



Washtenaw County Opioid Settlement Advisory Committee

APPROVED MINUTES

Monday, May 4, 2026 11:30am-1pm

Washtenaw County Learning Resource Center, Superior Room

4135 Washtenaw Ave, Ann Arbor, MI 48108

Members Present: Robert Colley, Gina Dahlem, Marv Gundy, Tom Harding, Angela Burchard, Molly Welch Marahar, Katie Abraham

Members Absent: Pam Smith, Chris Frank, Mandy Debono, Sheyonna Watson, Katie Scott

WCHD Staff: Jimena Loveluck, Juan Marquez

1. Call to Order: 11:38am
2. Roll Call: Completed and attendance noted above
3. Approval of Agenda (Action)
 - a. Motion by Rob Colley to approve the agenda, second from Katie Abraham; agenda approved.
4. Public Participation: no public participation
5. Committee Response to Public Participation: N/A
6. Approval of 04/06/26 Meeting Minutes (Action): Rob Colley motioned to approve meeting minutes, second from Katie Abraham; minutes approved.
7. Discussion Item(s)
 - a. Update on Emergency Fund Process from Emergency Fund Subcommittee
 - i. Coming closer to being able to release emergency funds and process. Trying to address roadblocks on how money gets released, but did determine Health Department approval cap at \$60k. Also proposed \$10k short-term operating fund option. Discussed priority factors, including 48197 zip code and housing. Subcommittee will meet a couple more times before bringing more finalized process back to full committee.
 - b. Review requested analyses & norms for future data requests
 - i. If the group wants to agree on data requests, that is fine to request but trying to consider capacity of the health department. Dr. Marquez reviewed data analysis with committee members (see slides). There were questions about EMS zip code which is the zip code of the scene of response and the impact of Delonis Shelter in zip code data. No additional questions from committee members
 - c. Presentations from Funded Programs
 1. Avalon Housing - Bryant Hepp, Presenter
 - a. Introduction to Avalon Housing; opioid remediation activities; implementation, outcome and lessons learned; Q & A

- b. Connecting harm reduction utilization to connect with people at various stages of change
- c. Serve about 900 clients in Washtenaw County and 55% deal with substance use disorder and/or mental illness
- d. SOAR – street outreach and access to recovery
- e. Supportive housing services is the area that is most relevant to their opioid settlement grant
- f. Currently have 29 sites, but most activities are happening in 48103 zip code
- g. Harm reduction activities included distributing 2,000 units of Narcan/year and currently at 476 units after 2 quarters – have identified challenges to both supply and demand
- h. Another activity is targeted outreach and so far 88% of people utilizing HR supplies has been outreached by a Peer Support Specialist
- i. No longer able to distribute safer use kits, but trying to find other ways to make sure people get those resources from other sources
- j. 2 fatal ODs so far this year and no non-fatal ODs; using SOS data
- k. Multi-dimensional recovery capital tool is related to a third activity in building recovery capital
- l. Implementation – what has gone well?
 - i. Targeted/focused outreach, engagement around measurement tool, and integration with other behavioral/physical healthcare
- m. What's been a challenge
 - i. Federal executive orders, federal funding reversals, staffing changes
- n. Lessons learned – staying flexible considering federal instability, meet people where they are at, group programming availability outstrips demand
- o. Committee member asked what they need help with? More coordination between the sites and staff to support that; gray area whether they could distribute supplies if it came from a different funding source; the decision was made to stop offering those at sites due to risk related to HUD funding and ambiguity around rules/policy.

2. Eastern Michigan University, Prevention@EMU - Amber Horwitz, Presenter

- a. Prevention efforts in schools for students aged 12-17
- b. Primarily serve 48197 and 48198
- c. This funding has allowed them to grow their impact and in a more personalized way

- d. Teen Prevention & Recovery Ally Initiative – most of our partners and administrators don't know what kratom is, but it's part of the curriculum; opioid challenge; they do a pre and post-test survey; embedded into physical education and health courses
- e. Reached 215 participants so far
- f. Reviewed their program objectives for Year 1
- g. Working on a digital resource guide for teens which will be a focus for summer 2026
- h. Team is made up of clinical social workers, public health professionals, graduate assistants
- i. Current barriers include stigmatized beliefs; policies and limitations to wrap-around services for participants; lack of funding sources that are longer than 1-year cycle; university connection and not recognized as 501c3 which can limit funding opportunities; funding limitations (i.e. snacks)
- j. First time they have gotten funding from Washtenaw County

8. Adjournment – meeting adjourned at 1:01pm