

Opioid Settlement Advisory Committee
Dickinson Listening Session Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, September 26, 2023
12:30 – 12:50 CT

Committee Members in Attendance:

- Lt. Governor Tammy Miller, Chair
- Pamela Sagness, Behavioral Health Executive Director, North Dakota Department of Health and Human Services
- 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:

- Aaron Birst, Executive Director, North Dakota Association of Counties
- Colonel Brandon Solberg, Superintendent, North Dakota Highway Patrol
- Jonathan Holth, Managing Director, Recovery Reinvented

Welcome and Call to Order:

- Lt. Governor Tammy Miller, Chair, called the meeting to order. Committee members were introduced.

Public Comment:

- Andrew Wohlers – Director of Pharmacy, Spirit Lake Reservation
 - Described harm reduction efforts that are currently supported and occurring. Recommendation for settlement funds to be used for the purchasing of sterile needs and syringes. Purchasing of these items is not currently covered by Federal grants, which is where most of their funding comes from
 - Explained they currently have a Medication Assisted Treatment program and funding is mainly used for suboxone. Recommendation for funding to support MAT so that sublocade can be purchased. Explained that sublocade costs much more than suboxone but could provide more benefit for some individuals.
 - Recommendation for funding to be used to support testing and treatment for hepatitis
 - Recommendation for funding of a treatment center on the reservation so that individuals receiving MAT also have access to residential or inpatient treatment.
 - Recommended an allotment set aside for tribes
- Karen Goyne – Southwestern District Health Unit
 - Explained there is a shortage in prescribers in the community for prescribing Medication for Opioid Use Disorder (MOUD). Heartview has opened and is wonderful but there is a need for incentivizing community prescribers so that prescribing isn't left to just one or two in the community.
 - There is a need for resources and support for individuals to make appointments with providers and support transportation to appointments. There is also a need for coverage for individuals without insurance to access MOUD.
- Hilary – ND Protection and Advocacy
 - Stated she was attending to listening and hear input.

Adjournment: Hearing no further comments from the public or from the Opioid Settlement Advisory Committee members, meeting adjourned at 12:50 PM CT.

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