



LARIMER REGIONAL OPIOID ABATEMENT COUNCIL

1525 Blue Spruce Dr, Fort Collins, CO 80524 970.619.4642 larimer.gov/bocc/regional-opioid-abatement-council

MINUTES

Date: March 26, 2026
Time: 2:00 PM to 3:30 PM
Location: Hybrid – Goldfinch/Sparrow Conf. Rm., 2260 W Trilby Road, Fort Collins & Zoom
Contacts: *Rupa Venkatesh* - Council Secretary & Point of Public Contact, City of Fort Collins
Heather Gilmore - Council Staff Support, Larimer County Department of Health and Environment

Voting Members Present: Tom Gonzales, Chair
Commissioner Jody Shaddock-McNally, Vice Chair
Rupa Venkatesh, Secretary
Mayor Gary Hall
Mayor Pro Tem Brian Mason (Virtual)
Zeke Cortez (Virtual)

Advisory Members Present: Vanessa Fewell
Jessica Plummer

Subject Matter Members
Present: Gordon McLaughlin

Full Recording of Meeting: <https://www.youtube.com/live/2z1Xp6adS7U>

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

Public Comment - No public comment was made.

Approval of the February Minutes

Action – Mayor Gary Hall moved to approve the February minutes as written. Mayor Pro Tem Brian Mason seconded the motion. ***Motion was unanimously approved.***

Announcements and Reminders:

- The Chair announced the resignation of Marshall Weaver, Advisory Member with Lived Experience, and congratulated him on celebrating five years of sobriety.
- The application for Advisory Members with Lived Experience is now live on the website and has been distributed to the Council. The deadline to apply is April 30.
- The COAG has directed the Council to ensure that no funding is supplanted. A document addressing this requirement will be included in all future grantee contracts.

Grant Administration

Follow-up on February Year 4 Proposals

- The Chair informed the Council that grantees who submitted Year 4 proposals in February have worked with Janelle Koldos to revise their applications and budgets as needed to align with Council requirements. These updated documents are included in the meeting packet for review.

Year 4 (2026-2027) Funding Proposal Approvals

- Chair explained the tools – spreadsheet and the notes resource
- Commissioner mentioned that there's a new perinatal opioid abatement program through the Larimer County Department of Health and Environment that might be a good fit with the Council's priorities.

Lighthouse Year 4 Funding Proposal

- Lighthouse presented its Year 4 funding proposal, emphasizing that ROAC funding will support the continued operation of its recovery housing program. This includes admissions coordination, case management, recovery programming, live-in support for the Women's Recovery Home, and scholarships to reduce financial barriers. These investments will help expand access to recovery housing and strengthen support for individuals recovering from opioid addiction. They noted that, if additional funds remain in this year's budget, they would like to apply for capital funding to support the purchase of a new women's recovery house.
- Lighthouse is requesting a total of \$146,325 from approved uses category B.4 – Support People in Treatment and Recovery.

- In response to a question about participation in the Butler Institute evaluation process, Lighthouse confirmed its willingness to engage in the three remaining evaluation touchpoints.

Partners Year 4 Funding Proposal

- Partners presented its Year 4 funding proposal, outlining goals to serve 700 youth and 20 schools in Larimer County through mentoring and prevention programs. The organization plans to provide at least 18 pro-social activities and eight prevention education classes annually. Performance measures focus on achieving or maintaining at least a 60% improvement in youth perceptions of risk and attitudes toward substance use, along with strengthened decision-making skills and connections to supportive adults.
- Partners is requesting a total of \$148,688.38 from approved uses category G.11 – Prevent Misuse of Opioids.
- The Council asked several questions regarding program implementation, including distribution across county school districts and the process for youth referrals.

Fort Collins Rescue Mission/Harvest Farm Year 4 Funding Proposal

- The Fort Collins Rescue Mission/Harvest Farm presented its Year 4 funding proposal, emphasizing continued coordination to transition at least 40 guests into the Harvest Farm recovery program through tours, onsite assessments, and staff-supported transitions. They will also maintain 24/7 shelter operations for men experiencing homelessness, supported by consistent staffing and funding. Programming goals include providing hundreds of small group engagement opportunities to support recovery and stability. They shared that, if surplus funds are available this year, additional support could help offset a funding gap they had anticipated covering through donations.
- The Fort Collins Rescue Mission/Harvest Farm is requesting a total of \$232,768 from approved uses category B.2 – Support People in Treatment and Recovery.
- The Council inquired about the geographic origin of the unhoused men being served, specifically whether they are from Larimer County or other areas.

Rise Above Year 4 Funding Proposal

- Rise Above presented its Year 4 funding proposal, highlighting plans to update and launch a Larimer County–specific Connect Effect messaging campaign for youth ages

10–18. The campaign will incorporate local survey data and run from fall 2026 through spring 2027. Rise Above will also continue partnering with local school districts to support prevention programming, including refreshed training on its Not Prescribed curriculum.

- Rise Above is requesting a total of \$34,842 from approved uses category G.9 – Prevent Misuse of Opioids.
- The Council inquired about additional outreach methods and channels being used to engage youth through their campaigns.

Willow Collective Year 4 Funding Proposal – New Applicant Request

- The Willow Collective presented its Year 4 new request funding proposal, focused on expanding treatment capacity, strengthening its Qualified Behavioral Health Assistant (QBHA) program, and reducing barriers to care. Proposed investments include enhancing clinical services through training and evaluation, increasing family support through mentorship and navigation services, and improving access with options like childcare, telehealth, transportation assistance, and flexible scheduling.
- The Willow Collective is requesting a total of \$59,064.50 from approved uses category E.6 – Address the Needs of Pregnant or Parenting Women and their Families.
- The Council asked how many women served are affected by opioid misuse and noted that, if funded, supporting data would be required.

One Chance to Grow Up Year 4 Funding Proposal – New Applicant Request

- One Chance to Grow Up presented its Year 4 new request funding proposal, centered on delivering comprehensive, community-wide prevention education. Planned activities include in-person workshops, expert-led webinars, bilingual educational materials, and targeted outreach to schools and youth-serving organizations. The initiative also includes a coordinated media campaign featuring billboards and geofenced digital outreach to increase awareness and engagement.
- One Chance to Grow Up is requesting a total of \$183,945.95 from approved uses category G.8 – Prevent Misuse of Opioids.
- The Council requested clarification on how funds would be allocated to achieve the proposed deliverables.

Action – Mayor Gary Hall made a motion to approve all grantees who presented during the meeting, applying a 5.98% reduction to prior-year contract amounts. The exception was One Chance to Grow Up, for which the discussion was tabled, with a request to return for further consideration at the April meeting.

- Lighthouse - \$146,325.00
- Partners - \$148,688.38
- Fort Collins Rescue Mission/Harvest Farm - \$232,768.00
- Rise Above - \$34,842.00
- Willow Collective - \$59,064.50

Commissioner Shadduck-McNally seconded the motion. Motion was unanimously approved. ***Motion was unanimously approved.***

Update on Larimer County Sheriff's Office's Contract Review

- Rupa Venkatesh provided an update on the attorney's review of the Sheriff's Office contract, emphasizing the ROAC's commitment to responsibly stewarding settlement funds and meeting state audit requirements. She noted that questions raised in December stemmed from changes in procedures involving SummitStone in October 2025. The Sheriff's Office clarified that while SummitStone staff were no longer riding along in vehicles, they continue to be dispatched to scenes. A formal letter has been requested from the Sheriff's Office to confirm these details, which will be shared with the ROAC for review. The Council will then determine whether the information satisfies the intent of the agreement.

Additional Comments

- Vanessa Fewell announced her resignation from the ROAC, noting that this would be her final meeting as she transitions to her new role as Deputy Assessor for Larimer County, effective April 10.
- Rupa Venkatesh shared that she will be unable to attend the April meeting due to vacation; her alternate, Chad Wright, will attend in her place.
- Brian Mason noted that the Town of Wellington elections are approaching and, depending on the outcome, he may or may not be able to attend the April meeting.

Adjourn Meeting

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