



Meeting Minutes: Dakota County Opioid Response Advisory Committee

Date: Tuesday, August 6, 2024
Minutes prepared by: Elizabeth Unten
Location: Dakota County Northern Service Center

Attendance

- Lived Experience
 - Maria Anderson
 - Tiffany Neuharth
 - Susan Pugh
 - Cara Schulz
- Healthcare
 - Michael Beltowsky
- Community Partners
 - Hanna Kazempour
 - Bridgette Norring
- Local Government
 - Bryan Schowalter
- Dakota County
 - Coral Ripplinger
 - Erin Carder
 - James Johnson Jr.
 - Alicia Ward
 - Elizabeth Unten

Absent: Marcus Blue, Nate Burkett, Jennifer Denmark, Luke Hellier, Terry Johnson, Dr. Seema Maddali, Q Mursal, Jacqueline Young

Agenda

- Call to Order
- Approval of the Agenda
- Approval of July Minutes

- Dakota County Drug Task Force
- Open Forum (partner updates, upcoming events, announcements, etc.)
- Public Comment
- Adjourn

Next Meeting

Date: Tuesday, September 3, 2024

Time: 3:00 pm

Location: Northern Service Center, Room 520

Meeting Notes

Per Diem Requests

Eligible committee members who opted to receive a per diem received request to sign.

Quorum Not Met

It was noted that quorum was not met for this meeting. As a result, official business could not be conducted.

Dakota County Drug Task Force

Captain Josh Fahey, Commander from the Dakota County Drug Task Force presented an overview of the Task Force's operations and current trends. The Task Force's purpose has expanded from its original focus on investigation and prosecution to include drug offenses, gang activity, violent crimes, and supporting investigations by other enforcement agencies. Fahey highlighted the importance of federal and state partnerships, current trends in drug activity such as methamphetamine, fentanyl, counterfeit pills, and firearms, methods used for drug distribution, the role of drug trafficking organizations, concealment methods, and the tools used by the Task Force. Additionally, Fahey detailed that the main funding sources for the Task Force are the High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area (HIDTA), member agencies, and state and federal forfeitures. Fahey mentioned that all agencies contribute to the OD map, which allows the team to see where overdoses are reported, though there can be delays in data entry. Public Safety Alerts are issued when there are clusters of overdoses in specific areas.

Open Forum

August is recognized as Overdose Awareness Month. James Johnson encouraged members to bring ideas on how the committee can increase activity and do more within the community. The DC attorney's office will be at the county fair with a display on overdose deaths, and attendees are encouraged to make connections. Starting Monday, August 12, 2024, five libraries (Burnhaven, Farmington, Pleasant Hill, Kaposia, and Wentworth) will be serving nasal and intermuscular naloxone, as well as fentanyl test strips. A Public Relations campaign is underway to spread the word about the availability of naloxone and Narcan in Dakota County, with Somali and Spanish Naloxone training sessions coming soon. The Rise Up Recovery Roast was recently attended, and members are encouraged to seek out similar events and resources in Dakota County. Bridget Norring shared information regarding the Devin J. Norring Foundation's 4th Overdose & Fentanyl Poisoning Awareness Day on August 27th at the Confluence Hotel.

Public Comment

Two members of the public were present at the meeting. Both members shared the work they are doing in the community, highlighting their ongoing efforts and initiatives.