



LARIMER REGIONAL OPIOID ABATEMENT COUNCIL

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MINUTES

Date: May 28, 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: Jessica Plummer (virtual)

Subject Matter Members

Present: Gordon McLaughlin (virtual)
Lorrie Lopez (virtual)

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 April Minutes

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

Grant Administration

Harvest Farm Notice of Program Closure

- The Chair informed the Council that a notification had been received regarding the closure of the New Life Program (recovery program) operated by the Denver Rescue Mission/Fort Collins Rescue Mission at the Harvest Farm facility in Wellington. The program is scheduled to close at the end of June 2026 as the organization prepares to open a new \$27 million state-of-the-art facility in Fort Collins later this year. The Chair also shared a response letter that had been drafted earlier in the week and reviewed by the ROAC attorney, David Ayraud. The letter outlines the applicable grant provisions and details the required steps for the closeout and repayment process. Under these provisions, Denver Rescue Mission/Fort Collins Rescue Mission will be required to repay a total of \$516,384 to the ROAC, including \$400,000 in capital investment funding and \$116,384 from the initial 2026 grant distribution.
- Concerns were raised that the letter should include a request for reimbursement of administrative costs associated with staff time spent preparing and reviewing the response to the program closure notice sent by the Denver Rescue Mission/Fort Collins Rescue Mission. David Ayraud, the ROAC attorney, clarified that while the letter may be amended to include this request, the current grant agreement does not provide for reimbursement of administrative expenses and does not include a mechanism to recover these costs. It was further suggested that future grant agreements could consider incorporating provisions for reimbursement of administrative fees. Also, it was requested that the final revised letter be shared with the Council for review.

Action – Commissioner Shadduck-McNally moved to approve the Council’s response letter as written, with amendments to include a request for reimbursement of administrative costs, as well as an update to the \$400,000 total to reflect a prorated amount through June 20, 2026, the facility’s anticipated closure date. Mayor Pro Tem Mason seconded the motion. ***The motion passed with five votes in favor and one opposing vote cast by Councilperson Rupa Venkatesh.***

Abundance Foundation Year 4 (2026-2027) Funding Proposal (Cont.)

- Abundance Foundation returned to continue discussion of its Year 4 funding proposal and respond to questions from the Council. They shared that 77% of all program participants are Larimer County residents. They also noted that 46 of the 54 women currently housed in 2025 are Larimer County residents. Additionally, 64% of Larimer

County residents in housing identified opioid use disorder (OUD) among their top two substances of choice. Of those participants, 51% are currently sober, employed, and living self-sufficiently. Representatives further shared that 88% are sober and employed but have not yet transitioned into permanent self-sufficient housing. They also emphasized that 100% of ROAC funding directly supports Larimer County residents participating in the program, with additional program support provided through other funding sources

- Abundance Foundation is requesting a total of \$211,550 from approved uses category B.2 – Support People in Treatment and Recovery.

Action – Mayor Gary Hall made a motion to approve the Year 4 funding proposal of \$211,550 for the Abundance Foundation. Rupa Venkatesh seconded the motion. **Motion was unanimously approved.**

Larimer County Sheriff’s Office Year 4 (2026-2027) Funding Proposal

- The Larimer County Sheriff’s Office presented its Year 4 funding proposal, requesting support for embedded licensed clinicians within the Co-Responder Unit to address opioid, substance use, and behavioral health crises. The proposal focuses on expanding clinician capacity to provide field-based substance use disorder (SUD/OUD) assessments, overdose risk intervention and education, crisis stabilization, and connections to treatment and recovery services. They explained that clinicians will provide immediate support during active behavioral health and substance use crises, including in-field assessment, stabilization, and intervention. The program also aims to reduce unnecessary jail bookings and emergency room utilization by diverting individuals to appropriate behavioral health and recovery resources when safe and appropriate.
- Larimer County Sheriff’s Office is requesting a total of \$261,333.28 from approved uses category D1.6 – Address the Needs of Criminal Justice-Involved Persons.
- Concerns were raised that their data only identified 1.5% of total clients served as having a history of opioid use. It was also noted that the proposal refers to the clinicians as employees and should instead identify them as consultants.

Action – Commissioner Shadduck-McNally made a motion to approve the Year 4 funding proposal of \$261,333.28 for the Larimer County Sheriff’s Office, with an amendment to clarify that the clinicians referenced in the proposal are consultants rather

than employees. Mayor Gary Hall seconded the motion. ***Motion was unanimously approved.***

EVICS Year 3 (2025-2026) 6-Month Report

- EVICS presented its Year 3 six-month report, providing an update on the progress of its Peer Support Program. During the startup phase, the organization recruited three peer support specialists, developed English- and Spanish-language peer support groups, established community referral partnerships, and created attendance and referral tracking systems. They reported that outreach, referrals, and participant enrollment are underway and that the program remains on track to serve 30 individuals, although the program launch timeline was adjusted to May 2026 to allow additional time for development and planning. They also shared that lower expenditures were expected during the startup phase but anticipates utilizing the full \$28,792 grant award during implementation. Additionally, they announced plans to reapply for Year 4 funding in the amount of \$27,071.45 under Approved Use Category B.2 – Support People in Treatment and Recovery.

Action – Commissioner Shadduck-McNally made a motion to approve the EVICS Year 3 six-month report as presented. Zeke Cortez seconded the motion. ***Motion was unanimously approved.***

La Familia Year 3 (2025-2026) 6-Month Report

- La Familia presented its Year 3 six-month report, highlighting progress toward program objectives focused on supporting individuals who use drugs and hold marginalized identities. They reported that 16 participants completed a 40-hour Intentional Peer Support training facilitated by The Yarrow Collective, exceeding the goal of training at least 10 peer support specialists with lived experience to provide social connection, resource navigation, and guidance to families affected by substance use in Larimer County. They also shared that peer-led social connection activities engaged 20 participants and included the completion of the first Spanish-language guided tour of the Longview Facility for 25 participants, as well as a facilitated focus group at Longview. Additionally, the organization announced plans to reapply for Year 4 funding in the amount of \$140,266.71 under Approved Use Categories G.0 – Prevent Misuse of

Opioids (\$64,909.59) and B.6 – Support People in Treatment and Recovery (\$75,357.12).

Action – Mayor Gary Hall made a motion to approve the La Familia Year 3 six-month report as presented. Commissioner Shadduck-McNally seconded the motion. **Motion was unanimously approved.**

Northern Colorado Health Network (NCHN) Year 3 (2025-2026) Final Report + Extension Request

- NCHN presented its Year 3 final report, highlighting several successful program outcomes related to overdose prevention, harm reduction, and community outreach. Through the Access Point program, staff distributed life-saving naloxone and overdose reversal supplies that directly contributed to saving 236 lives within the community. Representatives also reported the distribution of 4,400 doses of Narcan, 5,147 fentanyl testing strips, and 2,693 xylazine testing strips, along with hundreds of related trainings, while serving 1,331 unique participants and documenting 6,779 participant visits under the ROAC grant. In addition, the Connect program expanded service delivery hours, hired trauma-informed and harm-reduction-oriented mental health professionals, connected with 350 unique individuals, and provided 41 referrals to services, while Access Point staff completed 394 referrals to community partners. NCHN also formally requested a six-month extension of the existing grant contract due to \$96,337 in unused grant funds, proposing a revised contract end date of September 30, 2026.
- The grantees requested clarification regarding the timeline for utilizing the extension funds. The Council clarified that all extension funds must be expended within the current grant cycle, which concludes in March 2027.
- The Council requested that the grantees provide data specific to opioid-related cases. The grantees confirmed that they are able to generate a report to address this request.

Action – Commissioner Shadduck-McNally made a motion to approve the NCHN Year 3 final report as presented and their extension request specifying that the funds must be used before the end of the grant cycle. Mayor Gary Hall seconded the motion. **Motion was unanimously approved.**

North Colorado Health Alliance (NCHA) Year 3 (2025-2026) Final Report

- NCHA presented its Year 3 final report, highlighting program outcomes focused on care coordination, peer support, overdose prevention, and community education. During the reporting period, 486 care plans were developed for 413 unique individuals to support navigation of treatment and recovery resources, along with 822 care coordination meetings and peer support check-ins. In 2025, the program distributed 11,057 naloxone kits (22,114 doses) and 13,639 testing strips across Larimer County to support overdose prevention efforts. Additionally, 30 individuals completed the 48-hour peer recovery coach training, strengthening the local peer support workforce. The organization also hosted the Rethinking Addiction & Recovery community education event, which included more than 30 sessions, over 50 speakers and panelists, and more than 600 registered attendees, along with a waitlist.

Action – Commissioner Shadduck-McNally made a motion to approve the NCHA Year 3 final report as presented. Mayor Gary Hall seconded the motion. **Motion was unanimously approved.**

Action – Commissioner Shadduck-McNally made a motion to extend the meeting additional 10 minutes to allow time for Butler Institute to present their final report. Rupa Venkatesh seconded the motion. **Motion was unanimously approved.**

Butler Institute Year 3 (2025-2026) Final Report

- Butler Institute presented its Year 3 final report, highlighting findings from the Pathway to Change Survey designed to support efficient alignment of ROAC's vision and long-term outcomes. The survey, developed with the advisory workgroup and distributed to ROAC voting members, advisory members, and subject matter experts, received a 54% response rate and showed 100% agreement that the ROAC vision aligns with the COAC vision, as well as unanimous support for maintaining the goals approved in January 2025. Respondents identified key system challenges, including limited or unstable funding, workforce shortages and retention issues, and fragmented support systems, as well as community needs such as increased collaboration, a continued focus on opioid abatement, and efforts to address distrust in systems. Strengths to build upon highlighted consistent ROAC member participation, efficient fund distribution, and strong partnerships across organizations. Next steps include a grantee survey to further

evaluate the Pathway to Change process, a grantee meeting scheduled for late July, and continued input from the advisory workgroup.

Action – Commissioner Shadduck-McNally made a motion to approve the Butler Institute’s Year 3 final report as presented. Mayor Gary Hall seconded the motion.

Motion was unanimously approved.

Adjourn Meeting

- Commissioner Shadduck-McNally moved to adjourn the meeting. The meeting adjourned at 3:40 PM.