



Meeting Minutes: Dakota County Opioid Response Advisory Committee

Date: Tuesday, September 3, 2024
Minutes prepared by: Elizabeth Unten
Location: Dakota County Northern Service Center

Attendance

- Lived Experience
 - Maria Anderson
 - Tiffany Neuharth
 - Cara Schulz
 - Jacqueline Young
- Healthcare
 - Michael Beltowsky
 - Marcus Blue
 - Dr. Seema Maddali
- Community Partners
 - Hanna Kazempour
 - Bridgette Norring
- Local Government
 - Nate Burkett
 - Terry Johnson
 - Bryan Schowalter
- Dakota County
 - Erin Carder, Deputy Director, Public Health
 - Jen Jech
 - Elizabeth Unten
 - Alicia Ward

Absent: James Johnson Jr., Jennifer Denmark, Luke Hellier, Q Mursal, and Susan Pugh

Agenda

- Call to Order

- Approval of the Agenda
- Approval of July Minutes
- Approval of August Minutes
- RFP Timeline
- Department Updates
- Open Forum/Member Announcements
- Public Comment
- Adjourn

Next Meeting

Date: Tuesday, October 1, 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.

Approval of the Agenda

Maria Anderson moved to approve the agenda, and it was seconded by Jacqueline Young. The motion passed.

Approval of Minutes

Maria Anderson moved to approve the minutes of the July meeting, and it was seconded by Tiffany Neuharth. The motion passed.

Cara Schulz moved to approve the minutes of the August meeting, and it was seconded by Michael Beltowsky. The motion passed.

RFP Timeline

ORAC 2024 Request for Proposals (RFP) was published on August 22, 2024. Dakota County will host a virtual informational meeting on September 9, 2024, where Dakota County Public Health and contracts staff will provide an explanation of the RFP process. Vendors will have the opportunity to review the information provided. The deadline for submitting requests for proposals (RFPs) is set for September 19, 2024, and Jen will collect all submissions. A subcommittee will convene on September 26, 2024, to review the proposals as a panel. The final selection is scheduled to be presented at the CSCW meeting on December 3, 2024, for board approval.

Department Updates

Social Services Update:

Social Services has welcomed two new chemical health social workers to the team, who will focus on supporting individuals with opioid use disorder. They will provide assessments, specialized care referrals, and resources. Their addition brings valuable expertise and support to address this critical need in our community.

County Update:

The new County Manager, Heidi Welsch, started today, September 3, 2024. Heidi is expected to bring a fresh perspective to the community.

Public Health Update:

James Johnson and Erin Carder will be meeting with the County Board on September 17, 2024, to provide an update on their work and preview upcoming initiatives. One of their current projects is a request for \$55,500 to fund two SBIRT Trainings, four Naloxone Trainings, and to support the seven Dakota County Naloxone Access Points (NAP sites). Notably, two Naloxone Trainings have been scheduled: one on October 16 in Spanish at Wentworth Library in West Saint Paul, and another October 31 at 6:00 p.m. in Somali at the Burnhaven Library in Burnsville. Additionally, as of August 12, 2024, five Dakota County Libraries are now operating as NAP sites. The committee emphasized the importance of creating social media posts to inform the community about these new NAP sites.

Annual Cities Meeting:

Efforts are underway to secure a date for the Annual Cities Meeting in the third quarter. This meeting will bring together city partners and community members to discuss how county opioid funds are being allocated. We will celebrate success in the community and also provide an opportunity for people and organizations to voice their opinions on how they would like to see funds spent and identify areas needing support.

Work Plan:

The work plan includes a goal to develop a strategic plan for the committee. The committee will determine a date and time for a meeting facilitator to guide the strategic planning session. During this strategic planning session, the committee will discuss its focus and goals moving forward, using the session to create the committee's strategic plan. The aim is to reach a consensus on the key objectives for the ORAC committee.

Open Forum

The committee chair spoke to the committee that attendance is essential to achieve quorum for each meeting. If a different date or time could facilitate better attendance, please contact JJ or Erin. Currently, meetings are scheduled for the first Tuesday of each month.

Bridget Norring shared that in August she was invited and attended the Georgia Department of Public Health opioid crisis meeting, spoke in Mankato, and hosted both a Motorcycle fundraiser and the Devin J. Norring Foundation's 4th Overdose & Fentanyl Poisoning Awareness Day. These events were well attended and sparked committee discussion regarding future community events. Some committee members shared that this work could be valuable in spreading the word on Opioid Use Disorder and reducing the stigma. The group discussed the challenge of engaging schools and parents in awareness efforts. Suggestions were made to enhance efforts by increasing community outreach through more events and personal connections to raise awareness about opioid use and related issues. It was also emphasized that ongoing, visible efforts are crucial, strengthening personal connections, word-of-mouth networking will support broader community outreach as well as balancing messaging to avoid stigma and maintain visibility, with a focus on more frequent and effective communication. September is recognized as National Recovery Month and National Suicide Prevention Awareness Month. Upcoming event is The Minnesota Recovery Connection's Walk for Recovery at the state capitol on September 21, 2024, 10 am to 3pm at the Minnesota State Capitol Grounds.

Public Comment

One member of the public was present at the meeting.

Adjourn

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Cara Schulz, seconded by Jacqueline Young, and approved by unanimous consent. The meeting was adjourned at 3:54 pm.