



LARIMER REGIONAL OPIOID ABATEMENT COUNCIL

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MINUTES

Date: February 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
Trustee Cindy Younglund (Virtual)
Mayor Pro Tem Brian Mason (Virtual)
Amy Phillips (alternate for Zeke Cortez) (Virtual)

Advisory Members Present: Vanessa Fewell
Jessica Plummer
Marshall Weaver

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 January Minutes

Action - Commissioner Jody Shaddock-McNally moved to approve the January minutes as written. Rupa Venkatesh seconded the motion. **Motion was unanimously approved.**

Grant Administration

Approval of the CSU Prevention Research Center 6-Month Report (Year 3: 2025-2026)

- The CSU Prevention Research Center presented their six-month report, highlighting their progress and goals, including sustaining and growing the Blues program, the implementation of the Healthy Futures Program, the Guiding Good Choices Program, and developing new professional development for prevention practitioners.

Action – Commissioner Shadduck-McNally motioned to accept the CSU Prevention Research Center’s 6-month report and the release of the next portion of their funds. Rupa Venkatesh seconded the motion. **Motion was unanimously approved.**

- The Chair reminded the Council of the CSU Prevention Research Center’s January request to extend the \$14,000 allocation for the Blues Program with Poudre School District, clarifying that the extension will run through December 2026. The Council raised no concerns with this timeline.

Year 4 (2026-2027) Funding Proposal Approvals

Approval of the Butler Institute Year 4 Funding Proposal

- The Butler Institute presented its Year 4 funding proposal, focused on developing an evaluation plan to support intentional, community-informed decision-making. Key next steps include collaborating with individual grantees to assess existing evaluation efforts and data in order to minimize administrative burden. Planned deliverables include a Pathway to Change, Ripple Effects Mapping, and a final evaluation plan, with progress reviewed quarterly by ROAC.
- The Butler Institute is requesting a total of \$74,983.51 from approved uses category J.4 – Leadership, Planning & Coordination.
- **Action** – Trustee Cindy Younglund moved to table a decision regarding the Butler Institute until the Council receives feedback from the other presenting grantees on their willingness to participate in the Butler Institute evaluation process. Commissioner Shadduck-McNally seconded the motion. **Motion was unanimously approved.**

Approval of the Northern Colorado Health Network Year 4 Funding Proposal

- The Northern Colorado Health Network presented its Year 4 funding proposal, highlighting both the successes and challenges of its harm reduction services, including expanded treatment offerings through its partnership with FMC and the impact of federal constraints. Key outcomes included 177 lives saved in 2025.
- The Northern Colorado Health Network is requesting a total of \$415,989.17 from approved uses category H.9 – Harm Reduction (\$258,700.40), C.15 – Connections to Care (\$78,198.86), and K.2 – Training (\$79,089.91).
- The Council and the grantee discussed the proposed budget allocation, with the Council expressing concerns about the division of funds into the various approved uses categories, specifically the harm reduction category.
- In response to a question about participation in the Butler Institute evaluation process, the Northern Colorado Health Network confirmed its willingness to engage in the three remaining evaluation touchpoints.

Approval of the Yarrow Collective Year 4 Funding Proposal

- The Yarrow Collective presented its Year 4 funding proposal, highlighting its impact on marginalized communities and success in serving 7,500 participants. The proposal focuses on sustaining peer support, expanding pro-social programming, supporting individuals in treatment and recovery, and increasing awareness of peer support services.
- The Yarrow Collective is requesting a total of \$360,926.81 from approved uses category B.6 – Treatment & Recovery (\$256,269.91), D.4 – Address Needs of Criminal Justice (\$47,614.60), H.1 – Prevent Overdose Deaths & Other Harms (\$46,560.05) and K.1 – Training (\$10,482.25).
- The Council and the grantee discussed the proposed budget allocation, with the Council expressing concerns about the large budget gap in their request and the division of funds into the various approved uses categories. Yarrow Collective indicated a willingness to reduce requests for professional development and housing stipends to align with the target amount.
- In response to a question about participation in the Butler Institute evaluation process, the Yarrow Collective confirmed its willingness to engage in the three remaining evaluation touchpoints.

Approval of the North Colorado Health Alliance Year 4 Funding Proposal

The Chair recused himself and left the meeting room in order to avoid any potential conflicts of interest as he is associated with the North Colorado Health Alliance.

- The North Colorado Health Alliance presented its Year 4 funding proposal, highlighting the success of its care coordination program and its positive impact on quality of life and substance use outcomes. The proposal also emphasizes goals related to stigma reduction, peer recovery support, and community and provider education, including the continued success of the Changing Minds Campaign.
- The North Colorado Health Alliance is requesting a total of \$450,000.00 from approved uses category B.1 – Support People in Treatment & Recovery (\$256,778.50), C.10 – Connections to Care (\$82,412.00), G.2 – Prevent Misuse of Opioids (\$10,000.00) and K.1 – Training (\$1000,809.50).
- The Council and the grantee discussed the proposed budget allocation, with the Council expressing concerns about the large budget gap in their request and the division of funds into the various approved uses categories. The North Colorado Health Alliance agreed to reduce its request to meet the target amount.
- In response to a question about participation in the Butler Institute evaluation process, the North Colorado Health Alliance confirmed its willingness to engage in the three remaining evaluation touchpoints.

The Chair returned to the meeting.

Approval of The RedPoint Center Year 4 Funding Proposal

- The RedPoint Center presented its Year 4 funding proposal, outlining its continued efforts to strengthen recovery services in Larimer County. The proposal expands access to substance use and mental health treatment—including PHP, IOP, and outpatient care—with a focus on serving uninsured and underinsured individuals, particularly those with opioid use disorder. Funding is expected to support approximately 38 high-acuity clients at an average cost of \$4,000 per client, alongside a range of insurance and payment options.
- The RedPoint Center is requesting a total of \$150,000.00 from approved uses category B.2 – Support People in Treatment & Recovery.

- The Council and the grantee discussed the proposed budget allocation, with the Council expressing concerns about the slight budget gap in their request. The RedPoint Center confirmed it could adjust its budget to meet the target amount.
- In response to a question about participation in the Butler Institute evaluation process, The RedPoint Center confirmed its willingness to engage in the three remaining evaluation touchpoints.

Action – Commissioner Jody Shadduck-McNally motioned to extend the meeting by 15 minutes to 3:45 PM. Rupa Venkatesh seconded the motion. **Motion was unanimously approved.**

Action – Mayor Pro Tem Mason approve all grantees that we met with today at the same reduction as the overall budget for 2026 compared to 2025, applying the percentage drop to the contracts from the prior year.

- o Butler Institute approved amount - \$70,503.00
- o Northern Colorado Health Network - \$416,399.00
- o Yarrow Collective - \$294,025.00
- o North Colorado Health Alliance - \$423,109.00
- o The RedPoint Center - \$141,036.00

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

- The Council directed all grantees to revise their budget spreadsheets to address funding gaps and update approved use allocations, with revisions to be presented at the March meeting.

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

- Rupa Venkatesh provided a brief update on the attorney's review of the Sheriff's Office contract, noting that the process has not yet fully begun. The Sheriff's Office has requested legal representation during the review, and Ms. Venkatesh anticipates sharing a more substantive update in March.

Lived Experience Recruitment Process

- Commissioner Shadduck-McNally introduced an updated Lived Experience Application, largely consistent with the previous version, and confirmed a two-year term limit for members. Current members will need to reapply, and prior interview questions have been retained and may be reused. The application will be further refined and shared in March, with interviews anticipated in April or May. Feedback was also shared emphasizing the value of recruiting individuals newer to recovery to provide current perspectives.

Action – Trustee Cindy Younglund motioned to accept the application and to move forward with the recruitment process. Mayor Pro Tem Mason seconded the motion.

Motion was unanimously approved.

Additional Comments

- Trustee Cindy Younglund announced that this would be her final meeting, expressing her appreciation for serving on the Council and her hope to remain connected moving forward.

Adjourn Meeting

- Trustee Cindy Younglund moved to adjourn the meeting. The meeting adjourned at 3:47 PM.