



## Colorado Opioid Abatement Council (COAC)

### Review Committee

#### Meeting #21

November 24<sup>th</sup>, 2025  
4:00p– 5:00pm

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**Appointees:** Terrence Gordon, Miles Lucero, Aaron Miltenberger, Andy Kerr, Brandi Freeman

**DOL Staff:** Jack Patterson, Jamie Feld, Natalie Sandoval

**Guests:** Dr. Chelsea Shore-Miller, Jamie Lucero

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#### Welcome and Introductions

The meeting was opened by ORU staff, who greeted members and kicked off the meeting.

ORU staff noted that the agenda included review and approval of the September meeting minutes, consideration of November 14<sup>th</sup> funding requests, and recommendations to release funds.

#### Meeting Minutes Approval

The committee reviewed the minutes from the previous meeting held in September 2025. The key topics discussed at that meeting included September 15<sup>th</sup> funding requests and preparations for Infrastructure Round 4, including indirect cost considerations.

*Aaron Miltenberger moved to approve the September 2025 meeting minutes*

*Andy Kerr seconded*

*Unanimously approved*

#### November 14<sup>th</sup> Funding Requests

Six regions submitted funding requests totaling approximately \$13.684 million, raising the total amount requested by all 19 regions to over \$132 million since 2022.

The committee was provided with a PowerPoint summary of key allocations and an Excel spreadsheet with full funding plan details. The Excel included all purpose categories, including smaller line items omitted in the slide deck.

The six funding requests were detailed as follows:

#### **Region 2 – Larimer County**

- Requested: \$2,603,252.97
- Reallocation: \$189,000 previously allocated to administrative costs was reallocated to other purposes.
- Top allocations:
  - \$1.5M to supportive recovery housing and other housing
  - \$995K to infrastructure/staffing for nonprofits/government

- \$560K to peer recovery centers and events
- Total projected spending (through 2026): \$6.1 million

***Region 7 – Broomfield***

- Requested: \$267,000 across 6 purpose categories
- Top allocations:
  - \$125K to nonprofit/community prevention
  - \$54K to treatment and recovery courts
  - \$40K to continuum of recovery services
- Total projected spending: \$700,000

***Region 9 – Arapahoe County***

- Requested: \$1,050,000
  - \$750K to general treatment of opioid use disorder
  - \$300K to co-responder programs
- Top allocations:
  - \$2M for treatment of opioid use disorder
  - \$968K to school and community prevention/education
  - \$943K to jail-based recovery/harm reduction
- Top projected spending: \$5.8 million

***Region 10 – Gateways to the Rockies (Jefferson, Gilpin, Clear Creek Counties)***

- Requested: \$4,814,361
- Reallocation: \$2.3 million in previously approved funds reallocated
- Allocations included:
  - \$872K each to telehealth, job services training, emergency room staff training, warm hand-off services, recovery friendly workplaces and treatment services and services for individuals involved in the criminal justice system
- Top allocations:
  - \$2M to harm reduction
  - \$1.6M to co-responder
  - \$1.2M to infrastructure/staffing
  - \$1.2M to recovery housing
- Total projected spending: \$17.6 million

***Region 12 – Douglas County***

- Requested: \$4,379,890
  - \$3.4M to withdrawal management services
  - \$444K to prevention/education
  - \$335K to peer support, case management, residential treatment
- Top allocations:
  - \$3.4M to withdrawal management services
  - \$745K to counseling, peer-support, recovery case management, and residential treatment,
  - \$506K for school and community prevention/education programs
- Total projected spending: \$6.1 million

### ***Region 13 – Mesa County***

- Requested: \$570,132.01
- Reallocation: \$360,000 of prior funds reallocated
- Top allocations:
  - \$955K for school-based/youth-focused programs to prevent drug misuse
  - \$115K for Peer-recovery centers and events
  - \$450K for Infrastructure/staffing at government or not-for-profit agencies
- Total projected spending: \$2.6 million

All requests aligned with approved purposes under Exhibit E. It was confirmed that the COAC is not required by the Colorado MOU, to approve reallocations — only new funding requests — though reallocations were transparently presented to the committee.

Clarification was provided regarding the level of detail submitted by regions. It was explained that regions are only required to indicate the approved purpose categories at the plan stage. More detailed program-level data — including subrecipient names and expenditure breakdowns — are provided through required expenditure reporting.

ORU staff shared Section F(9) of the MOU that details the process for releasing funds to the Regions, which generally creates a low burden on Regions on the front end in requesting funds with a greater level of detail required in the expenditure reporting.

Committee members asked about the details of the reallocations. An example from Region 13 was shown, including positive and negative amendments within various categories (e.g., \$450K increase to infrastructure, \$100K reduction in treatment/MAT).

ORU staff noted that the COAC needs to assess how to determine COAC plan compliance in the future, which will be part of future discussions.

### **Recommendations to Release Funds**

Following the presentation, the committee moved to formal actions on the regional funding recommendations.

*Andy Kerr moved that the committee recommend the release of funds to Regions 2, 7, 9, 12, and 13.*

*Miles Lucero seconded the motion.*

*Unanimously approved*

After the batch approval, the committee moved to approve the recommendation of release of funds to Region 10. This region was voted on separately due to the abstention from Andy Kerr.

*Aaron Miltenberger moved to recommend the release of funds to Region 10*

*Miles Lucero seconded the motion*

*Unanimously approved with Andy Kerr abstaining*

The committee's recommendations for all six regions will be presented to the full COAC at the December 4<sup>th</sup>, 2025 meeting.

### **Permanent November Deadline**

ORU Staff shared that the COAC has two permanent funding request deadlines: March 15<sup>th</sup> and September 15<sup>th</sup>. Each year, the COAC has added an additional November deadline to accommodate Regions requests.

Historical data was presented indicating strong and repeated regional interest in November deadlines. Since 2022, November has often been the most utilized funding cycle (28M requested in November 2024 vs. 2M in September of the same year). Staff reported that adding November would not create undue burden.

Committee members proposed two options for the next cycle:

- Add November as a third standard deadline (March, September, November)
- Replace September with November to reduce scheduling burdens

Feedback from Regions indicated a preference for maintaining March and adding or replacing with November due to award-planning cycles. Representatives from Region 10 described aligning their processes with the state calendar, making September less feasible for decision-making.

No vote was held. The discussion will continue at the full COAC meeting.

### **Expenditure Disclosure Email**

In response to prior expenditure reporting violations, the ORU staff is developing a communication to clarify compliance expectations. Key elements included:

- Prohibition of interdiction and enforcement-related expenditures
- Reminder of anti-supplantation policy
- Link to supplantation guidance resource
- Requirement for proactive disclosure of potential unallowable expenditures ahead of February reporting
- Reporting of earned interest as a required line item
- Upcoming webinar for settlement fund recipients

Legal review of the communication is in progress.

Committee members expressed appreciation for staff and support for continuing to providing guidance documents to regions and local governments.

### **Infrastructure Award Amendments Update**

Three non-substantive budget amendments were approved by the Opioid Response Unit in accordance with COAC procedures, which allow changes under 40% of the award that do not alter the original intent or work plan. These did not require committee votes and were presented for informational purposes.

#### 1. 5280 High School – Colorado Charter School Institute

Original transportation funds (\$265K) came in under budget at \$225,971. The remaining ~\$39K was reallocated to create counseling offices to discuss sensitive student mental health issues privately with a counselor or clinician and a small meeting space. The ORU confirmed this aligned with project goals and site observations indicating a need for confidential space.

#### 2. Region 4 – Omni Institute

Due to unused funds from Centennial Mental Health Center, \$9K was reallocated to Omni Institute to expand facilitation services, which has expanded needed capacity for the Region. This supported treatment awareness and system coordination, consistent with the original objectives.

#### 3. Fremont County Boys and Girls Club

The organization saved \$82K from the original capital purchase and reallocated it to renovations including fire suppression, lighting, fencing, and accessibility improvements. The changes enhanced safety and program quality, maintaining alignment with youth prevention goals. Progress on participation and structured programming is being tracked.

### **Opioid Response Unit Updates**

Purdue and Manufacturer Settlements:

Over 300 of 312 local governments signed on. Colorado is on track to receive increased settlement funds in 2026. The estimates for regions will be updated once final figures are released.

Portal Accounting Error:

A calculation error from the September 2025 Funding Request was noted by ORU staff which resulted in additional funds appearing to be requested by Region 14. The error was caught during the standard review of funding distributions before any excess funds were distributed so no additional action is required at this time. ORU staff is working with IT staff to prevent further discrepancies.

### **Public Comment**

Committee members and guests expressed appreciation to ORU staff and fellow committee members for continued support and their efforts coordinating the 2025 Conference.

### **Adjourn**