

**Boulder County Opioid Operations Board**  
**Meeting Minutes**  
**10/26/23**

**Attendees:** Nick Goldberger, Becky Milanski, Monica Alix Rotner, Lisa Moreno, Ronnie Vasquez, Jordan Goto, Jessica Casebolt, Ashley McDonald, Allison Bayley

**Staff Support:** Kelly Veit, Tucker Eurman, Jordan Buggert

**Welcome & Updates:**

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

- Connect Effect Colorado:
  - A youth-focused opioid and fentanyl use prevention campaign through the Colorado Attorney General.
  - Small grants will be offered to local agencies to distribute materials locally.
  - Grants are estimated to be around \$5,000.
  - Grant release date to be determined.
- An external contractor has been selected to support strategic planning for Boulder County Region's use of Opioid Settlement dollars.
  - Third Horizon Solutions has been selected as the contractor.
  - It is estimated they will begin work on November 1, 2023.
- Internal Team Planning:
  - Staff supporting the Opioid Abatement project held a retreat to discuss timelines affecting the project management, procurement and contracting, and fiscal pieces of the project and began developing an annual funding timeline.
  - Staff also worked to identify duplication of responsibilities and streamline workflow.

**Incoming Contractor – Third Horizon Solutions:**

Kelly Veit provided more information about the incoming contractor's role.

- Third Horizon Solutions will be responsible for three main bodies of work:
  - Process Facilitation will include:
    - Interviewing Ops Board Members.
    - Conducting an environmental scan and recommending an approach to expand the Operations Board roster.
    - Developing high-level priority funding areas.
    - Developing an ongoing funding framework that incorporates identified priorities.
    - Conducting in-person planning sessions in December 2023 and March 2024. Specific dates still to be determined.
  - Community Engagement will include:
    - Expanding the Operations Board roster.
    - Recommending an approach to increase community member participation.
    - Creating a communications plan to ensure transparency of the project.
    - Developing an engagement approach to incorporate the voices of the Substance Use Advisory Group.

- Evaluating the impact of distributed funds will include:
  - Recommending Key Performance Indicators to track programs receiving funds.
  - Asset mapping of gaps, resources, and other available funding sources.
  - Measuring impact of the funds in the community.
  - Developing recommendations for ongoing evaluation of programming impact.
- The Operations Board will be able to provide input on indicators. It is important to be good stewards of the funds, but also not over burden smaller organizations that don't have the capacity for extensive data collection. Other staff may be included to ensure data collection is as easy as possible for community partners.

### **Continuation Funding:**

Kelly Veit updated the Operations Board on continuation fund interviews of 2023-funded programs.

- Part of the interviews has been to identify if programs need ongoing financial support as well as if they will be left with a surplus of funds at the end of 2023.
- Expansion of programming is not being considered at this time, only sustaining current programming supported through Opioid Settlement dollars.
- The Boulder County Regional Opioid Council (BCROC) approved a small increase in related personnel costs to account for cost-of-living adjustments.
- Information regarding surplus funds has been gathered through the interviews. Internal staff also looked at programs' spending to date and projected spending for the fourth quarter of 2023 to identify if programs will be left with surplus funds at the end of the year.
- Staff are identifying if programs are seeking changes in their scope of work for 2024 programming. Some scope of work adjustments will be allowable, such as moving some funds between operating and personnel costs while remaining budget neutral. Other changes to scope of work, such as adjusting programming, will be presented to the BCROC for formal approval.

### **Trends from Continuation Fund Interviews:**

- **Challenges:**
  - Many programs received funds in late-Spring or early-Summer. Some programs had to make shifts due to the funds arriving later than anticipated.
  - Many programs are unable to bill for services or access funding from other sources and remain dependent on Opioid Settlement dollars for sustainability.
  - Clients are needing higher levels of care and support for longer than expected.
  - Programs share a desire for multi-year contracts, particularly for staff positions.
- **Positives:**
  - Over 150,000+ fentanyl pills have been removed from the illicit drug supply through law enforcement efforts.
  - Programs have expanded and developed new community partnerships and collaboration.
  - Access to Substance Use Disorder supports have expanded in rural communities.
  - There is more availability to Medication Assisted Treatment in Boulder and Longmont.
  - Prevention, treatment, and recovery supports have expanded for youth and families.
  - Substance Use Disorder support for criminal justice-involved community members has been improved.

### **Colorado Opioid Settlement Tracker (COST) Allocation:**

Kelly Veit reviewed results from an exercise conducted prior to September's Opioid Operations Board meeting where Board Members prioritized the different Approved Uses.

- COST is the system where we enter funding allocations and request funds from the state. This year, funds will be requested on November 15.
- Prior to September's Operation Board meeting, members worked to prioritize themes and approved uses.
- This year, on top of the regular \$1,800,000 million allocation, we have an extra \$2.6 million from a settlement with a one-time payout, totaling \$4,400,000 million available to use.
- These extra funds will cover the continuation funding needs, while still leaving the regular allocation untouched.
- State guidelines indicate they'd like regions to draw funds they realistically will spend.
- We recommend drawing down an additional \$2,000,000 on top of continuation funding needs.
- We can draw additional funds down in March if a method and approach are developed to strategically distribute additional funds.

Tucker Eurman, Opioid Abatement Project Manager, proposed using the results from September's pre-meeting exercise to allocate the additional funds.

- Based on the results from September's pre-meeting exercise and using \$2,000,000 as the draw down amount, funds would be allocated in the COST system as follows:
  - Prevention: \$1,176,306
  - Treatment: \$525,658
  - Additional Areas: \$318,034
- We have ability to move funds between approved uses as programs and strategies are identified.
- These number will be a placeholder until the strategic planning work is completed in the Spring by Third Horizon Solutions.
- The Operations Board approved drawing down an additional \$2,000,000.

### **Annual Funding Calendar:**

Internal staff began creating a draft annual funding calendar as follows:

- May 1<sup>st</sup> – Applications for funds would be opened to the community.
- July 1<sup>st</sup> – The funding application window would close.
- July – August – Applications would be reviewed.
- September 15 – Funding recommendations determined and entered into the COST system.
- November – Contracting process would begin with selected programs.
- January 1 – Selected programs would receive their first payment.

### **Next Steps & Closing:**

- Staff will be officially requesting 2024's Opioid Settlement dollars on November 15.
- The next BCROC meeting will be on November 17.
- Operations board members elected to meet once in early to mid-December. The meeting date is to be determined. The regularly scheduled November 23 and December 28 Operations Board meetings will be cancelled.