REGION 2 OPIOID ABATEMENT COUNCIL
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LARIMER REGIONAL OPIOID ABATEMENT COUNCIL

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MINUTES

Date: September 24, 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
	Zeke Cortez (virtual)
Excused:	Mayor Pro Tem Brian Mason
Advisory Members Present:	Ty Gentz
	Lorrie Lopez (virtual)
	Jessica Plummer (virtual)
Subject Matter Members Present:	Dr. Lesley Brooks

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.

Public Comment - No public comment was made.

Approval of the August Minutes

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

Grant Administration

Larimer County Sheriff's Office Contract Update for Year 4 (2026-2027)

The Larimer County Sheriff's Office (LCSO) provided an update on its Co-Responder Program, which has experienced delays in finalizing its ROAC contract. The original July 1, 2026 start date was postponed to September 1 and later October 1 due to ongoing contract negotiations with UCHealth and injuries affecting the three assigned deputies. LCSO has submitted its final contract comments to UCHealth and is awaiting approval, while candidate interviews are underway with seven applicants as of mid-September. Due to the time needed to complete candidate selection and background checks, LCSO indicated that a November 1 start date would be more realistic. John Voss, ROAC Fiscal Agent, clarified that the agreement dates can be finalized once LCSO confirms its start date and that the Council could adjust the contract term, if needed, to accommodate the delay.

> ***Action –*** Commissioner Shadduck-McNally made a motion to approve the Larimer County Sheriff's Office contract start date of November 1, 2026 ending on November 30, 2027. Mayor Gary Hall seconded the motion. ***Motion was unanimously approved.***

2027 Year 5 Funding Priorities Discussion

The Chair reminded the Council that the ROAC will receive approximately $1.8 million from the COAC for the Year 5 grant funding cycle, in addition to $632,585 in carryover funds from Year 4, for a total of $2,513,488 available for Year 5. The Chair also noted that funding is expected to decrease considerably in future years.

As requested, Dr. Jared Olson, Senior Population Epidemiologist, shared resources to support the Council's continued discussion of Year 5 priorities and reviewed the ROAC goals approved on January 23, 2025: reducing overdose deaths through harm reduction and prevention, expanding access to SUD/OUD treatment and recovery, sustaining recovery supports, and preventing substance use across the lifespan. He also presented staff recommendations based on a brief landscape assessment of OUD in Larimer County, highlighting MOUD/MAT, harm reduction, high-risk transitions, complex cases involving substance misuse, multigenerational

risk factors, and targeted prevention for at-risk youth. Dr. Olson then reviewed funding Options A and B, comparing Year 4 actual funding with staff recommendations for Year 5.
The Council discussed barriers to Medication Assisted Treatment (MAT), with Dr. Lesley Brooks providing additional perspective on its role in supporting individuals with opioid use disorder (OUD). Pharmacy access, transportation, and stigma were identified as potential barriers, noting that some pharmacies may be less welcoming to individuals filling MAT prescriptions. Dr. Brooks noted that while no formal list of supportive pharmacies exists, a future care compact could identify pharmacies willing to serve as safe and supportive locations for MAT prescriptions. Dr. Olson added that stigma from pharmacies, families, programs, housing providers, and religious organizations can also create pressure for individuals to reduce MAT prematurely. The Council agreed that the previously identified ROAC goals continue to resonate and discussed emerging concerns related to Medicaid changes, reductions in harm reduction funding, and kratom.

The Council discussed whether funding priorities should be adjusted as community needs and available resources change. ROAC Legal counsel, David Ayraud, confirmed that opioid settlement funding is expected to continue for at least 18 years beginning in 2022, although projected amounts may change as additional settlements are finalized. The Chair noted that all grantees received a 6% reduction from the previous year, while Zeke Cortez raised questions about whether decreasing funding is reaching the community as effectively as possible and whether funding categories could be consolidated. The Chair clarified that COAC requires grantees working across multiple categories to report their work within each applicable category, preventing them from being placed into a single category. Dr. Olson also suggested grouping similar grantees together during future proposal reviews to make comparisons easier given differing funding timelines.

John Voss, ROAC fiscal agent, clarified that administrative costs reimburse Larimer County for staff time supporting the Council, including legal, finance, population epidemiology, and administrative support. These costs are reviewed twice annually and typically total $60,000–$70,000 per year. The Council must finalize its funding priorities in October for submission to the COAC in November, and Dr. Olson asked the Council to identify any additional information they would like staff to prepare for the next meeting. The Council was also informed of the upcoming Colorado Opioid Abatement Conference on September 30 and Rethinking Addiction & Recovery Conference on October 30, with registration information to be shared with the Council.

Adjourn Meeting

Commissioner Shadduck-McNally moved to adjourn the meeting. The meeting adjourned at 3:31 PM.