

COLUMBIA COUNTY

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MINUTES OPIOID ABATEMENT AD HOC COMMITTEE MEETING WEDNESDAY, MARCH 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; Cheryl Anderson; Susan Fisher; Jessica Beckett; Stephanie Nickel; Keith Miller; Liz Miller.

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

OTHERS: Darren Schroeder, County Board Supervisor; Jessica Walter, Shonna Neary, Accounting.

AGENDA/ADDITIONS/ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

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

APPROVE MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING(s)

MOTION: TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE FEBRUARY 8, 2023 MEETING OF THE OPIOID ABATEMENT AD HOC COMMITTEE.

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

FINANCIAL REPORT OF SETTLEMENT FUNDS RECEIVED

No report from Accounting on the settlement funds.

UPDATE ON FOCUS GROUPS

Stephanie Nickel reported that Public Health has begun planning the focus groups and has secured sites for the meetings in Lodi, Columbus, and Portage. The meetings are planned for May.

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UPDATE ON RFP FOR MH CLINIC STUDY

HHS Director Heather Gove has completed the draft RFP and has handed it off to Shonna Neary, Comptroller, for review. The RFP will also need to be reviewed by Corporation Counsel prior to posting. The initial plan is to post the RFP for a couple of weeks and see who is interested in submitting an application, then holding a pre-bid conference for those interested parties so that all questions can be answered prior to them submitting their proposals. Then, the RFP would continue to be posted for a period of time with an established due date for submission of all proposals. Discussion followed.

UPDATE ON VISIT TO WINNEBAGO COUNTY HHS

Tom Drury and Chair Doug Richmond shared information learned at their February 9 visit to Winnebago County HHS regarding treatment and recovery programs. They had an opportunity to talk with the following people: Winnebago County DA – talked about his personal commitment to program and discussed diversion programs for low level charges; Peer Recovery Coaches, OFR team members, a personal therapist – emphasized great collaboration countywide from agencies; Peer Response Team members (they have a dozen people for non-fatal ODs); Solutions Recovery staff (private organization); and they also discussed the following services provided by Winnebago County: 7-day week drop in center; peer support; sober living; child care; drug court sat through session and described as “very interactive” and “paid for from county levy, donations, grants”; Unity Recovery Services-private business; County and Tribes working together, putting peer support programs in place; “peer and recovery support - the essence of what keeps everything going in Winnebago”. The Winnebago County Board Chair is chair of the Winnebago County Opioid Abatement Committee. Discussion followed. Do we have everyone at the table for this committee? Request to have law enforcement staff at every opioid committee meeting.

5-YEAR BUDGET CREATION FROM SETTLEMENT FUNDS

Tabled.

DISCUSSION ABOUT REPORT TO COUNTY BOARD

The committee members discussed identifying what topics need to be addressed in the report, identifying what organizations and services are needed in community, what the suggested solutions are or might look like, and what processes will need to be established in order to proceed. The group agreed that the Committee needs to clearly identify the need and lay out where Columbia County needs to focus on in the community to address the need. Susan Fisher discussed parameters for report, possible templates, the need to establish a plan for the length of the payout, the need to incorporate findings from the focus groups, and make recommendations in the report to the County Board.

Chair Richmond requested members to identify deficiencies each sees in the County. Discussed coordination of agencies – do we have it, how can we make it better, who should be doing it?

Susan Fisher recommended all Committee members review the 2018 Fact Sheet, the story of Columbia County in the litigation case, and the report from the Overdose Fatality Team as tools

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to use and good resources to incorporate in the report to the County Board. Susan promised to research different templates that could be used to structure the report.

CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

Chair Richmond shared information on Rotary International and the new RI President who wants to focus on mental health for his term. Chair Richmond is researching to see if the Committee can write for and receive a RI grant to help with the opioid abatement settlement plan project. Chair Richmond also reported on Tom Farley, who lives in Madison, the brother of comedian Chris Farley, who works for a company focused on drug addiction. Mr. Farley speaks in schools and other groups about addiction. Chair Richmond suggested that he could be contacted for a future community event. Chair Richmond asked for members to bring back ideas to the next meeting about what might work.

SET NEXT MEETING DATE

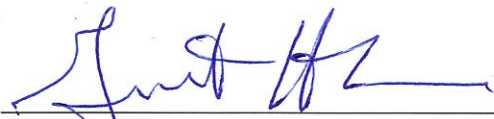
The next meeting of the Columbia County Opioid Abatement Ad Hoc Committee is scheduled for Wednesday, April 12, 2023 at 1:00 p.m., in Meeting Room 3, at Columbia County Health & Human Services Department, 111 E. Mullett Street, Portage, WI.

ADJOURNMENT

Chair Richmond declared the meeting adjourned at 2:12 p.m.

The Columbia County Opioid Abatement Ad Hoc Committee will reconvene for their next meeting on Wednesday, April 12, 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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