



Meeting Minutes: Dakota County Opioid Response Advisory Committee

Date: Tuesday, November 5, 2024
Minutes prepared by: Elizabeth Unten
Location: Hybrid: Teams and Dakota County Northern Service Center

Attendance

- Lived Experience
 - Tiffany Neuharth
 - Jacqueline Young
- Healthcare
 - Michael Beltowsky
 - Marcus Blue
 - Dr. Seema Maddali
- Community Partners
 - Hanna Kazempour
 - Bridgette Norring
- Local Government
 - Luke Hellier
 - Terry Johnson
 - Bryan Schowalter
- Dakota County
 - Erin Carder, Deputy Director, Public Health
 - James Johnson Jr.
 - Jen Jech
 - Elizabeth Unten

Absent: Maria Anderson, Nate Burkett, Jennifer Denmark, Q Mursal, Susan Pugh, and Cara Schulz

Decisions Made

- The committee decided to allocate 70 minutes of the monthly ORAC meetings over the next 3-5 months to collaboratively develop the strategic plan.

Action Items

- Dakota County Public Health send follow-up email with the link to the community input survey, including a list of community groups and organizations receiving the survey, as well as the 2022-2023 MDH data on opioid-related overdoses, which will be shared at the 2024 Annual Cities Meeting.
- Copies of the current flyers for Dakota County Naloxone Access Points (NAP) will be emailed to the committee for sharing on social media and within their communities. Members are encouraged to help spread the word.
- JJ will email Values Statement and Situational Analysis to help the committee prepare for the December Strategic planning session. The committee is asked to return feedback by Thursday, November 21, 2024.

Agenda

- Call to Order
- Approval of the Agenda
- Approval of October Minutes
- Department Updates
- Open Forum
 - Discuss alternative meeting times survey results
 - Strategic Plan: committee of a whole or subcommittee
- New Business
- Strategic Plan
- Public Comment
- Member Announcements
- Adjourn

Next Meeting

Date: Tuesday, December 3, 2024

Time: 3:00 pm

Location: 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: Bryan Schowalter Result: motion passed approved by unanimous consent.

Approval of Minutes

Motion to approve the September meeting minutes. Made by: Marcus Blue Seconded by: Terry Johnson Result: motion passed approved by unanimous consent.

Department Update

Public Health

RFP Update:

Jen Jech provided an update on the RFP selection process. The review committee has selected vendors to recommend to the Community Services Committee of the Board on November 19, 2024. Final County Board approval is expected on December 3, after which the awardees will be notified, followed by notification to the committee.

Introduce Eric and Morgan:

Dakota County Public Health introduced two new staff members who will be working in the substance use and prevention field and will serve as resources available to ORAC. Eric Gipson, Community Coalition Specialist, will focus on substance misuse and suicide prevention among individuals aged 10–24. Morgan Hamernik, Health Promotion Specialist, will concentrate on commercial tobacco and substance use prevention under the Statewide Health Improvement Partnership (SHIP) grant.

Annual Cities Meeting:

It was announced that the 2nd Annual Cities Meeting will be held on Thursday, November 7, 2024, from 1:00 to 2:30 pm at the Robert Trail Library, Large Meeting Room, located at 14395 S Robert Trail, Rosemount, MN 55068. This meeting, required as part of the grant, will offer an opportunity for attendees to engage in meaningful dialogue on community health initiatives, including substance use and prevention efforts. Dakota County Public Health encourages group members to attend to support a robust discussion. Additionally, a community input survey will be launched in tandem with the meeting to gather feedback on the use of settlement funds within the community.

Narcan Trainings, SBIRT Trainings, and Free Naloxone Flyers:

JJ updated the committee on the Narcan trainings held in October, noting that they were well attended and received valuable feedback to improve future sessions. In addition, Dakota County is now offering naloxone at libraries and county buildings. The group discussed opportunities to expand awareness of naloxone in Dakota County emphasizing the importance of encouraging people to seek naloxone before an emergency arises. Committee members were also invited to attend and share information about the upcoming SBIRT training on Wednesday, November 20, from 1–4 p.m. at WSC.

Social Services

Update on the Dakota County Crisis Recovery Center:

JJ provided an update on the Dakota County Crisis Recovery Center, noting that construction is on track for completion in early 2025. A ribbon-cutting is tentatively scheduled for February, with more details to follow. Most of the building will be utilized by Guild for intensive and crisis mental health services, while Dakota County will operate services in one wing, referred to as the "Place to Go." This space will serve as a welcoming location for accessing Dakota County's crisis services, including crisis assessment and connections to community resources and recovery support. The staffing model for the "Place to Go" is still in development. Regarding substance use disorder (SUD) service access, the primary focus will be on mental health crisis services, but there will be a holistic approach to service and recovery, with plans for integration. The committee is encouraged to share community ideas and engage in conversations as the "Place to Go" services are developed.

Open Forum

The committee reviewed the meeting time survey results and agreed the current meeting time works well. Additionally, the committee discussed three options for proceeding with the strategic planning for the future work of the committee.

The options included:

- 1) dedicating the next 3–4 months of monthly meetings to 90-minute strategic planning sessions
- 2) finding two 3-hour blocks of time within the next two months to meet outside of regular ORAC meetings, and
- 3) appointing a sub-committee to create the strategic plan at a time and place of their choosing.

New Business

Motion # 1:

Approve dedicating the next 3–4 months of monthly meetings to 75-minute strategic planning sessions. Made by: Luke Hellier Seconded by: Bryan Schowalter Result: approved by unanimous consent.

Strategic Plan

JJ led the committee in a strategic planning exercise, posing four questions for input. The first question, "How are you feeling today?" aimed to gauge the group's current mindset. The second, "Wouldn't it be cool if?" encouraged creative thinking. The third question focused on opioid prevention: "How would you propose that ORAC increase Naloxone distribution to prevent opioid overdoses?" The fourth question asked the committee to reflect and return with ideas for the December 3, 2024, strategic planning meeting: "If ORAC were to plan and host events to promote opioid education and prevention in Dakota County, what would your ideas be?" Lastly, the committee will receive the Values Statement and Situational Analysis (SWOT—Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, Threats) documents via email after the meeting, with voting members asked to complete and return by Thursday, November 21, 2024.

Public Comment

Two members of the public attended the meeting, both expressing gratitude for the committee's work. One member emphasized the potential of Naloxone vending machines to reduce stigma around accessing overdose prevention resources.

Member Announcements

The Burnsville Fire Department is installing its first Naloxone vending machine, expanding access to Naloxone in the community. Additionally, HealthPartners has opened a new clinic in Apple Valley.

South Metro Fire Department reported that responses to overdoses were flat from September - October 2024, while responding to 19 in Sep and Oct wide range drug related overdoses.

The city of Hastings police department has responded to no fatal overdose in 2 months.

JJ shared the Nationwide 8% reduction from 2022-2023. Dakota County epidemiologist gave data that we are tracking 4.44% increase in Dakota County for fatal opioid related overdoses from 2022-2023. Info from MDH will be shared at the annual cities meeting. Public health will share with the MDH data with the committee via email.

Adjourn

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