



Meeting Minutes: Dakota County Opioid Response Advisory Committee

Date: Tuesday, October 1, 2024
Minutes prepared by: Elizabeth Unten
Location: Dakota County Northern Service Center

Attendance

- Lived Experience
 - Maria Anderson
 - Tiffany Neuharth
 - Susan Pugh
 - 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
 - James Johnson Jr.
 - Jen Jech
 - Elizabeth Unten
 - Alicia Ward

Absent: Jennifer Denmark, Luke Hellier, and Q Mursal

Decisions Made

- The committee approved a letter of support for the West St. Paul, South St. Paul, and South Metro Fire Department (WSP-SSP-SMFD).

Action Items

- Dakota County Public Health will send follow up email with information explaining why a proposal would be labeled trade secret, event details for the Annual Cities Meeting in November, an invitation to attend the State OERAC meeting as a public member, and a poll to determine preferred meeting times.

Agenda

- Call to Order
- Approval of the Agenda
- Approval of September Minutes
- November ORAC Meeting
- RFP Update
- Department Updates
 - CSC
 - Annual Cities Meeting
 - Narcan Trainings, SBIRT Trainings, Free Naloxone Flyers
 - 7 County Report
 - NaloxBox
- Strategic Plan
- Open Forum
 - Committee member ideas for future business.
 - Discuss alternative meeting times.
- WSP-SSP-SMFD Presentation
- New Business
 - Letter of support for WSP-SSP-SMFD
- Public Comment
- Member Announcements
- Adjourn

Next Meeting

Date: Tuesday, November 5, 2024

Time: 3:00 pm

Location: Hybrid: Teams Virtual Meeting and in person at Dakota County 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

Motion to approve agenda. Made by: Jacqueline Young Seconded by: Terry Johnson Result: motion passed approved by unanimous consent.

Approval of Minutes

Motion to approve the September meeting minutes. Made by: Bryan Schowalter Seconded by: Bridgette Norring Result: motion passed approved by unanimous consent.

November ORAC Meeting

Committee members requested to provide a virtual option for hosting the November meeting. The meeting will be held as scheduled on November 5, 2024, at 3:00 pm with the option to meet virtually or in person.

RFP Update

Jen Jech, Contract Specialist, received 19 RFP proposals with a variety of interests. The Opioid Response Advisory Committee subcommittee will meet on Monday, October 7, 2024, to complete the scoring process and proceed to the next phase. Next steps may include interviewing applicants for clarification or sending out requests for additional information. Approved proposals will be presented to the Board for approval, and once approval is granted, both the awardees and the committee will be notified. The timeline for these actions is still undetermined. All applications will be made available for public viewing following the final selection unless they are classified as containing trade secret information.

Department Update

James Johnson Jr (JJ) and Erin Carder shared Public Health department updates. Welcome to Eli Baker, AmeriCorps Intern, coming to Dakota County for the year from Winona Public Health. Eli will be supporting work for Opioid Prevention along with JJ. Eli's focus will be Naloxone trainings and distributions, as well as supporting the Opioid Response Advisory Committee.

CSC:

Erin Carder and James Johnson Jr (JJ) presented to the county board on September 17, 2024. The board has approved the request for \$55,500 to fund two SBIRT Trainings, four Naloxone Trainings, and to support the seven Dakota County Naloxone Access Points (NAP sites).

Annual Cities Meeting:

November date and location have been secured for hosting the Annual Cities Meeting. This meeting will be held during normal business hours with the goal to bring together city partners and community members to discuss how county opioid funds are being allocated. Meeting information will be sent out later this week. The committee is encouraged to send JJ ideas, highlights, and achievements of work done in opioid prevention.

Narcan Trainings, SBIRT Trainings, and Free Naloxone Flyers:

Dakota County Public Health is looking to increase and enhance Screening, Brief Intervention, and Referral to Treatment (SBIRT) and Narcan trainings by offering hands-on sessions in local communities. Printed flyers and electronic emails were provided to committee members to share information about upcoming trainings within

their networks. The flyers include details for Naloxone trainings on October 16, 2024, in Spanish at Wentworth Library (West St. Paul), and the October 31, 2024, in Somali at the Burnhaven Library (Burnsville), as well as a SBIRT training on November 20, 2024, at Galaxie Library (Apple Valley). The committee is encouraged to submit ideas of for future community naloxone training locations.

7 County Report:

On August 22, 2024, Public Health attended the initial 7-county Metro Opioid Team Meeting. Representatives from Anoka, Carver, Dakota, Hennepin, Ramsey, Scott, and Washington counties shared data and overviews of their opioid response efforts. While Hennepin leads the way with a dedicated core team, it was noted that Dakota County's efforts are on par with the other counties, and we gained valuable insights and ideas to enhance our own initiatives.

NaloxBox:

James Johnson Jr (JJ) provided an update on access options, including NaloxBox units, vending machines, county mailing services, and portable access receptacles like newspaper dispensers. NaloxBox units, already installed in public spaces across the country, are being piloted in the state through DHS micro-grants. A meeting has been scheduled with DHS partners to discuss the upcoming report on the first round of these micro-grants supporting access initiatives like NaloxBox, with a sharing event to follow where attendees are encouraged to participate.

Additionally, DHS is applying for a federal waiver to use Medicaid funds for substance use treatment services for incarcerated individuals up to 90 days before their release.

Strategic Plan

The committee discussed the importance of strategic planning for the upcoming year, with input from various members about their diverse experiences in different sectors. There was consensus that the planning process will require significant time and effort beyond regular meeting hours. To aid in this process, a facilitator, Matt, will be invited to a future meeting to guide the discussion. Members were encouraged to submit ideas via email to help shape the strategic plan, which will set the course for the committee's work over the next one to two years. The committee also discussed potential funding avenues, noting that the strategic plan could lead to requests for financial support from the board or through an RFP process.

Open Forum

The committee discussed the possibility of adjusting meeting times, with members suggesting alternatives to accommodate professional and personal commitments. A survey will be sent to gather input on preferred meeting times. Additionally, a suggestion was made to streamline future agendas by passing both the agenda and minutes together, pending clarification on procedural requirements from the county manager's office.

WSP-SSP-SMFD Presentation

West Saint Paul City Manager Nate Burkett presented the South Metro CORE Team proposal, requesting a signed letter of support from the committee. The proposal's primary goals include reducing opioid overdoses in the West St. Paul and South St. Paul service areas, encouraging treatment for opioid use disorder (OUD), promoting harm-reduction strategies, and fostering partnerships with local entities. The CORE Team seeks additional grant funding of \$800k - \$1.3 million to implement a 3–5-year pilot program aimed at addressing opioid use in the community.

New Business

Motion # 1:

Approve letter of support for WSP-SSP-SMFD grant application proposal. Made by: Cara Schulz Seconded by: Tiffany Neuharth Result: approved by unanimous consent.

Public Comment

Four members of the public were present at the meeting, with one addressing the committee to offer congratulations on their efforts. The speaker highlighted recent data showing a reduction in U.S. overdose deaths, encouraging the committee to celebrate the positive impact of their work in moving the needle on this critical issue.

Member Announcements

The State Opioid Epidemic Response Advisory Committee (OERAC) meeting will be held in-person in Duluth, and virtual. JJ will send the link for the October meeting, which is open to the public.

The committee chair initiated a conversation with School District 196 regarding access to schools and received a helpful contact to share with interested members.

Tiffany Neuharth and Rise Up Recovery shared the annual banquet to support substance use recovery on Thursday, October 17th, at 6 p.m. at Almquist Farms, 21321 Polk Ave, Hastings, MN.

Adjourn

A motion to adjourn the meeting. Made by: Bryan Schowalter Seconded by: Marcus Blue Result: approved by unanimous consent.