



Colorado Opioid Abatement Council (COAC)

Meeting #26

December 4th, 2025
9:00am-10:30am

Appointees: Aaron Miltenberger, Dave Frank, Nancy Rodgers, Racquel Garcia, Terrence Gordon, Terry Hofmeister, Brandi Freeman, KC Hume, Andy Kerr, Miles Lucero, Lori Laske, Phil Weiser
DOL Staff: Jamie Feld, Jack Patterson, Natalie Sandoval, Christian Dykson, Mindy Baumgardner, Usama Khalid, Robyn Steuer
Guests: Dr. Chelsea Shore-Miller, Kira Gonzales, Terry Schreiber

Welcome and Introductions

Attorney General Phil Weiser welcomed attendees and shared appreciation for the Opioid Response Unit (ORU) staff for their work on the recent conference, describing it as a major success, with over 500 attendees and 164 post-event survey responses. Key elements included the centering of peer voices, broad participation, and networking opportunities. The AG emphasized that the event's structure had become a national model, with Colorado's community support approach being recognized across state lines.

Reflections on the 2025 conference included acknowledgement of milestone accomplishments: approximately \$132 million had been distributed to regional councils, with \$28 million from the current year alone. Additionally, close to \$10 million had been allocated via the infrastructure share and \$19 million through the state share. The Purdue Pharma and Sackler Family settlements were finalized during this period, and the importance of transparency and data reporting was reinforced.

Council members provided comments on the conference and year-end reflections. A request was made to consider adding a track on governance and bylaws at the next conference. The council recognized Colorado's progress, citing its leadership relative to other states.

Meeting Minutes (Voting Item)

ORU staff presented the October 2025 meeting minutes for approval. Council members were invited to propose revisions or ask clarifying questions. With no concerns or questions raised by the council, meeting minutes were moved for approval.

Dave Frank moved to approve the October 2025 meeting minutes

Miles Lucero seconded

Unanimously approved

November 14th Funding Requests

ORU staff reviewed regional funding requests received in response to the additional November 14, 2025 deadline. A total of six regions submitted requests totaling approximately \$13.7 million. Each region's funding summary was presented:

- Region 2 (Larimer County) requested approximately \$2,603,252.97, with \$189,000 reallocated from administrative costs. Major allocations included supportive housing, peer recovery services, and care coordination.
- Region 7 (Broomfield) requested \$267,000 primarily for non-profit prevention efforts, recovery services, and treatment and recovery courts.
- Region 9 (Arapahoe County) requested \$1,050,000 focused on opioid use disorder treatment and co-responder programming.
- Region 10 (Gateways to the Rockies: Jefferson, Gilpin, Clear Creek) requested \$4,814,361.00 and reallocated \$2.3 million previously approved funds, allocating to a range of Approved Purposes.
- Region 12 (Douglas County) requested \$4,379,890, primarily for withdrawal management services.
- Region 13 (Mesa County) requested \$570,132.01 and reallocated \$360,000 primarily to infrastructure/staffing, connections to care, and peer recovery programs.

Clarifications were requested regarding large infrastructure staffing allocations in Regions 2, 10, and 13. ORU staff committed to follow-up for transparency, ensuring compliance with supplantation policies.

Vote to Release Funds (Voting Item)

To accommodate recusals, motions were broken into batches:

Batch Motion for Regions 2, 9, and 13

Brandi Freeman moved to approve the release of funds to Regions 2, 9, and 13

Dave Frank seconded

Motion passed unanimously

Region 7 (Broomfield)

Racquel Garcia moved to approve the release of funds to Region 7

Dave Frank seconded

Nancy Rodgers abstained

Motion passed unanimously

Region 10 (Gateways to the Rockies)

Terry Hofmeister moved to approve the release of funds to Region 10

Brandi Freeman seconded

Andy Kerr abstained

Motion passed unanimously

Region 12 (Douglas County)

Aaron Miltenberger moved to approve the release of funds to Region 12

Andy Kerr seconded

Racquel Garcia abstained

Motion passed unanimously

Total regional funding released: approximately \$13.7 million, bringing cumulative regional distribution to approximately \$133 million as of year-end 2025.

September 15th Funding Requests Update

ORU staff provided an update regarding a discrepancy in Region 14's September 15th funding request. A \$36,000 over-request was identified due to a tracking issue in the Salesforce COST portal system. The discrepancy was addressed internally without financial impact, and the corrected amount was disbursed. No COAC action was required.

November Funding Request Deadline (Voting Item)

Nancy Rodgers presented a proposal to add a November 13, 2026 funding deadline for this year, based on regional preference and previous years' utilization trends. Nancy noted that the regional share policy, which includes standing funding request deadlines of March 15 and September 15, allows the COAC to add additional deadlines with sufficient notice.

This date will be in addition to the two other funding request deadlines in 2026.

Nancy Rodgers moved to add November 13th, 2026 as an additional funding request deadline in 2026

Lori Laske seconded

Motioned passed unanimously

Infrastructure Round 1 & 2 Close-Outs

ORU staff reported on the completion of Infrastructure Rounds 1 and 2. A detailed summary of close-out reports, key metrics, and success stories was shared with Council members. Highlights included strategic resource deployment, innovative programs, and regional impact. A future agenda item will be added to showcase success stories in more detail.

2026 Expenditure Reporting Deadline (Voting Item)

Nancy Rodgers shared that the COAC needs to set a deadline for the 2026 expenditure reporting, and that the Admin Committee with a recommendation from ORU staff is moving to set February 13th, 2026 as the 2026 deadline. The deadline is set then to give the ORU team enough time to compile the states report to the Mallinckrodt settlement which is due at the end of February.

Nancy Rodgers moved to approve the February 13th, 2026 expenditure reporting deadline

Dave Frank seconded

Motioned passed unanimously

Data Update

ORU staff provided updates on recent data resources posted to the COAC website, including:

- Statewide theory of change
- Draft indicators
- Principles for a learning system
- History of data coordination efforts

Although a distinct vendor contract for a data and learning system was not pursued, funding opportunities remain open under both the Infrastructure Share and the Resilient Colorado Opioid Grant program.

Notice of Intent deadlines and submission timelines were emphasized. Office hours and Q&A sessions were announced for interested applicants.

Council members reiterated the importance of clarifying funding eligibility and helping local governments navigate submission processes.

ORU Updates

ORU staff shared that a statewide communication had been reviewed by Committees and would be issued to all regions and local governments detailing:

- The newly approved expenditure reporting deadline
- Restrictions on supplantation
- Restrictions on interdiction and other supply side expenditures
- Interest earnings and spending restrictions
- Request pre-emptive disclosure of non-allowable expenditures
- Invitation to opioid settlement 101 webinar

ORU staff noted that the COAC meeting calls would shift slightly from the 1st Thursday every other month at 9am to the second Thursday every other month at 9:30am to accommodate schedules.

Public Comment

Dr. Chelsea Shore-Miller (Region 10) provided clarification regarding her region's infrastructure allocations, confirming some items were placed into broad categories temporarily pending further alignment with funding categories.

ORU staff reminded attendees of the upcoming December 12 webinar for local governments regarding settlement structures and reporting compliance. Council members were asked to assist in promoting participation across counties and regions.

Adjourn