



Public Health
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Waseca County

Waseca County Opioid Advisory Council
Date: 5/30/25
Time: 1:00 pm
Location: Oak Room, Public Health

Present: Commissioner Milbrath, Commissioner Malterer, Rosalie Grams, Scot Peterson, Nicole Grams, Doug Gerdts, Molly Kortuem, Brandon Smith, Karissa Stenzel, Abigail Malterer, Sarah Berry, Andrea Kronbach

Minutes:

1:00-1:05

Welcome/Introductions

- See above for attendees. In the future we will also have Rachel Cornelius, Shane Roessler, Laura Wenzel, Laura Cain, Jeremy Erler, Jay Dulas
- We can have up to 20 members. Other ideas were to get representation from New Hope Board & Lodge, Mankato Chemical Health, additional community members – Feel free to invite those you think might be interested:
<https://forms.office.com/g/t19LVbRY3c>

1:05-1:10

Meeting Guidelines

- All members have an equal voice
 - Opportunity to speak, vote, agree or disagree during the meetings.
- Speak from your own experience (personal and professional)
- Acknowledge complexity of opioid misuse
 - Avoid using generalizations about people who are using drugs.
 - Request that members work outside of the meetings to learn more about opioid/drug use stigma.
- Audience members will attend the meetings as observers and are welcome to ask questions before or after the meetings.

1:10-1:20

Review of Membership Materials

- a) Per Diem- Optional (for those not here on work time)
 - Please fill out the W9 and submit it. Our business manager will get it entered and have a form for you to sign at each meeting.
- b) Agenda
- c) Bylaws –
 - These are for team to review



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- Changes are welcome and can be brought to a future meeting for discussion
- d) [John Hopkins Guiding Principals](#)
 - Will be using these as our guide

1:20-1:25

Background of Opioid Settlement

- a) A number of years ago, approximately 3,000 lawsuits were brought against opioid manufacturers, distributors, retail pharmacy chains, and marketing consulting firms for their role in the damage caused by the opioid overdose epidemic and opioid addiction crisis.
- b) Due to the volume of lawsuits, many cases were consolidated into multidistrict litigation in order to more efficiently manage proceedings. As a result, \$568 million was directed to Minnesota.
- c) In December of 2021 MN Attorney General's office reached an agreement with MN cities and counties that determined the allocation of the settlement funds to be 75% to counties and cities and 25% to the state.
- d) Fund distribution was established through a Memorandum of Agreement.
- e) Waseca County joined the settlement and stands to receive approximately \$1,070,374 throughout the 18-year payout.
- f) Settlement is meant to provide funding to state, local and tribal governments to be used to combat the opioid crisis.

1:25-1:35

Purpose of Council

- a) Become aware of best practices and educate ourselves on the things that do work.
- b) Establish a baseline understanding of what our community needs and what work is already being done.
- c) Gather community input through an assessment on how funds should best be spent.
- d) Develop a Request for Proposal (RFP) process to enable people in the community to get funding to do the work that is most important. Members of the Advisory Council will review the RFPs, and a formal recommendation to the Board of Commissioners will be submitted for approval. This process will allow us to get as much money out into the community to do the work that we are here to do.



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Memorandum of Agreement details:

- The Memorandum of Agreement is available on the Attorney's General page, which covers the settlement details (link sent to members via email).
- The Minnesota Memorandum of Agreement lists Public Health as the Chief Strategist for the funds making our role to convene stakeholders and community members, layout best practices, and guide the spending of the funds with members of the Advisory Council.
- We are required to have one open meeting a year with municipalities, townships, and cities, which will potentially be scheduled in early 2023.
- We are to prevent and address addiction across areas of Public Health, Public Safety, and Human Services. This is why we asked for vast geographical and sector-based representation in the county.

What is allowed for use with funds:

- Treatment
 - Treatment of opioid use disorder, supporting people with treatment and recovery, connecting people to the help they need, and addressing perinatal needs and babies who are born to parents who struggle with substance use disorder.
- Prevention
 - Appropriate prescribing and dispensing
 - Preventing misuse from the start (ex. in schools)
 - Harm reduction (Narcan, syringe services)
- Other
 - First responders, leadership planning, coordination, training, research, and post-mortem.

1:35-1:45

John Hopkins Guiding Principles

- The Advisory Council will adopt these guiding principles:
 - Principle 1 - Spend the money to save lives.
 - Principle 2 - Use evidence to guide spending.
 - Principle 3 - Invest in youth prevention.
 - Principle 4 - Focus on racial equity.



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- Principle 5 - Develop a fair and transparent process for deciding where to spend the funding.

1:45-1:55

Next Steps

- a) Funding Prioritization Survey: [Steele County Ex.](#)
 - Members liked this, but it is very wordy. Possibly use this for providers and develop something simpler for a community survey - Andrea will send examples soon!
 - Would like to have a survey developed and out by July 1st, 2025 and continue to collect responses until mid-September (in hopes we can get some school feedback)
 - Mental Health Fair activity (Jars w/beads) - Quick and easy feedback when at events
- b) Homework: Browse the materials given and share thoughts/ideas
 - Feel free to email Andrea or the council with ideas, questions, and concerns that come up.
- c) Discussion occurred about possibly doing some quicker funding awards this summer, before school starts. Council will meet in August to discuss this further. Will also start discussing/developing larger RFP process.
- d) Late September or early October, we will meet to analyze results of surveys and start prioritizing where we will spend money.
- e) All meeting notes, how funds are being spent, etc. will be posted on the [Waseca County Public Health website](#)

Next meeting 8/4/25 @ 11:00am Waseca County Public Health – Oak Room