

MINUTES

Region 16 Opioid Abatement Council Meeting

March 26, 2025

2:00 – 5:00pm

4th Judicial District Attorney's Office

105 E. Vermijo Ave, Colorado Springs, CO 80903

4th Floor Main Conference Room

First Name	Last Name	Title	Present(Y/N)
Voting Members			
Lynette	Crow-Iverson	COS City Council	Y
Erik	Stone	Teller County Commissioner	Y (Proxy Michelle Wolff)
Lt. Jake	Markus	Proxy for Teller County Undersheriff	Y
Holly	Williams	EPC Commissioner	Y
Carrie	Geitner	EPC Commissioner	Y
Michael	Allen	Fourth Judicial District Attorney	Y
Mark	Chacon	COS Police Department	Y
Randy	Royal	COS Fire Chief	Y (Proxy Steve Johnson)
David	Leinweber	COS City Council	Y
Lee	Walker	Victor Fire Department	N
Dr. Emily	Russell-Kinsley	EPC Coroner	Y
Joseph	Roybal	EPC Sheriff	Y (Proxy Sheriff Deborah Harris)

Denise	Howell	Manitou Springs City Manager	Y
Patrick	Regan	Monument Police Chief	Y (Proxy Tim Johnson)
Mark	Cristiani	Fountain Police Department	N
Non-Voting Members: Municipalities who will cycle onto the voting membership in future years			
Frank	Salvato	Cripple Creek City Manager	N
Chris	Deisler	Woodland Park Police Chief	Y
Troy	Johnson	Fountain City Attorney	N
Current Non-Voting Members			
DeAnn	Ryberg	EPC Public Health Deputy Director	Y
Kim	Mauthe	Teller County Director of Human Services	Y
Michelle	Wolff	Teller County Public Health Director	Y
Bridgette	Fuson	Department of Human Services (Monument Representative)	Y
Non-Voting Members Appointed by Council as SMEs			
Jack	Briggs	Springs Rescue Mission	N
Dr. Eric	Stein Bronsky	Physician, Medical Director CSFD AMR EPC/Teller 911 Authority	Y
David	Albrecht	Cardiologist, lived experience	N
Jason	Jorgenson	COS School District 11	N
Matt	Riviere	Advocate, lived experience	Y
Laura	Ridenour	EPC Behavioral Health Manager	N
Staff Support, Members of the Public, and Subject Matter Expertise			
Amanda	Grant	EPC Deputy Director – Financial Services	Y

Kenny	Hodges	EPC County Attorney	Y
Sunny	Bryant	Deputy County Administrator	Y

Others Present:

Kate Singh, Colorado's 4th Judicial District Attorney's Office

Lieutenant Brad Pratt, Colorado Springs Police Department

Amanda Smith, COS Fire Chief

Angela Rose, Executive Director, Casa

Henny Lasley, Co-Founder One Chance to Grow Up

Allison Dodge, Community Liaison One Chance to Grow Up

Beth Hill Roalstad, CEO Homeward Pikes Peak

Declan Thompson, Senior Staff, FullCircle Denver

Tommy Naporano full circle

Sheri Trahern, Serenity Recovery Connection

Becca Barnhart, CTC Foundation

Leah Murphy

Dr. Rob Archuleta, Chief Officer of Operation and Innovation, Crossroads' Turning Point, Inc.

Alice Karmer, Director of Outpatient Withdrawal and Management, Crossroads' Turning Point, Inc.

Taylor Hobby, CPA, Chief Administration Officer, Crossroads' Turning Point, Inc.

Stanley Connley, Open Heart Open Door

Dayna DeHerrera-Smith, Rocky Mountain Clinics LLC, dba Porch Light Health

Carmen Pack, Rocky Mountain Clinics LLC, dba Porch Light Health

Nathaniel R. Riggs, PHD, CSU Professor, Human Development and Family Studies

Kent MacLennan, Executive Director Rise Above Colorado

Myia Morales, El Paso County Sheriff's Office

Quorum Met? Yes (13/15)

2:00-2:05pm | Welcome

- a. Roll call and introductions.
 - i. Conducted as shown above.

2:05-2:10pm | Consent Calendar Discussion

- a. Council action: Motion to approve February minutes.
 - i. Vote: Unanimously approved.

2:10 – 3:10pm | MAT/MOUD Applicants Q&A Session

- a. **Summary:** James Corbett, Facilitator, indicated that the council would be reviewing and voting on applicants who applied under the MAT/MOUD category. Each applicant gave a brief presentation, followed by a Q&A session. The scorecard was reviewed beforehand as a reminder for evaluation criteria. Rocky Mountain Clinics LLC, dba Porch Light Health requested \$100,034 to continue outpatient withdrawal management and enhanced treatment services, expand regional outreach and referrals by 40–50%, increase access to MAT and behavioral health care through mobile and telehealth services, and build on established, evidence-based success serving rural and underserved populations.

Rocky Mountain Clinics LLC, dba Porch Light Health

- a. **Summary:** Porch Light Health is requesting funding for continued outreach for withdrawal management services and enhanced treatment services. They currently have 7 locations throughout the state. The outpatient withdrawal program is a space that is intended for individuals who do not need the Emergency Department. Patients receive a take home kit that includes medication and instructions. A medical assistant places an evening call to patients to field any questions or concerns. Porch Light Health places emphasis on low barrier/high access approach. They accept insurance and provide services for undocumented patients as well.
- b. **Discussion:**
 - i. COS Council member Lynette Crow-Iverson asked what else is in the outpatient kit other than the pulse-ox. Dayna DeHerrera-Smith, Rocky Mountain Clinics LLC, dba Porch Light Health clarified there are instructions on the various withdrawal symptoms as well as red flags to watch for and information about next appointment. Information concerning connecting to a provider is also included in the kit.

- ii. COS Council member Steve Johnson inquired as to how many patients are currently participating in this program. Dayna DeHerrera-Smith, Rocky Mountain Clinics LLC, dba Porch Light Health answered unknown as last year's numbers were lower due to insufficient reporting. They have since made adjustments in pulling information from their EHR to improve reporting.
- iii. COS Council member Carrie Geitner asked for more information regarding undocumented individuals needing assistance. Undocumented patients can use the sliding fee scale that Porch Light Health has in place. Regardless of a patient's ability to pay, they do not refuse service.
- iv. COS Council member Steve Johnson inquired as to how people are referred to Porch Light Health and also wanted to know if the patients were given the medicated treatment right away or not until symptomatic. Carmen Pack, Rocky Mountain Clinics LLC, dba Porch Light Health, clarified at the first visit, the patient is walked through the process to determine if patient is a good candidate, i.e. if they have a safe space at home or if they would be safer in-office. For rural patients, most begin program in Colorado Springs office. About 33% of patients are out of the criminal justice system and 20% from behavioral health with the remainder of patients being referred by community services. Patients are seen within 24-48 hours.
- v. COS Council member Michael Allen asked for details about how this program deals with issues being presented to council. Dayna DeHerrera-Smith, Rocky Mountain Clinics LLC, dba Porch Light Health clarified this program helps to divert patients away from Emergency Department setting and provides the additional support that would not get in ED. The medical assistant's evening follow-up call yields good retention as it gives patients time away from clinic to consider questions they may not have known to ask when with the medical provider. The patient has their follow up appointment in 24-48 hours.
- vi. COS Council member Carrie Geitner wanted to know what success looks like for patients in this program. Dayna DeHerrera-Smith, Rocky Mountain Clinics LLC, dba Porch Light Health stated the goal is to serve 15-20 patients per region. This was not attained due to high turnover of unseasoned providers. With the more seasoned providers, they were not reporting all patients served only those with actual in-office patients.

2:10 – 3:10pm | MAT/MOUD Applicants Q&A Session

- b. **Summary:** James Corbett, Facilitator, stated the City of Colorado Springs requested \$190,602 to support year two of the TOR-MAT program, which provides mobile MAT for individuals in active opioid withdrawal, connects patients to ongoing recovery services, aims to double patient reach from 230 in year one, and uses data to refine care. The

program features no-barrier access, a strong clinical team, and is the first of its kind in Colorado. This is their second year of funding request, the first year they requested \$198,323.

City of Colorado Springs #1

- a. **Summary:** Steve Johnson, COS Fire Department Community and Public Health Administrator stated The City of Colorado Springs is requesting funding for its second year of its TOR-MAT program. The city did not receive funding until after legal reviews, which lasted until October. Program did not get underway until February 2025. The ask is for January 2026 so that the city can build out the second year of the program. The goal is to get them to a space to deal with the underlying issue and to connect to pull people out of the cycle – meeting them where they are at. Amanda Smith, COS Fire Chief stated this treatment for this program is meant to be no longer than 7 days and is intended to provide mobile on-site evaluations after patients have had a 911 call. Medical goal is to provide treatment and then check-in every day for no longer than seven days. They provide education and Narcan leave-behind for families. The city acts as a connector to ongoing treatment. They take referrals from the community and do not have the barrier of billing services.
- b. **Discussion:**
 - i. COS Council member David Leinweber inquired as to the difference between this and the CRT program. Steve Johnson, COS Fire Department Community and Public Health Administrator stated with programs offered, each other programs can refer to the other programs. The CRT (community response team) is focused on mental health issues and not substances and responds immediately whereas this program responds within 72 hours. It is an “after the event” program.
 - ii. Michelle Wolff, Teller County Public Health Director asked if the program be affected by the Senate Bill. Steve Johnson, COS Fire Department Community and Public Health Administrator stated the program is not currently funded that way and therefore is not connected to that particular stream of funding.

2:10 – 3:10pm | MAT/MOUD Applicants Q&A Session

- a. **Summary:** James Corbett, Facilitator, stated Crossroads’ Turning Point, Inc. requested \$242,550 to support year two of the TOR-MAT program, providing outpatient withdrawal management for opioid, alcohol, and polysubstance use disorders. The program aims to increase referrals by 40–50% through expanded outreach, enhanced access via mobile clinics and telehealth, and boost patient engagement in MAT and behavioral health services. It offers comprehensive, evidence-based care with proven success and strong community partnerships.

Crossroads' Turning Point, Inc.

- a. **Summary:** Dr. Rob Archuleta, Chief Officer of Operation and Innovation, Crossroads' Turning Point, Inc. presented Crossroads' request for funding to include outpatient withdrawal management services while expanding hospital outreach and enhance treatment capabilities. They currently provide every aspect from prevention to recovery in 22 counties across Colorado. They saw a total of 357 did not receive opioid treatment services that could've eased withdrawal and opened the door to additional treatment. They want to provide opioid treatment services in-house as that would open the door for more treatment for more patients. They are looking for a provider, counselor and care coordinator.
- a. **Discussion:**
 - i. COS Council member Carrie Geitner asked what recovery looks like to Crossroads'. Dr. Rob Archuleta, Chief Officer of Operation and Innovation, Crossroads' Turning Point, Inc., stated they are looking to provide that next level of care to patients so that they are coming in less frequently and in better health by not expecting abstinence for an overall sustained wellness. Recovery would further involve a warm hand-off to another level of service or another community partner.
 - ii. COS Council member Steve Johnson asked how metrics are tracked and reported on. Rob Archuleta, Chief Officer of Operation and Innovation, Crossroads' Turning Point, Inc., stated they currently track when patient is discharged or referred to another program/provider. Each patient is provided with a survey upon leaving. He also asked what kind of prescriber Crossroads' is looking for. Currently, they are looking for a 1099 nurse practitioner or MD that can prescribe medication and provide a controlled environment.

2:10 – 3:10pm | MAT/MOUD Applicants Q&A Session

- a. **Summary:** James Corbett, Facilitator, opened it up for discussion regarding Rocky Mountain Clinics LLC, dba Porch Light Health and Crossroads' Turning Point, Inc. Presentations since City of Colorado Springs is requesting deferred funding.
- b. **Discussion on Rocky Mountain Clinics LLC, dba Porch Light Health and Crossroads' Turning Point, Inc.**
 - iii. COS Council member Carrie Geitner requested a report on the technical aspects of how partnerships have been progressing. It was noted that previous data reporting was inconsistent and with proper reporting earlier data could have been more robust.
 - iv. COS Council member Carrie Geitner also inquired about how funds were used if not directed toward hiring. Dayna DeHerrera-Smith, Rocky Mountain Clinics LLC, dba Porch Light Health explained that funding supported leadership development, staff

training, community outreach, and some was allocated to a MA making evening phone calls.

- v. COS Council member David Leinweber asked if the data system they are using is coordinated with other systems like hospitals. Dayna DeHerrera-Smith, Rocky Mountain Clinics LLC, dba Porch Light Health stated it is not, and their systems do not pull qualitative easily. They are in the process of transitioning to a better system. COS Council member David Leinweber expressed data is important and would like to see better reporting moving forward.
- vi. EPC Deputy Director of Financial Services Amanda Grant requested clarification on funding and expenditure. Dayna DeHerrera-Smith, Rocky Mountain Clinics LLC, dba Porch Light Health stated she will provide the month-to-month invoicing.
- vii. James Corbett, Facilitator, opened it up for discussion on a decision for funding.
- viii. Michelle Wolff, Teller County Public Health Director, acknowledged the challenges of data collection and requested that Porch Light return with an update in July. ECOS Council member Carrie Geitner agreed on the need to clearly define “recovery” and establish measurable goals. She also expressed concern about funding being used for undocumented patients, potentially diverting resources from citizens. Porch Light clarified that they do not serve a large number of undocumented individuals, 15% and that if they are servicing it’s through Medicaid dollars. Steve Johnson, COS Fire Department Community and Public Health Administrator sympathized with difficulty tracking data.

b. Decision

- i. The council recommended that Rocky Mountain Clinics LLC, dba Porch Light Health re-apply in July in the next funding cycle and work on gathering and refining data.

c. Discussion on Crossroads’ Turning Point

- i. COS Council member Steve Johnson expressed concerns over reporting. Taylor Hobby, CPA, Chief Administration Officer, Crossroads’ Turning Point, Inc., reads through the breakdown of budgeting. COS Council member Steve Johnson asked if the nurse practitioner role would be full time. Dr. Rob Archuleta, Chief Officer of Operation and Innovation, Crossroads’ Turning Point, Inc., expressed uncertainty and that they are open to partial funding.
- ii. COS Council member Carrie Geitner stated metrics and the resulting data as well as setting achievable goals is recommended. She highlighted that abstinence should be the end goal of the program. She also indicated that she would like to see the numbers that show how many people are getting treatment and who is being discharged and where. 4th Judicial District Attorney Michael Allen is supportive of shorter timeframe.

- iii. James Corbett, Facilitator, said there are two options to come back with that data or to fund it subject to them presenting acceptable data. COS Council member Steve Johnson is open to partial funding. COS Council member David Leinweber agrees.
- iv. COS Council member Lynette Crow-Iverson states concern over finding a nurse practitioner and the time it would take, and that partial funding would shorten the timeline.
- v. Dr. Rob Archuleta, Chief Officer of Operation and Innovation, Crossroads' Turning Point, Inc., advocated for the need to procure a nurse practitioner, which could be done with a quarter of the requested funding.
- vi. COS Council member Michael Allen asked how much funding would be needed to get started. Taylor Hobby, CPA, Chief Administration Officer, Crossroads' Turning Point, Inc., states funding for the first quarter would allow them to start.

d. Decision

- i. The council recommended that Crossroads' Turning Point come back with solid data at the next council meeting with a focus on outcomes.

3:10-4:10pm | Strategic Planning (Initium Health)

2025 January 31 Grant Cycle, Review Youth Prevention Applicants

a. Summary:

- a. For the next round of applicants James Corbett, Facilitator, is to set word count limits per grant application and recommend that applicants specifically address outcome data.
- b. James Corbett, facilitator states that plan was to take a look at these next 7 applications— and a decision is needed whether to invite all seven to present or spend some time today weeding some of them out and ask a subset to come present. Council agreed to have the 7 applicants present over the next two months. James Corbett, Facilitator, to work offline to come to next two meetings with data in advance, double checking budgets and asking presenters to provide data on one slide. There should also be a starting point as to how much funding is in the available bucket and how much each applicant is requesting.

4:10-4:15pm | Break

- a. Break did not take place.

4:15-4:25pm | Regional Opioid Abatement Council Finance and Contracts Update (Amanda Grant)

a. Summary:

- a. EPC Deputy Director of Financial Services Amanda Grant explained the expenditure report through February is available. \$10.1 million sitting in the bank account available for appropriation with \$6.9 million in cost account at the state level. While money can go into the community quickly, need to also take into account the longevity of the funding council. The state is looking at creating dashboards to forecast funding.
 - i. Vote: Unanimously approved.
- b. COS Council member Carrie Geitner wants to be clear on what funding falls within the Facilitator SOW and what does not in order to provide clarity
- c. For the next meeting, EPC Deputy Director of Financial Services Amanda Grant will provide copies of the contract so council can review terms

4:25-4:55pm | Colorado State University and Rise Above Colorado Project Update (Nathaniel R. Riggs, PHD, CSU Professor, Human Development and Family Studies and Kent MacLennan, Executive Director Rise Above Colorado)

a. Summary:

- a. Nathaniel R. Riggs, PHD, CSU Professor, Human Development and Family Studies outlined the “why” that is driving the focus behind youth prevention initiative. The three asks of the RFIE are identifying the data driving the need of the initiative, the identifying of local agencies capable of providing the needed services, and, lastly, the development and implementation of the prevention plan. He states the project goals were identified as the following: create a regionally tailored assessment based on local youth risky behavior; identify Region 16 agencies that provide prevention services; deliver locally tailored version of Connect Effect; and support schools and other community- based youth-focused agencies. The key takeaways for Teller County were the overall lack of reliable information; the need to increase the investments over time in prevention; the necessity for more community involvement; and to address the transportation barriers as well as the need to address the stigma surrounding the disorder. The following recommendations for Teller County were addressed: expand nicotine, prescription opioid use prevention, mental health promotion, and school connectedness, expand proven local prevention efforts; strong community cohesion; and the need to establish standardized metrics and data collection.
- b. Kent MacLennan, Executive Director Rise Above Colorado stated The El Paso County needs assessment is still being conducted and involves the Rise Above Colorado youth survey; tailoring the “Connect Effect” campaign for this region; and to use the campaign’s success in Larimer County. Social norms campaigns

use local, evidence-based data to correct misperceptions about risky behaviors by showing they are less common than believed, reducing the likelihood of engagement.

- c. The “Connect Effect” campaign is being tailored for Region 16 by engaging youth from El Paso and Teller Counties in localized discussion groups. These sessions are designed to gather feedback on local data and test social norm messaging to ensure it resonates with teens in the region. Insights from these groups will help shape messaging that reflects local perspectives and experiences related to substance use.
- d. This campaign will be completed in April and will be launched starting in late May and going through December.
- e. Nathaniel R. Riggs, PHD, CSU Professor, Human Development and Family Studies states they are working to identify who these partners could be. He states who was connected in El Paso and Teller Counties. There are conversations happening around finding organization for phase two. The future directions include continue updating and transferring youth service data to the CSU Centroid GIS map, engaging prevention agencies for future funding phases, and leveraging the Connect Effect campaign to support evidence-based youth prevention efforts.

b. Discussion:

- a. COS Council member David Leinweber asked if there is a seasonality to use. Kent MacLennan, Executive Director Rise Above Colorado responded there are influxes, more available in summer, but could be idea time because they are out of school. Nathaniel R. Riggs, PHD, CSU Professor, Human Development and Family Studies added there is more uptake digitally in the summer, but printed materials work better during the school year.
- b. Question was asked more on oversampling. Kent MacLennan, Executive Director Rise Above Colorado responded this was a part of a statewide survey with 900 participants. 116 of those surveyed was in El Paso County. This survey was completed online to reach a larger audience.
- c. COS Council member Lynette Crow-Iverson asked if the survey take into account the legalization and normalization of marijuana and alcohol use? Where is the line between what is legal and the harder drugs. Kent MacLennan, Executive Director Rise Above Colorado responded that this came up in the discussion groups with youth.
- d. COS Council member Carrie Geitner wants to make sure there is a connection between the RFP and their project. She asked about churches as a good place for reach. Kent MacLennan, Executive Director Rise Above Colorado stated The El Paso County agrees.

- e. Kent MacLennan, Executive Director Rise Above Colorado stated The El Paso County asks if the council would like to approve of messages. COS Council member David Leinweber requests there be finding available. COS Council member expresses concerns to be careful on how far we go with surveys.
- f. Kent MacLennan, Executive Director Rise Above Colorado stated The El Paso County will send data to James Corbett, Facilitator, to pass along to the council. Council agrees that they want awarded applicants to present to council in the order on how they were scored.

4:55-5:00pm | Public Comments

a. Discussion:

- a. Beth Hill Roalstad, CEO Homeward Pikes Peak asked if we have a schedule of when others might be called for presentation. James Corbett, Facilitator, responded that he will send a message to each group, but it looks like it will be a couple of months.

5:00pm | Meeting Adjourn