

Van Buren County Opioid Settlement Steering Committee
Van Buren County Community Mental Health Conference Room
801 Hazen St; Paw Paw, MI 49079

Meeting Minutes – February 5, 2025 at 9:00AM

1. Call to Order & Attendance: Meeting was called to order at 9:17 AM

Present: Commissioner David DiStefano, Sheriff Abbott, Director Recovery Zone Jewel Dailey, VBCMh Substance Use Disorders Services Supervisor Nikki VanSandt, VBCMh Division Manager of Community Services Cande Rutherford, and Community Services Director Lisa Ransler.

2. Approval of Agenda: A motion was made by Abbott, supported by DiStefano, to approve the agenda for February 5, 2025. Motion approved unanimously.

3. Approval of Minutes: A motion was made by Abbott, supported by Rutherford to approve the minutes from the November 8, 2024 meeting. Motion approved with DiStefano abstaining.

4. Financial Report – Opioid Settlement Fund: Lisa Ransler provided the group with a financial update, there were no changes in financial status from the last meeting, with current funding at \$748,268 available in the fund.

5. Public Comment: None.

6. Project-related Updates: None.

7. Old Business: The group discussed potential projects for the settlement funds and whether a large project would be the most beneficial to the community at large or small ones. Housing has been identified as a major barrier for those trying to overcome addictions and there is none available in the County. Concern was also addressed regarding legacy costs to the county if large projects were undertaken. Ultimately the group felt that an RFP process for individual projects would best serve the community. Many budgets have been cut and there is a need for additional services. Staff will prepare summaries of what the Task Force has done so far, summarize the assessment documents, guides on opioid spending and draft an RFP for review at the next meeting. Task Force members will take time to review the documents and come prepared for discussion at the March meeting.

8. New Business: None.

9. Adjournment: Meeting was adjourned at 9:55 AM.

Submitted by Lisa Ransler