



# Meeting Minutes: Dakota County Opioid Response Advisory Committee

Date: Tuesday, July 1, 2025  
Minutes prepared by: Elizabeth Unten  
Location: Dakota County Northern Service Center

## Attendance

### Voting Members

- Michael Beltowsky
- Hanna Kazempour
- Dr. Seema Maddali
- Tiffany Neuharth
- Bridgette Norring
- Bryan Schowalter
- Jacqueline Young

### Dakota County staff in attendance:

- James Johnson Jr.
- Jess Luce
- Alicia Ward
- Elizabeth Unten

Absent: Maria Anderson, Jennifer Denmark, Marcus Blue, Nate Burkett, Erin Carder, Terry Johnson, and Cara Schulz

## Agenda

- Call to Order
- Approval of the Agenda
- Approval of Minutes
- Department Updates
- Contracts Update
- Multimedia Awareness Campaign
- Overdose Awareness Month

- Substance Use Resource Guide
- Public Comment
- Adjourn

## Next Meeting

Date: Tuesday, August 5, 2025

Time: 3:00 pm

Location: 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 May meeting minutes. Made by: Michael Beltowsky Seconded by: Hannah Kazempour Result: motion passed approved by unanimous consent.

Motion to approve the June meeting minutes. Made by: Hanna Kazempour Seconded by: Bryan Schowalter Result: motion passed approved by unanimous consent.

### Department Updates

#### Public Health

James Johnson Jr. (JJ) introduced Jess Luce as the interim Supervisor for the Substance Use team. Erin Carder will continue to be involved in Opioid Response Committee (ORAC) and will join the committee meetings when available. JJ shared that overdose awareness events are in the works, with Naloxone trainings being arranged for apartment buildings, Miesville, MN with potential location being Kings Bar or the local church, and various locations in the community.

Bridget shared details about Hasting's 5th Annual Overdose & Fentanyl Poisoning Awareness Day scheduled for August 21 at 6 PM at the Public House in Hastings. The event will include resource tables, guest speakers, and STRIKE Naloxone training.

JJ shared 213 people have completed registrations for SBIRT trainings. JJ is working to provide an advanced SBIRT session for individuals looking to continue their training. The Advanced SBIRT session is scheduled for September 10, 2025 at Dakota County Western Service Center in Apple Valley. JJ also mentioned that he was added to a waiting list for a table during Leprechaun Days in Rosemount.

Dakota County Public Health will host an orientation meeting for faith communities on October 7 and November 5 to increase engagement and invite new voices.

### **Social Services**

No updates from social services. JJ mentioned that Dakota County Crisis Center is fully staffed.

### **Contracts Updates**

Thrive is hiring a bilingual CPRS. JJ has the job description available for anyone interested. They're also collaborating on a Naloxone training in Eagan and planning a community training with Public Health. MRC (Minnesota Recovery Connection) is setting a planning meeting with JJ to outline priorities. These include connecting with the jail, presenting to Public Health and Social Services, and participating in the faith-based initiative.

Lionheart is licensed and open. They are looking for an LADC with adolescent credentials and are ready to begin services.

Gateway is drafting an action document and exploring where they can pick up individuals—possibly from mobile crisis units, ERs, clinics, recovery houses, and even directly at the scene.

Wayside is coordinating a planning meeting with Alicia Ward, Ben Verby (Jail), and JJ. The next step will be connecting with court staff, beginning with Veterans Court.

### **Multimedia Awareness Campaign**

The Dakota County Board of Commissioners approved \$150,000 in settlement funds for an 18-month multimedia campaign on opioid education, prevention, treatment, and recovery. PH Communications, County Communications, and JJ are preparing to release an RFP for an agency to implement the plan. A workgroup will help gather ideas.

Bridget and JJ will coordinate August activities with ORAC members and volunteers.

The solicitation closes August 3, and vendors will be reviewed. The process is moving quickly to align with committee goals.

### **Overdose Awareness Month**

Plans include hosting vigils in all 10 major Dakota County cities on August 31. One building will be lit in purple that evening. City leaders are being contacted. There will be opportunities for vendors and agencies to table at events. SRHN will assist with event logistics. JJ encouraged anyone interested in tabling to reach out.

### **Substance Use Resource Guide**

A meeting invite will be sent to kick off planning. Focus groups will be formed in each of the 7 county districts. ORAC representatives will help lead: District 1: Tiffany, District 3: Maria, District 4: Jackie, District 5: Cara, and District 7: Jennifer. Districts 2 and 6 will have community members facilitate, with support from Public Health. JJ will support all groups. Focus groups will be led by individuals with lived experience. Dakota County Public Health will provide the guide in Somali, Spanish, and English. Promotion and rollout will be supported by Dakota County Communications and the media agency. JJ encouraged members to reach out privately if they are unable to take on this role.

### **Public Comment**

No members of the public were in attendance. No comments were submitted.

### **Adjourn**

A motion to adjourn the meeting. Made by: Hanna Kazempour Seconded by: Bryan Schowalter Result: approved by unanimous consent. The meeting was adjourned at 3:50 pm.