



Meeting Minutes: Dakota County Opioid Response Advisory Committee

Date: Tuesday, September 2, 2025
Minutes prepared by: Elizabeth Unten
Location: Dakota County Northern Service Center

Attendance

Voting Members

- Michael Beltowsky
- Terry Johnson
- Hanna Kazempour
- Dr. Seema Maddali
- Tiffany Neuharth
- Cara Schulz
- Jacqueline Young

Dakota County staff in attendance:

- James Johnson Jr.
- Alicia Ward
- Elizabeth Unten

Absent: Maria Anderson, Marcus Blue, Nate Burkett, Erin Carder, Jennifer Denmark, Jess Luce, Bridgette Norring, and Bryan Schowalter

Agenda

- Call to Order
- Approval of the Agenda
- Approval of Minutes
- Department Updates
- Substance Use Resource Guide
- Minnesota Association of Sober Homes
- New Business
- Public Comment
- Adjourn

Next Meeting

Date: Tuesday, September 30, 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.

Call to order

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

Department Updates

Alicia Ward shared that Social Services approved hiring a Chemical Health Social Worker, and the position is currently posted both internally and externally.

James Johnson Jr. (JJ) welcomed the committee to September, National Recovery Month, noting that Recovery is REAL (Restoring Every Aspect of Life). JJ highlighted several upcoming events including Rise Up Recovery's 5th Annual Recovery Roast on September 10, the Walk for Recovery event at the Minnesota State Capitol Grounds on September 13, the Rally for Recovery at the Minnesota Twins game on September 16, and a gratitude breakfast at Augsburg University's on September 25.

JJ also provided a recap of August activities, including proclamations recognizing Overdose and Fentanyl Poisoning Awareness in Rosemount, Hastings, Burnsville, and Dakota County presenting a countywide proclamation on August 26. Additional events included Thrive Family Services' open house, naloxone trainings, youth safety day, community vigils in Inver Grove Heights, Rosemount, and West St. Paul on August 31, and community buildings lit in purple.

Updates were shared on naloxone expansion to the five remaining Dakota County libraries, Public Health's presence at the Dakota County Fair, and the collaboration with the 7-County Metro Opioid Response unifying public messaging for awareness and education. Planning is also underway for a half-day event at the upcoming annual Cities meeting and new school collaborations, including the Regional Collaborative Meeting on Substance Misuse and Suicide Prevention and community listening sessions with youth and caregivers. JJ concluded by highlighting a new partnership with TriDistrict CAPS, where students will help create youth-driven opioid awareness messages.

Substance Use Resource Guide

Work will begin this month, with 1–2 community "champions" identified to lead community focus groups and gather input from different cultural perspectives on the opioid crisis. An engagement email will be sent soon.

Minnesota Association of Sober Homes

Public Health received a funding proposal from the Minnesota Association of Recovery Homes (MASH) to address DHS cuts in recovery housing using Opioid Settlement funds. The proposal is under review, and members will be asked for input as next steps are identified.

Approval of the Agenda

Once quorum was met a motion to approve agenda made by: Jacqueline Young Seconded by: Terry Johnson
Result: motion passed approved by unanimous consent.

Approval of Minutes

Motion to approve the July meeting minutes. Made by: Cara Schulz Seconded by: Terry Johnson Result: motion passed approved by unanimous consent.

Motion to approve the August meeting minutes. Made by: Cara Schulz Seconded by: Terry Johnson Result: motion passed approved by unanimous consent.

Public Comment

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

Adjourn

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