
 - Short: Determine needs for currently funded programs.
 - Short: Surface higher level priorities so they can be inputted into the COST system by November 15.
 - Long: Use time between now and March 15 to develop longer-term strategies, amend plan in March as needed.

Pre-meeting Prioritization Exercise:

Tucker Eurman, Opioid Abatement Project Manager, sent members an exercise to complete in advance of the meeting. Operations Board members were tasked with prioritizing focus areas (themes) and approved uses. The exercise was meant to begin identifying common priorities among Operations Board members as they relate to the approved uses for the Opioid Abatement dollars.

- Background:
 - Attempted a prioritization exercise during the August Operations Board meeting.
 - Original exercise was too time restrictive. Moved to an offline homework assignment to allow participants more time and space to complete the exercise on their own.
- Objective:
 - Explore importance of strategic focus areas (11 themes).
 - Within prioritized areas, select top strategies that were highest priority.

- Exercise results:
 - Highest rated focus areas and approved uses were the broadest which makes temporarily parking dollars in the COST system easy.
 - Top six focus areas/themes:
 - Treatment – General
 - Recovery
 - Prevention
 - Treatment – Criminal Justice
 - Harm Reduction
 - Children, Youth, and Families

Continuation Funds:

Kelly Veit discussed continuation funds for programs that received year-1 Opioid Abatement dollars.

- BCROC approved continuation funds for first-year programs that originally requested ongoing funding support and have a continued need.
- Current programs will be eligible to be funded up to the original award amount, with adjustments allowable for FTE changes.
- Continuation funds will be for one year and have additional reporting requirements.
- Internal staff looked at Q1/Q2 program spend down, recognizing that programs did not receive funds as early as expected.
- Kelly, Tucker, and Jordan will be interviewing funded programs (throughout October) for additional information on outcome of funds received, intended use of new dollars, and continued need.

Operations Board Roster:

Tucker Eurman facilitated an exercise to explore expanding the current Opioid Operations Board to include more diversity in subject matter experts and more community voice.

- The current Opioid Operations Board has limitations in voices able to speak across the approved uses and currently lacks community representation. Expanding the diversity in voices will allow the Operations Board to better advise how the funds should be used.
- Expanding the Operations Board will be part of the work with the contracted facilitator coming on board. Internal staff will continue working with the Operations Board in the meantime to determine which focus areas and approved uses should have representation.
- Considering an application process for Operations Board member seats. This has shown to be beneficial in other regions.

Next Steps:

Kelly Veit informed the Board on upcoming activities.

- Clarifying the roles of the Community, Operations Board, and BCROC.
- Incoming Contractor, determining first steps.