

Logan County Commissioners Work Session
November 4, 2025

Present: Mike Brownell, Jim Santomaso, Jim Yahn, Alan Samber, Mike Burri, Rick Cullip, Josh Klein, Josilyn Lutze, Rob Quint, Debbie Unrein, Jeff Schiel, Callie Jones, and Jennifer Crow.

Chairman Brownell called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS SESSION - Commissioner Yahn moved to approve the minutes of the October 21, 2025 Work Session. Commissioner Santomaso seconded, and the motion carried 3-0. The minutes of the October 28, 2025 Work Session were not finished yet.

REVISIONS TO THE WORK SESSION AGENDA – There were none.

REVIEW OF BUSINESS MEETING AGENDA – County Attorney Alan Samber added the approval of the Bridge Replacement grant applications. There should be two applications under new business.

CLEAR PATH RECOVERY – Jeff Schiel of Clear Path Recovery met with the Board to discuss an upcoming grant that he is hoping to apply for with the Colorado Opioid Abatement Council. Commissioner Brownell is on the Region Four Opioid Abatement Council. The grant is through Federal Opioid Abatement class action suit funds. The funding opportunity requires a fiscal agent that is a government entity. He asked if the Board would be willing to partner to be the fiscal agent to manage all the grant funds for Clear Path Recovery.

He has not applied for the grant yet, it is a situation to where something could be written in the grant proposal and application correctly. The grant funds that he will apply for are for external infrastructure construction, i.e. brick and mortar for rural and/or frontier rehab facilities. The application will be for approximately \$2.2 million to build this facility. He has a very solid plan, and a lot of support. Centennial Mental Health is an organization supporting the effort. He is currently working on partnerships with other rehab facilities in the state to get some of their overflow clients. Clear Path is planning to take 60% of their population as Medicaid recipients, it's a big part of the community that has the need. He has spoken with Harmony Recovery in Estes Park, where they only have a limited amount of recovery beds for Medicaid patients. He has a tentative agreement to take on some of their overflow clients. Clear Path is putting together other partnerships to make sure it is sustainable after it's open.

He is going to meet with Phil Weiser, Colorado Attorney General that's in charge of the Colorado Opioid Abatement Council, (COAC) so he can make sure that they align the application correctly with the grant structure.

Schiel talked to Terry Hofmeister about how to structure the application. He wants to create more transparency than going through the Regional Opioid Abatement Council (ROAC). Logan County would be in charge of all fiscal funds. Clear Path would invoice through the ROAC, the ROAC then proposes the grant through, to the Colorado Opioid Abatement Council. It's not necessarily adding another step. It adds another layer of transparency. All of the funds would be going through Logan County to the Region Four Opioid Abatement Council.

It would also show that they have local support from local counties. He and Terry Hofmeister discussed that the way he is putting this together is very similar to way the ROAC is structured. The ROAC's funds go through Yuma County, and the Yuma County Commissioners administer all their funds. Schiel suggested something similar, with Logan County managing the funds. Clear Path would be responsible to the ROAC

that would then be responsible to the COAC. It would be a very similar structure to what's already been put together.

Commissioner Brownell expressed concern that the County's Finance Department only has one full-time employee and two part-time employees. Schiel did not think that it would be a huge personnel concern. Clear Path would do a lot of its own billing and invoicing. Logan County Finance would just be auditing each one of the invoices that goes through to make sure that it's correct with the grant vision. Hours worked on this should be minimal. The weight will be on Clear Path Recovery to make sure it's done correctly. Commissioner Santomaso agreed that with the limited staff in the Finance Department, he thinks it would be best if the County did not agree to be the fiscal agent. Commissioner Yahn is also concerned that even though Clear Path is the agency that is the grant recipient, the County is the fiscal agent and ultimately responsible.

Schiel needs to look into the details more, but he does believe that there is a percentage that Logan County would get for administrative fees. He would not expect that the County would do this for free. ROAC could possibly be the fiscal agent for the grant. The Board would like more information on the fiscal agent for the grant before a final decision is made. Schiel will develop a plan of action that he can present to the Board. He will also put together a full presentation on Clear Path Recovery and what they are doing.

COUNTY DEPARTMENTS E3 EMERGENCY NOTIFICATION SYSTEM – Emergency Manager Josilyn Lutze met with the Board on E3, an Emergency Notification System for internal emergencies for county departments. With the contract, three buildings can be covered, the Courthouse, DHS/Extension and a third building. Josilyn asked if the Justice Center would be one of the buildings that they would like included. The Board agreed that the Justice Center would be a logical use for the notification system. Josilyn has not talked to anyone at the Sheriff's Office or Justice Center about the app. She will discuss it with them. Another suggestion was the fairgrounds. Josilyn is meeting with representatives from E3 on Thursday to get building plans to them so that they can map the buildings and offices and set up the app, etc.

Commissioner Yahn suggested that Josilyn discuss the app with Pam Bacon as she does not allow her employees to use their cell phones. The app is designed to be used with cell phones, and it can also be used on computers. The Clerks offices are limited in what they can allow on their computers because of election integrity. Josilyn will discuss this with Pam Bacon. She mentioned that if a panic button is activated in Pam's office, strobe lights are activated that only employees can see. The public cannot see the lights. The E3 notification system will notify everyone in the building that there is an emergency and where it is.

2025-2026 EMPG GRANT APPLICATION – Josilyn Lutze also discussed the 2025-2026 EMPG grant application that helps cover 50% of her position. With all the federal money being held up this year, they were only promising funding for the first three quarters of this year. They have now said that they will fund the fourth quarter of 2025 and the first two quarters of 2026. She is starting to work on the application for the grant which is due November 28. Funding depends on how many counties apply.

SOUTH PLATTE RIVER WATER SUPREME COURT COMPLAINT – Commissioner Yahn updated the Board on Colorado's use of South Platte River water. It affects basically Sedgwick and Logan Counties. Colorado responded to Nebraska's complaint on October 15th and then Nebraska came back and responded to Colorado's response last week. It's before the Supreme Court now, they can either choose to take the case or not. Colorado's whole push was that Nebraska doesn't have a complaint that's right for the Supreme Court. On December 4th, the State Engineer will be in Julesburg at 3:30 p.m. and in Sterling at 6:30 p.m. to review this information with anyone who is interested. The Courthouse meeting room is reserved for the meeting. Doors will open at 6:00 p.m.

There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting adjourned at 9:27 a.m.