MINUTES

Date: August 27, 2026
Time: 2:00 PM to 3:30 PM
Location: Hybrid – Goldfinch/Sparrow Conf. Rm., 2260 W Trilby Road, Fort Collins & Zoom
Contacts: *Heather Gilmore* - Council Staff Support, Larimer County Department of Health and Environment

Voting Members Present:	Tom Gonzales, Chair
	Commissioner Jody Shadduck-McNally, Vice Chair (virtual)
	Mayor Gary Hall, Secretary
	Jacob Castillo (virtual)
	Mayor Pro Tem Brian Mason (virtual)
Excused:	Zeke Cortez
Advisory Members Present:	Ty Gentz
Subject Matter Members Present:	Gordon McLaughlin (virtual)
	Lorrie Lopez (virtual)

Full Recording of Meeting: https://www.youtube.com/@R2OAC/streams

Call to Order - The Council Chair called the meeting to order at 2:00 PM.

Announcements

- The Chair welcomed Ty Gentz, Lived Experience Technical Advisory Member, to his first ROAC meeting. Mr. Gentz shared an overview of his background and expressed his enthusiasm for contributing to the Council.

Public Comment - No public comment was made.

Approval of the July Minutes

Action – Mayor Gary Hall moved to approve the July minutes as written. Commissioner Shadduck-McNally seconded the motion. ***Motion was unanimously approved.***

Direction Regarding Available 2026 Funds

- Dr. Jared Olson, Senior Population Epidemiologist, provided an overview of the remaining available funds totaling $628,085 and explained how the funds were returned to the Council.
- The Chair reminded the Council that the ROAC received $3,059,611 in funding this year, while approximately $1.8 million is anticipated to be available next year. He noted that the majority of the funds were front-loaded, resulting in a decline in available funding each year. The Council will need to determine whether the remaining funds available this year should be incorporated into the current spending plan or carried forward to the 2027–2028 spending plan.

Action – Commissioner Shadduck-McNally made a motion to approve rolling over the remaining available funds totaling $628,085 into the 2027–2028 spending plan. Mayor Gary Hall seconded the motion. ***Motion was unanimously approved.***

Grant Administration

EVICS Year 4 (2026-2027) Funding Proposal

- EVICS presented its Year 4 funding proposal, building on its 2025–2026 launch of a community-based, bilingual peer support program serving rural Larimer County. ROAC funding will support free English and Spanish individual and group peer support, needs identification, and connections to treatment, recovery, and community resources, with a goal of serving at least 40 unduplicated residents. The program will measure effectiveness through participation, referrals, engagement, retention, and participant feedback, while addressing barriers such as geographic isolation, language and cultural differences, stigma, limited resources, fragmented care, and cost. Most funding will directly support peer recovery services and sustain a trusted bilingual support pathway for rural residents.
- EVICS is requesting a total of $27,071.45 from approved uses category B.6 – Peer Recovery Centers and Events.

Action – Commissioner Shadduck-McNally made a motion to approve the EVICS year 4 funding proposal of $27,071.45. Mayor Gary Hall seconded the motion. ***Motion was unanimously approved.***

The Family Center/La Familia Year 4 (2026-2027) Funding Proposal

- The Family Center/La Familia presented its Year 4 funding proposal to provide culturally responsive peer navigation, strengthen behavioral health provider collaboration, increase awareness and access to services, and use data to inform continuous improvement. Activities include connecting families and youth to behavioral health, substance use, harm reduction, and prescription drug disposal resources; coordinating referrals; and conducting outreach to reduce stigma and improve access. Program effectiveness will be measured through navigation support, partner engagement, outreach, participant and provider feedback, and surveys, with a goal of at least 70% of participants reporting increased awareness of available resources. Findings will be used to identify barriers and community needs and refine outreach, navigation, and provider coordination strategies.
- The Family Center/La Familia is requesting a total of $139,419.04 from approved uses category G.10 – Prevent Misuse of Opioids.
- The Chair inquired whether the program evaluation was conducted internally or externally. The grantee confirmed that they used an external contract evaluator to assist with data collection and evaluation.
- Commissioner Shadduck-McNally asked about the $7,500 budget line item for marketing materials/events and whether the safe disposal kits were intended for internal or external use. The grantee confirmed that the kits and support packages are used to support external outreach and events. The Commissioner also noted a potential duplication between the $4,500 Youth Participant Incentives line item and the $7,500 Marketing Materials/Events line item, as the descriptions appeared to overlap. The grantee agreed to revise the descriptions to provide greater clarification and remove the $4,500 Youth Participant Incentives line item, as it appeared to be duplicative, while retaining the $7,500 Marketing Materials/Events line item.

Action – Commissioner Shadduck-McNally moved to approve The Family Center/La Familia's Year 4 funding proposal with the removal of a duplicated $4,500 line item, for a total award of $134,919.04. Mayor Gary Hall seconded the motion. ***Motion was unanimously approved.***

Emmy's House Foundation Year 4 (2026-2027) Funding Proposal

- Emmy's House Foundation (EHF) presented its Year 4 funding proposal requesting $114,850 to formally compensate two staff positions for the first time. The Resident Services Director will provide peer support, accountability, and recovery coaching, while the Executive Director/Admissions & Recovery Coordinator will oversee admissions, referrals, scholarships, records, follow-up, grant compliance, and operations. The proposal also includes $21,000 for 15 incoming resident scholarships, $3,200 for emergency hardship scholarships, and $1,320 for weekly drug-screening supplies to support resident accountability and safety.
- Emmy's House Foundation is requesting a total of $140,370.00 from approved uses category B.4 – Support People in Treatment and Recovery (recovery housing for individuals with OUD and co-occurring SUD/MH conditions).
- Commissioner Shadduck-McNally asked the grantee to provide additional information regarding the sustainability of the proposed salaries and the reduction in scholarships. The grantee clarified that the reduction in scholarships is due to their inability to include the second location in the funding request. Regarding salary sustainability, the grantee explained that if the ROAC approves the grant request, including funding for salaries, it will allow staff to dedicate more time to pursuing additional grants and sponsorships from other organizations to support the salaries over the long term.
- The Chair inquired about the letter from the landlord. The grantee clarified that the letter was provided in response to a request discussed at the previous meeting and was included for the record.
- Jacob Castillo asked about the organization's expansion plans, including the triggers for growth and its business model for expansion. The grantee reported that they currently have four men on the waitlist for housing and noted that expansion remains a possibility; however, given the current funding situation and timing of the year, they will need to wait to pursue additional grant opportunities. The grantee shared that they are exploring the Impact Grant and other funding opportunities, and that future growth will depend on the grants and sponsorships they are able to secure over the next year.
- Jacob Castillo also asked about the organization's follow-up process for tracking residents and their progress after leaving the program. The grantee shared that they are

currently developing a formal follow-up system, including a tracking spreadsheet for current and former residents, with plans to conduct outreach at least quarterly. They also plan to bring in a career manager to help residents build job skills and maintain stability. The grantee noted that it can be challenging to reach former residents, as some do not respond to outreach attempts.

- Commissioner Shadduck-McNally reminded the Council that ROAC funds cannot be used for home down payments or capital investments.

Action – Jacob Castilo made a motion to approve the Emmy's House Foundation year 4 funding proposal of $140,370.00. Mayor Gary Hall seconded the motion. ***Motion was unanimously approved.***

CSU Prevention Research Center Year 3 (2025-2026) Final Report

- CSU Prevention Research Center (CSU PRC) presented its Year 3 final report, reaching 1,063 students through evidence-based prevention programs and completing 1,184 professional development courses. The Blues Program reached 200 students across 17 schools, with improvements in anxiety, mood, depression, and coping and 80% participant satisfaction. CSU PRC also implemented additional prevention programs, including Proud & Empowered, which reached 32 LGBTQ+ students and showed promising outcomes, and continued Second Step Bullying Prevention, reaching all 466 students at Estes Park Elementary. Professional development courses received positive feedback, with 92% of users reporting satisfaction and 97% saying they would recommend the courses. CSU PRC also reported $19,279.08 in unspent funds due to their account being closed and requested to discuss the funds with the Council.
- Commissioner Shadduck-McNally asked whether CSU PRC plans to seek additional funding next year. The grantee confirmed that they intend to submit another funding proposal. She recommended that the Council consider adding the unspent funds to CSU PRC's current grant to help address the challenges school districts are currently facing.
- David Ayraud, legal counsel to the ROAC, provided clarification on the appropriate process for the Council to consider and approve the two separate motions.

Action – Commissioner Shadduck-McNally made a motion to approve CSU Prevention Research Center's year 3 final report as presented. Mayor Gary Hall seconded the motion. ***Motion was unanimously approved.***

Action – Commissioner Shadduck-McNally made a motion to approve adding the $19,279.08 in unspent funds back into the CSU Prevention Research Center's year 4 (2026-2027) grant contract. Mayor Gary Hall seconded the motion. ***Motion was unanimously approved.***

2027 Year 5 Funding Priorities Discussion

- Dr. Jared Olson, Senior Population Epidemiologist, shared information on the Year 4 funding priorities to support the Council's discussion of Year 5 priorities. He confirmed that the first ROAC meeting was held in 2022. He proceeded to review the graphs available on the ROAC website, noting that rates of unintentional drug overdose deaths and fentanyl-related deaths have decreased since 2022. He also reviewed data on Emergency Department visits and MAT requests, which similarly showed declining rates. The goals approved by the Council in January 2025 focused on harm reduction and overdose prevention, expanding access to OUD/SUD treatment and recovery, sustaining recovery supports, and preventing substance use across the lifespan. Established guiding principles include equity, evidence-based practices, person-centered care, sustainability, prevention, comprehensive solutions, community involvement, and transparency and accountability.
- Commissioner Shadduck-McNally asked about the recent uptick in fentanyl-related deaths and whether changes in tracking could be contributing to the trend. Dr. Jared Olson explained that year-to-year variation makes it difficult to determine whether this represents an emerging upward trend, noting that additional years of data are needed; however, the overall long-term trend remains significant, with no changes to the tracking methodology. He also noted changes in the local emergency services environment, including Banner's reduced presence in Fort Collins, and emphasized that the environment in 2026 is significantly different from that of 2021.
- Dr. Jared Olson asked whether the Council had any takeaways or action items for Staff to address at the next meeting. Commissioner Shadduck-McNally suggested conducting a gap and landscape analysis to identify opportunities, avoid duplication, and highlight best practices, along with sharing current research and recommended readings. Jacob Castillo also suggested identifying emerging trends or issues that may not yet be reflected in long-term data so the Council can proactively address them.

Chair Comments

- The Chair shared that the December 3 meeting will have a full agenda, including seven six-month report presentations. To accommodate the additional presentations, the meeting will need to be extended by 30 minutes, ending at 4:00 PM.

- ***Action* –** Mayor Gary Hall made a motion to approve the extension of the December 3 meeting by 30 minutes, ending at 4:00 PM. Commissioner Shadduck-McNally seconded the motion. ***Motion was unanimously approved.***

Lived Experience Technical Advisory Member Update

- Commissioner Jody Shadduck McNally shared that there have been 2-3 additional candidates for the Technical Advisory Lived Experience Member role. She suggested moving forward with interviewing the candidates and bringing recommendations back to the Council for consideration. There was no opposition from the Council on this course of action.

Adjourn Meeting

- Commissioner Shadduck-McNally moved to adjourn the meeting. The meeting adjourned at 3:33 PM.