



Meeting Minutes: Dakota County Opioid Response Advisory Committee

Date: Tuesday, February 4, 2025
Minutes prepared by: Elizabeth Unten
Location: Dakota County Northern Service Center

Attendance

Voting Member

- Michael Beltowsky
- Nate Burkett
- Jennifer Denmark
- Hanna Kazempour
- Dr. Seema Maddali
- Tiffany Neuharth
- Bryan Schowalter
- Cara Schulz
- Jacqueline Young

Non-Voting Members

- Erin Carder, Deputy Director, Public Health
- James Johnson Jr.
- Alicia Ward
- Elizabeth Unten

Absent: Maria Anderson, Marcus Blue, Terry Johnson, Q Mursal, and Bridget Norring

Action Items

- Dakota County Public Health will send a follow-up email with the finalized four focus areas and action items to the committee before the March meeting.

Agenda

- Call to Order
- Approval of the Agenda
- Approval of January Minutes
- Department Updates
- Public Comment
- Strategic Planning

- Member Announcements
- Adjourn

Next Meeting

Date: Tuesday, March 4, 2025

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.

Call to order

The meeting began without a quorum, so no official business was conducted at the start.

Member Announcements

James Johnson Jr. (JJ) shared that Dakota County will be hosting two community Naloxone trainings in partnership with Steve Rummler HOPE Network at Farmington and Robert Trail libraries in February. Veterans Court peer mentor's will be attending the training in Rosemount. To promote the Farmington training JJ recorded a podcast with the Farmington Feed to promote the event and invited the District 1 ORAC representative to join the training.

The committee chair shared that Q Mursal has submitted a formal resignation, leaving four vacancies. These vacancies are posted on the Dakota County website, and the committee is currently reviewing applications.

Approval of the Agenda

Once quorum was met a 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 January meeting minutes. Made by: Jennifer Denmark Seconded by: Tiffany Neuharth
Result: motion passed approved by unanimous consent.

Department Updates

Alicia Ward shared that the ribbon-cutting ceremony was held for the Crisis and Recovery Center was held on February 3, 2025. The center will open soon housing 16 inpatient beds, providing care for from 10 up to 90 days for qualifying individuals. Dakota County Social Services is hiring a supervisor for the A Place to Go service. The center was designed with a trauma-informed approach creating a serene recovery space. Social Services will be looking for future collaboration opportunities.

Erin Carder announced that the Dakota County Public Health Director, Coral Ripplinger, has resigned, effective February 2025. She also shared that the Dakota County Board of Commissioners approved the five proposals that the Opioid Response Advisory Committee recommended. The Dakota County Contracts Department is now working with selected vendors to finalize agreements.

Public Comment

Three members of the public attended the meeting, no comments.

Strategic Plan

Matt Giljahn and Jess Luce facilitated a strategic planning session with the committee. Members were presented with a printout of the seven focus areas as identified in the previous session. Initially, the committee was presented to focus on the first three areas with three corresponding action items for the next two years. However, after discussion, the group decided to prioritize four focus areas, each with two action items.

1. Create and promote culturally appropriate and stigma-reducing opioid messages.
2. Distribute naloxone throughout Dakota County and educate community on how it works.
3. Engage organizations and schools to address adolescent opioid prevention.
4. Create and expand adult and adolescent recovery services.

The committee requested that the finalized four focus areas and their action items be shared via email prior to the March meeting.

Member Announcements

No additional member announcements were shared.

Adjourn

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