



COLUMBIA COUNTY

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MINUTES OPIOID ABATEMENT AD HOC COMMITTEE MEETING WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 8, 2023

CALL TO ORDER

The regular meeting of the Columbia County Opioid Abatement Ad Hoc Committee was called to order at 1:00 p.m., by Chair Doug Richmond. The meeting was publicly noticed.

ROLL

An attendance sheet was distributed by Gretchen Halvorsen.

OPIOID ABATEMENT AD HOC COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT: Doug Richmond; Tom Drury; Jeff Leckwee; Ellen Ellingsworth; Roger Brandner; Cheryl Anderson; Susan Fisher; Jessica Beckett; Stephanie Nickel; Keith Miller; Liz Miller.

HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICE STAFF PRESENT: Heather Gove, Director; Gretchen Halvorsen.

OTHERS: Jesica Walter, Shonna Neary, Accounting; County Board Supervisor Denise Brusveen; Jonathan Richie, PDR.

AGENDA/ADDITIONS/ANNOUNCEMENTS

MOTION: TO APPROVE THE FEBRUARY 8, 2023 OPIOID ABATEMENT AD HOC COMMITTEE AGENDA.

Motion by Liz Miller, second by Tom Drury. Motion carried.

APPROVE MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING(s): JANUARY 11, 2023

MOTION: TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE JANUARY 11, 2023 MEETING OF THE OPIOID ABATEMENT AD HOC COMMITTEE.

Motion by Liz Miller, second by Jeff Leckwee. Motion carried.

FINANCIAL REPORT OF SETTLEMENT FUNDS RECEIVED

Columbia County Comptroller Shonna Neary provided the Opioid Settlement Financial Summary, dated 1.31.2023.

PRESENTATIONS PARCC & HARBOR RECOVERY CENTER

Faith Gladem, Harbor Recovery, and Paula Enger, PARCC, both provided information about their agencies, described services and programs, shared data, and handouts. Discussion followed.

OPIOID ABATEMENT AD HOC COMMITTEE MINUTES

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 8, 2023

PAGE 2

HHS STAFF PRIORITIES

Public Health Officer Ellen Ellingsworth and Stephanie Nickel BHLTS Division Administrator discussed the need to identify and document what services and programs would be most beneficial to addicts in Columbia County by creating focus groups of individuals in addiction services, or looking for addiction services, and their families, and collecting data from those groups before proceeding with plans for use of the settlement money. The Division of Health has a grant that can be used to create and facilitate such focus groups. Discussion followed. The Committee, as a whole, agreed that there is a great need in the community for Peer Support. Stephanie also identified the need for more psychologists, psychiatrists, and an overall need for more mental health services, as well as a mental health clinic within HHS to address those needs.

Comptroller Shonna Neary provided an update on the Needs Assessment that she and HHS Director Heather Gove have begun working on to determine if a mental health clinic within Columbia County HHS is warranted and if it can be self-sustaining. Shonna and Heather are working on an RFP in order to hire an independent consultant to initiate the process and write a report on the findings. The results of this process could then be incorporated into the final report from the Committee to the County Board.

5-YEAR BUDGET CREATION FROM SETTLEMENT FUNDS

This agenda item was placed on hold as the HHS staff work on gathering feedback and data from focus groups and undertaking an in-depth assessment of the actual needs in the community. Chair Richmond and committee member Tom Drury reported that they will be visiting Winnebago County HHS tomorrow in order to learn more about their programs, services, and solutions for addressing drug addiction in that county. Assistant Corporation Counsel Susan Fisher reminded the Committee of their duty to gather information and data, determine priorities for the settlement funding, and then to create a written report for presentation to the full County Board which will ultimately determine where/how the money will be spent.

FOCUS GROUPS: PERSON IN RECOVERY; PERSONS TRYING TO BE IN RECOVERY; FAMILY MEMBERS OF THOSE RECOVERED

Ellen Ellingsworth and Stephanie Nickel explained why focus groups are so important to the process of determining how and where the settlement money is spent because with the data and feedback from the groups, the solutions can be tailored to what is most needed in Columbia County. Columbia County does not have the resources that other counties typically do, so this understanding also needs to be factored into the solution.

Assistant Corporation Counsel Susan Fisher shared with the Committee that any funding for programs or services over \$30,000 will require an RFP process in order to meet the requirements of the County's procurement rules.

CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

Chair Richmond reminded the group of his and Tom Drury's visit to Winnebago County tomorrow, and Chair Richmond agreed to follow up the visit with a report to the Committee.

OPIOID ABATEMENT AD HOC COMMITTEE MINUTES
WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 8, 2023
PAGE 3

SET NEXT MEETING DATE

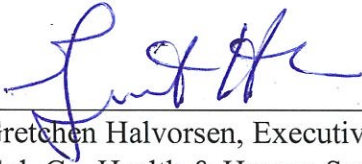
The next meeting of the Columbia County Opioid Abatement Ad Hoc Committee is scheduled for Wednesday, March 8, 2023 at 1:00 p.m., in Meeting Room 3, at Columbia County Health & Human Services Department, 111 E. Mullett Street, Portage, WI.

ADJOURNMENT

Chair Richmond declared the meeting adjourned at 2:26 p.m.

The Columbia County Opioid Abatement Ad Hoc Committee will reconvene for their next meeting on Wednesday, March 8, 2023 at 1:00 p.m., in Meeting Room 3, at Columbia County Health & Human Services Department, 111 E. Mullett Street, Portage, WI.

Respectfully submitted,



Gretchen Halvorsen, Executive Secretary
Col. Co. Health & Human Services Dept.

cc: County Board Chair Chris Polzer
County Board 1st Vice Chair Denise Brusveen
County Board 2nd Vice Chair Matthew Rohrbeck

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