

Opioid Settlement Advisory Committee

Meeting Minutes

Monday, August 28, 2023
1 p.m. to 2:45 p.m. CT

Committee members in attendance:

- Lt. Governor Tammy Miller, Committee Chair
- Pamela Sagness, Executive Director, Behavioral Health Division, North Dakota Department of Health and Human Services
- Colonel Brandon Solberg, Superintendent, North Dakota Highway Patrol
- Jonathan Holth, Managing Director, Recovery Reinvented
- Aaron Birst, Executive Director, North Dakota Association of Counties
- Mary Korsmo, North Dakota State Association of City and County Health Officials Executive Director, Association of Counties
- Stephanie Dassinger Engebretson, Deputy Director and Attorney at Law North Dakota League of Cities

Committee members absent: None

Welcome and call to order:

Lt. Governor Tammy Miller, Chair, called the meeting to order.

Roll call

Roll call was completed with all committee members in attendance.

Meeting meetings review

February 9, 2023 meeting minutes reviewed. Stephanie Dassinger Engebretson moved to approve. Coln. Brandon Solberg seconded the motion. 6 in favor 0 opposed.

June 29, 2023 Fargo Listening Session minutes and August 21, 2023 Bismarck Listening Session minutes reviewed. Coln. Brandon Solberg moved to approve. Mary Korsmo seconded the motion. 6 in favor 0 opposed.

Meeting agenda review

Stephanie Dassinger Engebretson moved to approve the agenda. Jonathon Holth seconded the motion. 6 in favor, 0 opposed.

Opioid settlement updates

Elin Alm and Parrell Grossman from the Attorney General's office were present and provided updates on the opioid settlements. Since the last committee meeting, the state has received \$1,700,000 from the settlement with distributors and \$11,000,000 from the settlement with Jansen. There are 5 additional settlements that are anticipated to be finalized this fall totaling around \$25,000,000. It was clarified that the \$1,700,000 and \$11,000,000 received and the pending \$25,000,000 is a part of the expected \$60,000,000.

Information from the Behavioral Health Division

Pam Sagness, Executive Director, Behavioral Health Division, DHHS and Committee Member provided information from the Behavioral Health Division including the following:

1. A review of House Bill 1447 and Senate Bill 2248
2. ND data
 - a. A question was posed regarding whether opioid data is showing increases or decreases. The Behavioral Health Division will look into this and report to the committee. A recommendation was made to review data at each meeting.
3. A draft billboard to bring awareness of fentanyl and access to naloxone
 - a. It was recommended to include a phone number on the billboard. A discussion occurred around having the billboard be a part of a larger prevention effort utilizing the state opioid media campaign. It was recommended to get kids involved and information was provided about the Parents Lead program.
4. An overview of the Substance Use Disorder (SUD) Voucher Program
5. An overview of current efforts utilizing federal funds to address opioid misuse
 - a. A question was asked about whether or not DOCR utilizes funds outside of SOR funds to purchase Sublocade for injection. The Behavioral Health Division will look into this and report to the

committee. It was mentioned that local public health units do not always receive all the funding they need through the SOR grant and there is a need for additional funding.

Reviewed recommendations for use of settlement funds received from listening sessions, phone, and email

It was recommended to have all committee members review the list of recommendations and Exhibit E prior to next meeting to identify a few priority recommendations. It was asked if funds could be invested and it was determined that HB 1447 does require the funds to be invested.

Review plans received by committee for the 15% subdivision allocation

The committee received an allocation plan from Fargo Cass. The committee was updated on the submission process for allocation plans, which includes a submission button on www.hhs.nd.gov/opioids/settlement. The Behavioral Health Division and committee members who have contacts with local public health units will share this process with local public health units.

Committee discussion

It was recommended to fit efforts into the state's existing opioid response strategy to collaborate and not duplicate efforts. Emphasis was also placed on ensuring sustainability for efforts after the settlement funds end. It was identified there is still a need to hear from western North Dakota, tribes, from families and individuals who have been impacted, and to hear about cultural practices. It was clarified that at least 20% needs to be spent on prevention, which came out of legislative session and there are not settlement requirements on percentages.. Jonathon provided information to the committee about what other states are doing with settlement funds and will plan to share documents.

Public comments

Lisa Peterson from the Management and Training Corporation (MTC) provided information on what MTC does. Lisa recommended the committee consider funding be used to increase access to services for individuals who are incarcerated or recently release.

Discuss next steps, next meeting agenda, and next meeting date

Next steps will include scheduling a listening in Dickinson with a special invite for tribes to attend. The committee will meet again in 5-6 weeks, following the listening session. During the next meeting, the committee will bring forward priority recommendations and BHD will share information on how a grant process could be utilized.

Adjournment: Having completed the agenda items and hearing no further comments from Opioid Settlement Advisory Committee members, Lt. Governor Tammy Miller, Chair, adjourned at 2:45 PM CT.

Meeting Minutes submitted by Amy Lies, Opioid Settlement Advisory Committee Board Administrator