

MINUTES

PUEBLO AREA COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS

SEPTEMBER 22, 2016

A meeting of the Pueblo Area Council of Governments was held on Thursday, September 22, 2016, at the Pueblo County Department of Emergency Management, 101 West 10th Street, 1st Floor Conference Room. The meeting was called to order by Mr. Ed Brown, Chairman, at 12:15 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Those members present were:

Larry Atencio
Ed Brown
Nick Gradisar
Frank Latino

Ted Lopez
Buffie McFadyen
Tony Montoya
Lori Winner

Those members absent were:

Ray Aguilera
Terry Hart
Terry Kraus
Judy Leonard

Steve Nawrocki
Chris Nicoll
Sal Pace
Bob Schilling

Also present were:

Joan Armstrong
Scott Hobson

Louella Salazar
Greg Styduhar

CONSENT ITEMS AND AMENDMENT TO AGENDA:

Ms. Joan Armstrong, PACOG Manager, reported there were three items listed on the agenda under the Consent Items. She summarized the Consent Items for PACOG.

Chairman Brown stated there is an addition to today's agenda, which is "A Resolution Amending the 2016-2017 Colorado Department of Transportation Consolidated Planning Grant Agreement between the Pueblo Area Council of Governments and the Colorado Department of Transportation, an Agency of the State of Colorado, and Authorizing the Chair of the Council to Execute Same". It will be added to the agenda under Regular Item No. 7 as "D".

It was moved by Tony Montoya, seconded by Buffie McFadyen, and passed unanimously to add the above resolution under Regular Item No. 7 as "D".

Chairman Brown asked if there were any other additions or amendments to the Consent Items or if any of the members or audience would like an item removed or discussed that was on the Consent agenda. There were no other additions or amendments.

It was moved by Buffie McFadyen, seconded by Frank Latino, and passed unanimously to approve the Consent Items listed below:

- Minutes of August 25, 2016 Meeting;
- Treasurer's Report (Receive and file August 2016 Financial Report); and
- A Resolution Approving an Amendment to the Fiscal Year 2016-2017 Unified Planning Work Program for the Pueblo Metropolitan Planning Organization to Include FY 2014-2015 CPG Carryover and Transit Accessibility Plan of All Pueblo Transit Fixed Route Accessibility Transit Stops. The Plan will identify the ADA Deficiencies Associated with Each Individual Bus Stop, to that Specific Design and Construction Work Can be Identified to be Completed in Future Projects in Order to Become ADA Compliant - \$120,000 Consultant Study.

REGULAR ITEMS:

CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

(A) Lunch Appreciation

Chairman Brown thanked Pueblo West Metropolitan District for providing lunch for today's meeting.

(B) Introduction of 2020 Commission Chairperson (Arnold VanZandt)

Chairman Brown stated Mr. Arnold VanZandt, the new 2020 Commission Chairperson, could not be in attendance at today's meeting, but he would like to welcome him to PACOG.

MANAGER'S REPORT

There was no Manager's Report.

PACOG ORGANIZATIONAL RESTRUCTURE STUDY AND IMPLEMENTATION PROJECT UPDATE

Mr. Alan Pennington, Matrix Consulting Group, reported the draft study would be delivered next Friday, September 30th. He stated a comparative analysis was done between PACOG and other COGs. Because of the size of PACOG's service area and the services currently provided, it is much more limited than what is seen in other COGs. This has some impacts as to the membership base, dues, and the services which may be provided. PACOG has as its boundaries the limits of a county and the municipalities and entities within that. All of the other COGs have at least two or more counties they are serving, which provides a lot of opportunities for them that are not available to PACOG. Most of the other COGs provide a variety of services such as social services, area agency on aging, etc. Those are typically done on a regional basis to get economies of scale and have greater impact. Their staffing numbers and budgets are different, in part because of the services they provide. The PowerPoint presentation showed a list of other entities which were surveyed, noting the study will provide this information. He stated one of the key issues which came out of the survey was staffing, noting most of the COGs have a much larger dedicated staff which provides them the opportunity to develop services, market their services, and fully staff their internal operations rather than relying on services from people who have other duties. He stated the consultant is not recommending this be done in the short-term, but possibly in the

long-term PACOG may want to consider this, noting the principal reason is if you would do it full-time currently you would have to increase membership rates to a level that would impact participation in PACOG. It is strictly a financial issue at this point. Most of the federal and State grants have a limited amount that is allocated to overhead and they would have to be related to the services of those grants. He stated other COGs have involvement in social service areas. At this point, it doesn't appear that this is an area of high pursuit for PACOG because those services are generally provided elsewhere in the community. He stated the one area PACOG should focus on is some greater shared services, such as joint procurement that all of the members within PACOG could benefit from. It may be something that those that are not participating in PACOG might participate to gain access to a service. It is an easy internal service which could be provided that doesn't require a lot of enabling legislation or authority changes. It only means we work cooperatively in some procurement efforts.

Mr. Pennington stated PACOG has very limited numbers of entities it can reach out to become members. Most of the other COGs limit their voting rights to counties and municipalities solely. Other members are members without voting rights. He stated when they reached out to other entities that are not members of PACOG that they are finding it difficult to fund the membership fee even at the lowest level. This is the reason why if you can help them save money in other areas they might be able to cover this. Even at the lowest membership fee (\$370), there are entities that stated they could not afford it.

Mr. Pennington stated they have looked at a lot of alternatives with respect to voting. With the other COGs, it is typically one vote per member entity or it is based upon population. They looked at all of these, as well as a tier structure based upon size, noting this would probably be their recommendation. Tier 1 would have the largest organizations having 3 or 4 votes, Tier 2 would have 2 votes, and Tier 3 (the smallest) would have 1 vote. If it is done on population, it would demonstrate the need for 4. The reason they are looking at 3 is the current setup with the Board of County Commissioners.

Mr. Pennington stated membership dues are a challenge for some of the non-members to participate. He stated it was difficult to figure out how the existing membership rates were established. Moving forward, PACOG has to figure a way to base the membership dues on some objective factor--whether that is population or organization size or tier. There are some alternative due structures for PACOG's consideration.

Mr. Pennington stated there is a possibility of having subcommittees that would be focused in particular service areas (e.g., transit, water, general services such as procurement). This would allow those individuals who are directly impacted by those service areas to have input at the subcommittee level and they bring a vote to the full board for consideration. It would enable greater focus and time spent on hashing out issues by those entities that have an interest. He stated he spoke with the budget committee yesterday and one of the concerns about making this recommendation is looking historically at attendance at PACOG meetings, noting sometimes it's high and sometimes it's low. He stated they wanted to make sure that proposing this approach wouldn't add a bureaucracy that made it difficult for PACOG to function. The budget committee felt it was feasible and worth discussion.

Mr. Montoya asked if they were able to identify the benefit, other than procurement, for entities that wouldn't be voting members. Mr. Pennington replied the immediate benefit would possibly be the procurement approach, noting you can see immediate benefit both financially and with the workload to all the member organizations that participate. This alone would probably cover their membership dues. Other COGs that allow membership by non-cities, counties, or towns are non-voting members. They participate because it's good to have a voice at the table on some of those bigger issues. Those other entities also provide a suite of services that PACOG is not providing. He stated he didn't think it made sense to try and expand into those services that are already being provided well. PACOG needs to look at other areas to supplement what is already being done by PACOG. He felt the subcommittee structure works well because you can have a subcommittee that focuses on that and it doesn't get mixed in with these bigger issues about transportation and water quality. Mr. Montoya asked if the membership fees would be less for these members. Mr. Pennington replied sometimes, but not always. He stated for the most part it would be similar membership rates; it just means they would not have voting rights because voting rights are limited to those municipal entities. He stated this is partially because some of them use the same overall board for all of their votes. Mr. Montoya asked regarding the votes based on population and about the employees who work for the organization. Mr. Pennington responded it is typically the residential population. There are some that do unique things such as the county population would be the total population minus the city to get to a population base, but others do it strictly the population served. He stated they are looking at placing the organizations into three tiers. They stated PACOG could also do the voting by city, county, or town, and the others are not voting members. They can be voting on the subcommittees but not on the overall board. Mr. Montoya asked if they looked at finance and budgets by entities and how much they spend on services. Mr. Pennington replied no. Mr. Montoya stated the County has three Commissioners and, in his mind, School District 70 should have the same number of votes because they service the same population. Mr. Pennington replied the rationale for the current voting structure was essentially based on the number of elected officials representing the two largest entities and it was decided to give everyone else one. He stated they are trying to find a way to give some level of consistency in fairness moving forward and demographics change.

Mr. Latino stated CSU-Pueblo and Pueblo Community College have no representation on PACOG. He felt these are two important pieces to the whole education process in this community. Business and industry when they look at relocating to Pueblo use these facilities to educate their workforce. He felt they could be important members on PACOG. Mr. Pennington replied there are probably others who should join. He stated it would be ideal to get as many of the special districts and educational institutions to be a part of this in some way. This is what gives life and vitality to a group such as this.

Chairman Brown questioned what type of purchasing items was anticipated to be purchased. Mr. Pennington answered they weren't specifically saying which items should be purchased. The way this works is that the entities get together and identify the top 10 purchases by quantity or dollar volume. You try to find 4 or 5 items that most of the entities are purchasing. When you put out a request for proposal on a service or a bid on a commodity, everyone can then purchase off that. It can be materials for public works' entities such as fertilizer for landscaping activities, office supplies, etc. All you are trying to do is get the volume up so that you can get the discount price. PACOG would do nothing other than to coordinate the process. Once the contract is in place,

each entity purchases directly from the vendor, they pay them directly, and it is shipped directly to them. PACOG would only set up the contract. Chairman Brown asked if PACOG would be the purchasing agent. Mr. Pennington replied they would coordinate that effort. It could be done by in-kind services so that one of the member entities does it on behalf of PACOG for all the members. This is where having a staff person makes it much easier because you have someone who can do those administrative functions. You could do it by the County doing a bid for one item on behalf of PACOG.

Theoretically, the entities that are doing that won't have to do 2 or 3 other bids because other people are doing it. Chairman Brown stated the City and County tried that and the City's rules are much more restrictive so it didn't work out. Mr. Pennington stated if each individual entity needs to change their rules to make that work, yes, they would have to do that. However, if you set up a contract for goods or services, it typically has a provision that you agree to make this available to other governmental entities or members of PACOG at the same rate. Most entities have within their procurement code a provision that they can buy off established lists, such as the State bidding list. As long as you have that provision, then you don't have to worry about each member's procurement practices. They just need to have the ability to say "yes, it's acceptable for us to buy off of an established list."

Ms. Winner asked the cost of the membership. Mr. Pennington replied the smallest entities on PACOG are \$370 and the largest (City and County) are \$13,625. The ones with the smallest amount are the entities which expressed they could not afford the membership in some cases.

COLORADO DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENT RECYCLING PLANNING GRANT APPLICATION

Ms. Susan Finzel-Aldred, Environmental Coordinator, Pueblo City-County Health Department, reported on the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment's planning grant application regarding a regional waste diversion study and plan, which is due October 31st. An executive summary was distributed to the members. PACOG would be applying for the Recycling Resource Economic Opportunities (RREO) Grant Program for funding to complete the Pueblo County Solid Waste Study-2017. It provides information on who PACOG serves, its jurisdiction, and who is involved. The next paragraph explains the need for the study. The summary states "Pueblo County has unique waste diversion challenges. The population density ranges from 9 to 1,200 persons per square mile, making waste and recycling collection inefficient and costly. Recycling opportunities are sporadic based on available funding, market prices, and proximity to processing facilities. Only two, of the nine, private hauling companies offer curbside recycling services for a monthly fee, which can be prohibitive for lower income households. Currently, there is one operating landfill which is slated for closure in approximately twenty-five (25) years." We are asking for funding to do a study to increase our diversion rates from the municipal solid waste stream collected from residential sources. She stated the Integrated Solid Waste Management Plan was published over 15 years ago. She stated no waste audit was done at that time. It was done by a volunteer committee and they produced the Plan which was approved by PACOG. The new study would show how to effectively use local facilities, businesses, and nonprofits and do one waste audit at the Southside Landfill. It would also conduct some stakeholder meetings to gauge input and public awareness on recycling, and ask for some comments and the public's opinions on long-term solutions. A portion of the grant monies will be used to hire a consultant who would analyze the waste audit data;

determine, based on how much that could be diverted, the kind of economic value; and propose some new methods to increase diversion. The consultant will also be asked to name some infrastructure needs. The group is aware of some these needs, but there may be something in the field that hasn't been tapped into. The consultant will also review what is currently on the books for ordinances and regulations in the City, County, and Pueblo West and recommend any policy changes that might help tick up our diversion rate, and then produce the report. The application is for \$50,000, noting they should come close to this amount. She stated temporary workers would have to be hired and figure out who from the different PACOG entities might be involved. There would also be supplies and equipment expenses.

Mr. Montoya asked if a list of stakeholders has been developed. Ms. Finzel-Aldred replied the stakeholder list has not been done, but there is a good idea on who would be involved (e.g., small businesses, nonprofits, haulers, transfer station owners, the landfill owner, neighborhood associations, home owner's association). There should at least be three meetings. She stated if they are awarded the grant money, it would be December 5th. It would have to be spent from January-October 2017 and the final report would have to be produced by November 2017.

Ms. McFadyen asked why PACOG didn't go forward with this at the last meeting. Ms. Finzel-Aldred replied it was because PACOG wanted a consensus among its members about delegation of duties. PACOG would be the applicant and the financial sponsor. Additionally, who among the members would execute the action plan of the proposal and who on staff would be delegated to supervise the consultant, who's going to run the waste audit, etc. Also, this person would help the group write the grant proposal. Ms. McFadyen stated she remembered that the City-County Health Department could not do this. She suggested if PACOG should go forward with the grant application offering that Mr. Chris Markuson from the County serve as this person. Ms. Finzel-Aldred stated this is a great suggestion, noting he would be the point person supervising the grant and he could delegate the funding to particular departments, divisions, staff, etc. She stated she could assist, as well as Joy Morauski from the City Public Works Department. She stated they still need to figure out the staff funding, number of hours, etc. Mr. Atencio asked if part of this is done already. Ms. Finzel-Aldred replied no.

It was moved by Buffie McFadyen, seconded by Lori Winner, and passed unanimously to apply for the RREO grant application on behalf of PACOG and utilize Mr. Chris Markuson of Pueblo County to write the grant and administer it on behalf of PACOG.

Ms. Finzel-Aldred stated the next PACOG meeting is October 27th and the final grant application would be provided to PACOG at that time, as well as a presentation.

TRANSPORTATION COMMISSIONER/CDOT REGION 2 DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Chairman Brown stated there were no comments from Mr. Bill Thiebaut, State Transportation Commissioner.

Mr. Dan Dahlke, CDOT, reported the State Transportation Commission approved funding for the new CDOT/Colorado State Patrol office in Pueblo in the amount of \$28 million. All design plans will be done, and it should get started by this winter. It should be completed by spring 2018.

Mr. Dahlke reported the 4th street overlay started after Labor Day. The Pueblo Boulevard overlay is about completed and the stripping is being done. The Bonforte Boulevard Bridge is open. The detour will be removed this week. CDOT is working on some punch list items on Highway 50 between Pueblo West and Pueblo, which should be wrapped up in the next month.

STATE TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE (STAC) UPDATE

Ms. Buffie McFadyen stated there was no STAC update.

MPO STAFF REPORT

Mr. Scott Hobson, MPO Administrator, introduced their newest planner in the Urban Transportation Division, Mr. Bart Mikitowicz.

A. CDOT Region II TIP/STIP Administration Agenda Item(s)

Mr. Hobson reported there is one CDOT roll forward item regarding resurfacing funds on U.S. 50 east of Pueblo in the Boone area in the amount of \$2,190,000. This was previously included in the TIP and it is being rolled forward to the new TIP.

B. CDOT Division of Transit and Rail TIP/STIP Administration Agenda Item(s)

Mr. Hobson reported there are three rollovers of Senior Resource Development Agency (SRDA) funds for 2015 and 2016. These include: (1) operating assistance for transportation services for seniors City and County wide in the amount of \$158,000, operating assistance for transportation services for seniors and handicapped City and County wide in the amount of \$123,398, and vehicle replacement for seniors and handicapped persons City and County wide in the amount of \$23,241. He stated the older funds can provide the matching funds for these grants. In some cases, they don't get the funding that matches up with timing when these grants are awarded. He stated when the federal funds are awarded it doesn't necessarily match up with the timing of the annual budget so they have to wait until they get their annual (2016) budget in place before entering into the contract to complete these projects. Now that we are doing an annual TIP approval by PACOG, then it necessitates these to be rolled forward into the new TIP that is approved on a year-to-year basis. He stated the other roll forward item is for the Pueblo Transit Bus Replacement, which is the replacement of one bus in the amount of \$385,000.

C. A Resolution Supporting Submittal of Candidate Urban/Rural Critical Freight Corridors by the Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT) Region 2 on Behalf of the Pueblo Area Council of Governments (PACOG) Acting as the Designated Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) and Transportation Planning Region (TPR) for the Pueblo Region

Mr. Hobson reported the resolution pertains to the submittal of Candidate Urban/Rural Critical Freight Corridors to be added to the federal designation. There are three segments that staff is recommending to PACOG, noting these were jointly worked out between PACOG staff and CDOT staff. He stated I-25 is already on the Critical Freight Network. The U.S. highways in Pueblo are not on the Critical Freight Network. What this allows for once a segment is included on the Critical Freight Network, it makes it

eligible for Federal Freight funds to be allocated for improvements. Staff looked at areas that had projects that were more ready to be funded rather than those that might need improvements. He stated Statewide there are 80 new miles of Urban Freight Corridor that can be added and 160 miles of Rural Freight Corridor that can be added. With these parameters, staff wanted to be selective as to what could be added from Pueblo County and how those matched up with potential projects. The first segment staff is recommending is U.S. 50 from I-25 West to Swallows Road. The second segment is U.S. 50 from I-25 to Paul Harvey Boulevard to the Airport entrance. These two segments are within the 80 miles of new urban area. The third segment is from the Airport to the Pueblo Chemical Depot, noting this would be rural miles.

It was moved by Tony Montoya, seconded by Frank Latino, and passed unanimously to approve "A Resolution Supporting Submittal of Candidate Urban/Rural Critical Freight Corridors by the Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT) Region 2 on Behalf of the Pueblo Area Council of Governments (PACOG) Acting as the Designated Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) and Transportation Planning Region (TPR) for the Pueblo Region".

D. A Resolution Amending the 2016-2017 Colorado Department of Transportation Consolidated Planning Grant Agreement between the Pueblo Area Council of Governments and the Colorado Department of Transportation, an Agency of the State of Colorado, and Authorizing the Chair of the Council to Execute Same

Mr. Hobson reported this resolution would amend the Consolidated Planning Grant (CPG), which PACOG receives from CDOT, so that new contracts can be established and set up by October. This resolution would approve Amendment No. 1, which includes \$350,000 in new grant funds for 2017. It also changes the fund balance from 2014-2015 which is carried over for PACOG to utilize for transportation planning. This amount is \$509,087, which provides an overall budget in 2017 of \$859,087. This is for Federal Fiscal Year, which is October 2016 through October 2017. It is also included within the scope of work for the Unified Planning Work Program. He stated this was added on to this PACOG agenda in order to meet the timing set by CDOT. He stated the contract was reviewed by PACOG's attorney, Dan Kogovsek, as to form.

It was moved by Buffie McFadyen, seconded by Tony Montoya, and passed unanimously to approve "A Resolution Amending the 2016-2017 Colorado Department of Transportation Consolidated Planning Grant Agreement between the Pueblo Area Council of Governments and the Colorado Department of Transportation, an Agency of the State of Colorado, and Authorizing the Chair of the Council to Execute Same".

PLAN OF ACTION FOR SCHOOL AND COMMUNITY SAFETY

Mr. Frank Latino reported he was invited to a meeting last Thursday morning with Randy Thurston, Steven Busch, and Mark Lindberg. He stated he was invited because of his priority in terms of community safety. Mr. Busch is a part of the Busch Corporation and is very interested in investing in Pueblo. He has a good perception of Pueblo because he has seen how the people in the community are. They are working on trying to promote a community safety summit. He stated any suggestions from the PACOG members would be greatly appreciated.

Officer Brandon Beauvais, Crime Prevention Officer with the Pueblo Police Department, stated he carries two hats: Pueblo police officer and proud born and raised Pueblo resident. He stated his family has been in Pueblo close to 100 years and he has lived all over the County. He went to high school and college in Pueblo. The Pueblo Police Department was the first to offer him a job so he was destined to be here. He is proud to work for them. He has been in the department for 10 years, and the last two years he has served as the Crime Prevention Officer. He coordinates the Neighborhood Watch Program and anything which is community related. He is a member of the SWAT team and honor guard and serves as a member of the Police Association.

Officer Beauvais reported the current crime statistics through August 2016. The crime trends have been growing over the last several years. In 2016, the numbers are a little lower, but you need to keep in mind the year has not concluded. Some of the statistics surpass the previous year. There has been an increase in violent crime, which includes homicide, robbery, aggravated assault, sexual assault, burglary, theft/larceny, auto theft, and arson. Sexual assault is close to surpassing last year. Burglaries are close, and theft/larceny has already surpassed 2015. Motor and vehicle theft is the highest it has ever been. Over 90% of the property crime, such as motor vehicle theft and burglary ties into a drug problem. This supports the addiction of many individuals who are addicted to drugs. He stated this is a core issue of a lot of these crimes increasing.

Officer Beauvais stated they have had a great stride in growth on the Neighborhood Watch Program. He stated when he came into this position two years ago they had 21 active groups in the City and now there are 54 active groups in the City. The groups are composed of over 700 members. They are seeing more people wanting to get involved. At each of these meetings, they are able to give crime prevention tips. We keep them updated on what is happening in their immediate areas and try to provide as much resources as possible. He stated the average police officer is seeing more crime more frequently than they ever have before. He stated Pueblo has received the perception of being plagued with crime. The numbers indicate negativity in the community as far as crime, noting it impacts every level such as businesses, tourism, etc.

Mr. Latino asked if he could talk about the drug infiltration in Pueblo. Officer Beauvais replied close to 90% of the property crime is connected to drug addiction to support the habit. Heroin addiction is growing in the community. Heroin addiction started when the pills started over 10 years ago. Several doctors were loosely giving out painkillers, which got these large number of people addicted. Once the federal government got control of the pain pills that were being released and holding some of these physicians accountable, it impacted the supply and demand of the opioid drug. These people who were addicted to pills are now going straight to the needle. He stated he receives calls on a daily basis from businesses in town who find these needles on their property. Meth is still a high number, and they recover more meth annually than heroin. Marijuana plays a huge role. Calls for marijuana have gone up 120% from last year, noting this impacts the police department's resources. Mr. Gradisar asked what kind of marijuana calls. Officer Beauvais responded prior to legalization they would get a call that there was someone in the park smoking marijuana. He stated they are writing citations for illegal marijuana. Ms. McFadyen asked if this is going back to 2001. Officer Beauvais replied this is since the police department started tracking it. Last year was the first year they added anything dealing with marijuana. The computer is able to search for the word and any case number attached to marijuana citations. After 2016, they should have a better understanding because they added a check box within each incident report

being taken. He stated they could be on a call that has nothing to do with marijuana, but if they come across it, then it becomes part of the case.

Mr. Montoya asked if the statistics could be broken down further with respect to age. He wondered how many young people are involved in these incidences. Officer Beauvais responded he would look into this, noting the age category could possibly be broken down by offenders and arrests. He stated most of the robberies, etc. are victim driven and unless if there is an arrest made, they can break down the numbers and get the ages from that.

Ms. Winner asked how much of this is a systemic problem? She heard that the Pueblo police are doing a good job at arresting criminals, but she wondered how much is systemic such as a crowded jail or DA issues. Officer Beauvais replied it is a big part, especially with the gang problems. He stated a lot of this is criminals who are reoffending. He stated the police officers know who these criminals are. He stated there are problems with bonds sticking, noting some of the bonds are higher and some are not. Ms. Winner asked why that is, wondering if it was a miscommunication between the police department and DA's office or is it the judge. Officer Beauvais felt there were several issues that are creating a perfect storm. He stated if there were more officers available, it would be helpful in getting to calls from the public, noting this is a serious issue. He stated they are going from call to call, even in a burglary. He stated they are not doing a thorough of a call as they could be and potentially contacting more witnesses. He noted they could be in the middle of investigating a case and, if a high level Priority 1 call comes in, you have to break off your current call and attend to it. He stated there are officer safety issues with these Priority 1 calls. He felt this hurts their investigative skills. From the DA's point of view, they are not getting as great of cases as they would like. From their level, they are strapped with what they can do. They can ask for a larger bond because the criminal is a previously convicted felon or are dangerous and shouldn't be let out of jail right away, and the judicial system doesn't listen to them. Ms. Winner stated it seems like it is the same people who continue to cause problems. Officer Beauvais replied a large majority are repeats. He stated they have gotten more out-of-State people coming in on a regular basis and are bringing criminal rap sheets with them, noting he felt this was probably because of the legalization of marijuana. He stated these people are harder to get information on than those criminals who are already known in the community.

Ms. Winner stated the Needle Exchange Program is creating a lot more needles on the street. She stated when someone turns in one needle they get 72 new needles. She agreed that it prevents needle sharing, but it is going to create more needles on the streets. She felt 72 was a little excessive. Officer Beauvais replied he didn't know what the fix to the problem was. He stated there is an issue of where these needles are ending up when they're not turning them back in.

Mr. Atencio asked if their statistics are being skewed because of second calls, for example, if someone calls in and says there is a gang member on the street and then the word "gang" gets entered into the system and there is one more statistic. Officer Beauvais replied these statistics are off of case report numbers. He stated everything is data driven, and he talks to a lot of groups in the community and is told that some people are not reporting burglaries because whatever was stolen was not of high value to them. They are losing trust in the police because it takes 4-5 hours to respond to a call. He felt this also affects the numbers which the police are gathering.

Mr. Gradisar questioned the statement that a lot of the crimes are being driven by people who are addicted to heroin and trying to get money for their drug habit. Officer Beauvais replied that property crime specifically is tied back to this, noting they are trading the stolen items for drugs. Mr. Gradisar stated Pueblo had a heroin problem in the late 1960s and early 1970s and there were methadone clinics where the drug addict could go and get their methadone shot, noting this probably prevented them from committing burglaries, etc. He asked if Pueblo currently had any methadone clinics. Officer Beauvais replied he wasn't personally aware of any such clinics. Mr. Gradisar stated some countries have treated it as a health problem. He stated he didn't think anyone wants to encourage anyone to get addicted to heroin, but once you are addicted to it and you don't have the money you have to commit the crimes to get the money to buy the heroin. He stated the heroin addict can get the methadone and live a normal life even if they are addicted to heroin, but then they are not in the criminal element. He felt this might be something the community might be able to study. Officer Beauvais responded the heroin addiction impacts lives and families and innocent people in the community who work hard for their money.

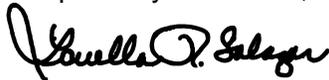
FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

There were no future agenda items provided.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further regular business before PACOG, the meeting was adjourned at 1:29 p.m. The next meeting is scheduled to be held on Thursday, October 27, 2016, at 12:15 p.m., at the Pueblo County Department of Emergency Management, 101 West 10th Street, 1st Floor Conference Room.

Respectfully submitted,



Louella R. Salazar
PACOG Recording Secretary

LRS