



Colorado Opioid Abatement Council (COAC)

Administrative Committee

Meeting #33

December 2nd, 2025
2:00p– 3:00pm

Appointees: Nancy Rodgers, Dave Frank, Aaron Miltenberger

DOL Staff: Jamie Feld, Jack Patterson, Natalie Sandoval

Guests:

Welcome and Introductions

Nancy Rodgers initiated the session with welcomes and introductions. The Committee moved to approve the September 2025 meeting minutes.

Dave Frank moved to approve the September 2025 meeting minutes

Nancy Rodgers seconded

Unanimously approved

2026 Expenditure Reporting Deadline

Opioid Response Unit (ORU) staff shared the Mallinckrodt settlement expenditure reporting requirements, noting that this settlement required a formal national expenditure report, unlike other opioid settlements. ORU staff explained that the national reporting deadline for 2026 was February 27, 2026, necessitating collection of reports from regions, local governments, and the State.

ORU staff proposed setting the statewide expenditure reporting deadline for Friday, February 13, 2026, allowing adequate time for compilation, review, and submission. ORU staff explained that this date was later than the previous year's deadline and aligned with prior reporting practices.

Committee members asked clarifying questions regarding whether reporting was broken down by region or aggregated statewide. ORU staff clarified that reporting was aggregated proportionally across all settlements, as individual settlement tracking was not required or feasible.

ORU staff noted that the goal was to maximize the time that all parties have to complete the expenditure report while still ensuring that the State/COAC can submit the report by the February 27th deadline.

Committee members expressed support for the proposed deadline. ORU staff stated that a formal vote by the full COAC was required and that this item would be placed on the upcoming full COAC agenda.

November Funding Request Deadline

ORU staff reviewed the regional share policy, which includes standing funding request deadlines of March 15 and September 15, and allows the COAC to add additional deadlines with sufficient notice.

ORU staff presented historical data demonstrating that November funding cycles consistently received significantly more requests than September cycles. ORU staff shared feedback from regions indicating continued interest in maintaining a November funding opportunity.

ORU staff proposed adding a November funding request deadline for 2026 only, while deferring any permanent changes to the funding cycle structure until additional data and feedback could be reviewed.

Committee members discussed administrative capacity considerations and agreed that a one-year trial approach was appropriate. The Committee also discussed whether the deadline should fall on Friday, November 13, 2026, rather than Sunday, November 15, to avoid confusion.

Consensus supported aligning the deadline with Friday, November 13, 2026. ORU staff confirmed that this proposal would be brought to the full COAC for formal consideration and that draft motion language would be provided in advance.

Expenditure Disclosure Email

ORU staff presented a draft communication intended for regions and local governments addressing non-allowable expenditures and compliance requirements, following prior COAC discussion regarding disclosure of interdiction-related expenditures.

ORU staff explained that the draft communication:

- Reiterates that interdiction and supply-side law enforcement activities are not allowable uses of opioid settlement funds
- Requests preemptive disclosure of non-allowable expenditures
- Reaffirms that supplantation is prohibited and states requirements around earned interest
- Notes that expenditures are publicly reported
- References the tentative February 13 reporting deadline, subject to COAC approval
- Invites participation in an opioid settlement overview webinar

Committee members provided extensive feedback on wording, noting the value of clarifying that “supply side efforts” are not permissible, and clarifying the term “evidence-based”. Members emphasized the need to maintain compliance with Exhibit E while allowing flexibility for culturally responsive and emerging practices. ORU staff noted that the COAC recommendations include language regarding “practice-based” strategies as falling under “evidence-informed” strategies permitted by Exhibit E.

After discussion, the Committee reached consensus to revise the language to reference “evidence-based, evidence-informed, or practice-based” strategies and to align general language with the COAC approach. ORU staff were directed to revise the draft communication consistent with Committee feedback and finalize it for distribution.

Expenditure Review Process

ORU staff provided an overview of the expenditure review process, noting that the process used in the prior year functioned generally well and that no major changes were being proposed.

ORU staff reviewed the multi-step workflow, including submission, internal ORU staff review and coding, clarification and resubmission were needed, and presentation to COAC once reports were sufficiently refined. ORU staff explained the coding framework used to streamline review. Committee members expressed support for continuing the existing process.

ORU staff shared that they expected expenditures to be initially reviewed in February, with clarifications ongoing through March, with finalized expenditures received by the COAC in late April/early May for publication on the dashboard.

Opioid Response Unit Updates

ORU Staff shared updates:

- \$11 million open through the Infrastructure Round 4 Awards
- \$12 million open through the State Share Resilient Colorado Grant
- COAC's supplementation guidance was highlighted in a national article
- Calculation error identified with one of the 11/15/2025 funding requests, Due to a calculation issue within the Colorado Opioid Settlement Tracker (COST) portal, the total amount requested was higher than the Region's available balance. Issue related to a funding transfer from local governments to the Region. This discrepancy came to light during a routine review by our financial services team. No further action is necessary by the COAC and additional reviews have been implemented to prevent future errors.

Dave Frank recommended that the COAC make firmer recommendations to Regions to adjust their bylaws as necessary, noting that some of the Regions were formed before COAC and COAC regularly adjusts its own operations as necessary. ORU staff noted that the COAC recommendations include recommendations related to council management which could be expounded upon, as well as the COAC could look into making additional recommendations based on emerging needs.

Committee members recommended further discussion and bringing in the Assistance Committee to support the work.

ORU staff committed to collecting copies of bylaws from Regions for further analysis and discussion by the COAC.

Public Comment

No public comments were shared.

Adjourn