



Meeting Minutes: Dakota County Opioid Response Advisory Committee

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

Attendance

Voting Members

- Michael Beltowsky
- Marcus Blue
- Terry Johnson
- Hanna Kazempour
- Tiffany Neuharth
- Bridgette Norring
- Bryan Schowalter
- Jacqueline Young

Dakota County staff in attendance:

- James Johnson Jr.
- Jess Luce
- Jake Phillips
- Alicia Ward
- Elizabeth Unten
- Marguedy Worden

Absent: Maria Anderson, Nate Burkett, Erin Carder, Jennifer Denmark, Dr. Seema Maddali, and Cara Schulz

Agenda

- Call to Order
- Approval of the Agenda
- Approval of Minutes
- Department Updates
- Contracts Updates
- Open Forum
- New Business

- Public Comment
- Adjourn

Next Meeting

Date: Tuesday, December 2, 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: Bryan Schowalter Seconded by: Terry Johnson Result: motion passed approved by unanimous consent.

Approval of Minutes

Motion to approve the October meeting minutes. Made by: Bryan Schowalter Seconded by: Marcus Blue Result: motion passed approved by unanimous consent.

Department Updates

Alicia Ward reported the In-depth program launch, a new partnership with Dakota County Public Health, Social Services, ISD 199- Inver Grove Heights Middle School, and ISD 200 Hastings Middle School providing an evidence-based approach for students caught using substances on school grounds. In the program the student is required to complete four 50-minute sessions keeping them in school and offering an alternative to suspension. Link for additional information on the curriculum/program pilot:

<https://www.lung.org/quit-smoking/helping-teens-quit/indepth>

James Johnson Jr. (JJ) shared the substance use prevention team has participated in multiple community events and tabling opportunities and continues to welcome invitations to exhibit and distribute Naloxone throughout Dakota County communities. Free Naloxone remains available at all Dakota County Libraries and at the Public Health Service Centers in Apple Valley and West St. Paul. Beginning in 2026, Dakota County will host monthly Naloxone trainings in collaboration with the Steve Rummier Hope Network (SRHN), rotating through 10 library locations during the first ten months of the year. We are hopeful that a session can be hosted at the newly renovated Wentworth Library during the reopening event, expected to reopen in spring 2026.

Dakota County is continuing the SBIRT training series, with the next session, hosting an advanced SBIRT training scheduled for Thursday, December 4, 2025, at 1:00 p.m. Our second RFP has been awarded, pending final signatures, to a Minnesota-based marketing firm for \$150,000 to support the launch of a multimedia awareness campaign in January 2026. Looking ahead, two additional discussions are planned for 2026: one focused on Recovery Residences and the other on Primary Prevention.

Additional upcoming events include the Annual Cities Meeting at Heritage Library in Lakeville on November 20, 2025, from 2:00 – 4:00 p.m. Starting the Conversation: The Dangers of Non-Prescription Medications at Rosemount High School on Monday, February 2, 2026. The Health Opioid Prevention Education (HOPE) Summit has been rescheduled to March 21, 2026, at Dakota County Technical College, with more details to come. Focus

Group facilitators are nearly finalized, with sessions scheduled across Dakota County library locations throughout November.

Contracts Updates

Thrive! has opened a new Family Resource Center space in Eagan and added Family Peer Services to its offerings.

Lionheart Wellness recently launched an Adolescent Substance Use Disorder (SUD) Treatment Program in Hastings, providing both in-person and virtual services for adolescents.

Wayside Recovery Center is now completing in-custody mental health diagnostic assessments at the Dakota County Jail.

Gateway Recovery Center (Detox & Withdrawal Management) continues to address transportation barriers, providing more than 162 transports to date to ensure access to needed services.

Minnesota Recovery Connection (MRC) has deepened its engagement with Spanish-speaking communities in Dakota County, combining harm reduction education with substance use and opioid use disorder recovery support.

Open Forum

No comments from the committee.

New Business

No motions were made.

Public Comment

No public comments. Five contract representatives were in attendance.

JJ concluded the meeting by thanking members for fulfilling their terms and noted that “there’s no end in sight.” This version of ORAC will be sunset in December.

Adjourn

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