



Meeting Minutes: Dakota County Opioid Response Advisory Committee

Date: Tuesday, May 6, 2025
Minutes prepared by: Elizabeth Unten
Location: Dakota County Northern Service Center

Attendance

Voting Members:

- Michael Beltowsky
- Marcus Blue
- Hanna Kazempour
- Dr. Seema Maddali
- Tiffany Neuharth
- Bridget Norring
- Bryan Schowalter
- Cara Schulz
- Jacqueline Young

Dakota County Staff in attendance:

- Erin Carder
- Melanie Countryman
- Alicia Ward
- Eli Baker
- Elizabeth Unten

Absent: Maria Anderson, Nate Burkett, Jennifer Denmark, James Johnson Jr., and Terry Johnson

Agenda

- Call to Order
- Approval of the Agenda
- Approval of April Minutes
- Department Updates
- Strategic Plan Update
- Contracts Update
- 2024/2025 Community Input Survey Results
- Planning for Overdose Awareness Month

- Open Forum
- New Business
- Public Comment
- Member Announcements
- Adjourn

Next Meeting

Date: Tuesday, June 3, 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: Marcus Blue Seconded by: Bryan Schowalter Result: motion passed approved by unanimous consent.

Approval of Minutes

Motion to approve the April meeting minutes. Made by: Michael Beltowsky Seconded by: Bryan Schowalter Result: motion passed approved by unanimous consent.

Department Updates

Public Health Updates

Erin Carder shared upcoming training opportunities. The Screening Brief Intervention and Referral to Treatment (SBIRT) Training will be held on May 14, 2025 at Northern Service Center and Kaposia Library is hosting a Community Naloxone Training in Spanish, scheduled for May 28, 2025 at 5:00 PM. Members are encouraged to reach out to James Johnson Jr. for more information on either training.

Social Services Updates

Alicia Ward announced social services has a new team member joining the jail treatment program. This social worker will serve adults of all genders at the Law Enforcement Center.

Strategic Plan Update

The strategic plan was presented to the Dakota County Board of Commissioners on April 22, 2025. The board expressed gratitude for the energy and commitment from the committee. The board has decided to sunset the committee when member terms end in October. An official letter from the County Manager will include the exact date. James Johnson Jr. has ideas to keep the group involved in the work even after the committee formally ends and will be looking for individuals to support larger projects, including a community awareness campaign. The work outlined in the strategic plan will continue with internal Dakota County staff. James Johnson

Jr. will host focus groups and collaborate with community partners using the strategic plan to guide efforts over the next two years.

Contracts Update

The county has started receiving invoices from contracted vendors. All five vendors are expected to attend the upcoming June 3 meeting.

2024/2025 Community Input Survey Results

Melanie Countryman shared her analysis of the 2025 Community Input Survey Results. A total of 417 community members completed survey. Respondents indicated strong support for substance use education in schools, beginning as early as middle school, and called for easier access to treatment. The feedback aligns closely with the goals highlighted in the strategic plan.

Planning for Overdose Awareness Month

August is both Overdose and Fentanyl Poisoning Awareness Month, with key dates including International Overdose Awareness Day on August 31 and National Fentanyl Awareness & Prevention Day on August 21. Dakota County is beginning to plan countywide events throughout the month of August and is looking for volunteers to support this work. If you're interested in getting involved, please reach out to James Johnson Jr. for more information.

Open Forum

Jacqueline Young has been working with Independent School District 196 to create an opioid awareness event in the community. District 196 is open to hosting a fall community event at the high school for parents, students, and community members. They are willing to provide the space and assist with advertising but would like a clear plan for the event.

Tiffany Neuharth shared information about a new committee, the Rise and Shine Next Generation Committee, is being formed to engage youth and young adults who are interested in being part of the solution to the opioid crisis. Additionally, Tiffany shared that Rise Up Recovery is now hosting a Youth and Young Adult Recovery Meeting for individuals ages 24 and under. These meetings and related activities are held at the community center on Vermillion Street in Hastings.

Cara Schulz shared the city of Burnsville is increasing ways to get teens and young adults involved. Burnsville parks are exploring new options for teen programming increasing access to youth activities. The city of Burnsville is focusing on more than "don't do drugs" messaging, they are looking to provide meaningful alternatives. While cities often offer activities for younger children and adults, there is a noticeable gap in opportunities for teens. Sharing research that support in numbers can be beneficial it would be meaningful to partner across cities.

New Business

No motions were made.

Public Comment

No public attendees were present, and no comments were made.

Member Announcements

No announcements were shared.

Adjourn

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