



Meeting Minutes: Dakota County Opioid Response Advisory Committee

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

Attendance

Voting Members:

- Maria Anderson
- Marcus Blue
- Michael Beltowsky
- Terry Johnson
- Hanna Kazempour
- Dr. Seema Maddali
- Bridget Norring
- Cara Schulz
- Jacqueline Young

Dakota County Staff in attendance:

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

Absent: Nate Burkett, Jennifer Denmark, Tiffany Neuharth, and Bryan Schowalter

Agenda

- Call to Order
- Approval of the Agenda
- Approval of February Minutes
- Strategic Planning
- Public Comment
- Member Announcements
- Adjourn

Next Meeting

Date: Tuesday, April 1, 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.

Approval of the Agenda

Motion to approve agenda made by: Maria Anderson Seconded by: Bridgette Norring Result: motion passed approved by unanimous consent.

Approval of Minutes

Motion to approve the February meeting minutes. Made by: Cara Schulz Seconded by: Jacqueline Young Result: motion passed approved by unanimous consent.

Strategic Plan

Jess Luce facilitated the final strategic planning session with the committee. Members collaborated to establish a preferred timeline for prioritizing the committee's work over the next two years. The work was organized by quarters under the four focus areas. The committee determined the following timeline to begin implementation in 2025.

Timeline for Work Plan (2025–2026)

2025 Quarter 2

Create and promote culturally appropriate and stigma reducing opioid messages to increase community awareness.

- Create a substance use disorder and recovery services community guide.
- Start a paid communication campaign to increase opioid awareness and recruit help.

Create and expand adolescent and adult recovery services to improve community health.

- Create a substance use disorder and recovery services community guide.

2025 Quarter 4

Engage organizations and schools to promote adolescent opioid prevention.

- Research and report evidence-based adolescent opioid prevention efforts locally and nationally.
- Identify Dakota County organizations, diversion programs, and schools that serve priority-population adolescents. Create develop relationships and share information.

Distribute naloxone throughout Dakota County and educate community on how it works to reduce overdoses.

- Identify where naloxone is available and where overdoses are occurring. Create a distribution and training plan.

2026 Quarter 1

Distribute naloxone throughout Dakota County and educate community on how it works to reduce overdoses.

- Create a near-expiration naloxone usage plan for community and partners.

Create and expand adolescent and adult recovery services to improve community health.

- Expand peer recovery services.

A motion to approve the strategic plan. Made by: Cara Schulz Seconded by: Marcus Blue Result: motion passed approved by unanimous consent.

At the conclusion of the final strategic planning session, Jess facilitated a reflection to assess the process and identify areas for improvement. Committee members appreciated the structured approach, particularly breaking into groups to develop the plan and prioritizing key actions, which helped them see the bigger picture and how the group's main work aligns. Many were surprised at how 10 individual ideas from each member could come together into an aligned and organized plan with similar goals. They noted the value in organizing individual thoughts and recognizing overlapping ideas, even among those with different experiences. While there was excitement about moving forward, some expressed concerns about workload challenges and the time required to implement next steps. Looking ahead, the committee discussed the need for subcommittees, time to digest the timeline leading up to April with county board approval, and broader community involvement in the process.

Public Comment

One member of the public attended the meeting and was surprised that 10 ideas came together into a cohesive plan. They noted the incredible work and stated that it looks like a strong plan.

Member Announcements

A committee member shared a front-page article from Dakota County Tribune featuring James Johnson Jr., highlighting the impact of the committee's work in the community spreading awareness. The member also attended a Dakota County/Steve Rummeler Hope Network-hosted naloxone training at Robert Trail Library in Rosemount, which was well attended and well received. Additionally, the member shared Eastview High School in Apple Valley is hosting a training tonight for parents titled 'Open Conversations: Empowering Parents to Talk with Your Kids About Vaping and Cannabis.' The committee chair addressed the four open committee seats, encouraging members to network and share the openings within their communities. A concern was raised regarding RFP-selected vendors with addresses outside of Dakota County. Each selected application demonstrated that the work would serve the Dakota County population, and the committee will consider process changes for future RFP selections.

Adjourn

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