



Meeting Minutes: Dakota County Opioid Response Advisory Committee

Date: Tuesday, December 5, 2023
Minutes prepared by: Elizabeth Unten
Location: Northern Service Center, 1 Mendota Rd, West Saint Paul

Attendance

- Lived Experience
 - Tiffany Neuharth
 - Susan Pugh
 - Jacqueline Young
 - Jennifer Denmark
 - Cara Schulz
- Health Care
 - Michael Beltowsky
 - Marcus Blue
- Community Partners
 - Bridgette Norring
 - Hanna Kazempour
- Local Government
 - Luke Hellier
 - Terry Johnson
 - Bryan Schowalter
- Dakota County
 - Erin Carder
 - Madeline Goebel
 - Elizabeth Unten
- Absent: Q Mursal, Dr. Seema Maddali, and Nate Burkett

Decisions Made

- None.

Agenda

- Introductions
- Chemical Health- Moved to January
- Partner Updates
- Bylaws
- Public Comment
- Adjournment

Next Meeting

Date: Tuesday, January 2, 2024

Time: 3:00 pm

Location: Northern Service Center

Meeting Notes

Partner updates

Hanna Kazempour highlighted the efforts of Change the Outcome. Currently the free program is working to provide education and remove the stigma surrounding opioid abuse. She addressed the emerging trend of Xylazine, and the work to update educational materials to highlight the current trends. Additionally, they are working to share information in schools and increase the availability of Narcan on buses and during school activities. When Change the Outcome visits schools they share a documentary from doctors, personal stories, and facts. Information is given to students to share with parents.

Terry Johnson discussed tracking trends and collaborating with cities and social work to prevent substance abuse, along with strategies to respond to individuals overdosing.

Michael Beltowsky shared initiatives involving parent education through trailers replicating a child's bedroom, Narcan distribution, and collaborative efforts with parents.

Bridget Norring focused on school outreach, sharing impactful videos on YouTube, and stressing the importance of reducing stigma.

Tiffany Neuharth discussed creating spaces for individuals awaiting treatment, post-treatment support, and actively seeking partnerships for harm reduction.

Marcus Blue addressed trends in substance use disorder, collaboration with DHS for treatment access, and individualized treatment plans.

Cara Schulz expressed concerns about the opioid epidemic affecting palliative care access and underscored the importance of prevention and mental health.

Bylaws

Terms of Service Comments:

The committee engaged in a discussion regarding the duration of terms, considering options such as staggered terms and implementing a maximum limit. Several suggestions were put forth, including 2–3-year terms with a maximum of two consecutive terms. It was noted that staggered terms tend to naturally occur.

In terms of position replacement, a rolling application is used, allowing individuals to apply to the Opioid Advisory Response Committee at any time. All applications expire after one year.

Committee discussed plans to create a way to resolve conflicts of interest.

Electing Chairs

Discussion on electing chairs will be on the agenda in the January meeting.

Public Comment:

Three members of the public were present. Attendees expressed gratitude for the work being done in their respective positions.