

Van Buren County Opioid Settlement Steering Committee

Van Buren County Community Mental Health
801 Hazen St; Paw Paw, MI 49079 Conference Room C

Meeting Minutes – April 2, 2025, at 9:00 AM

I. Call to Order & Attendance

The meeting was called to order at 9:00 AM.

Present: Commissioner Mike Chappell, Commissioner David DiStefano, Sheriff Abbott, Director Recovery Zone Jewel Dailey, VBCMH Substance Use Disorders Services Supervisor Nikki VanSandt, Specialty Courts Program Supervisor Brianne Smith, VBCMH Division Manager of Community Services Cande Rutherford, Finance Director Becky Grabemeyer, Community Services Director Lisa Ransler. Two guests were also present.

II. Approval of Agenda

Motion by DiStefano, supported by Smith, to approve the agenda for April 2, 2025. Motion approved unanimously.

III. Approval of Minutes

Motion by DiStefano, supported by Abbott, to approve the minutes from the March 5, 2025 meeting. Motion approved unanimously.

IV. Financial Report – Opioid Settlement Fund

A financial report was provided. The current Fund Balance is \$729,108.17 with approximately \$157,200 expected this year.

V. Public Comment

None.

VI. Reports / Project-related Updates

Updates were embedded within the agenda items discussed. No separate reports were presented.

VII. Old Business

Lisa presented the draft RFP and requested feedback on eligibility criteria, award amounts, timeline, and evaluation metrics. Discussion highlights included:

- The Task Force agreed to broaden eligibility to include healthcare providers, grassroots groups, and other sectors.
- The Task Force agreed to open eligibility for the first round and refine criteria in future rounds.
- The Task Force agreed to cap 2025 grant awards at \$150,000 total to pilot the program and preserve flexibility.

- The Task Force agreed that no individual grant cap was established, but discretion will be exercised.
- The Task Force agreed that projects will be funded annually, with potential for multi-year funding in future rounds.
- The Task Force agreed that 10% indirect costs allowed per project; questions raised about how this aligns with the 15% administrative cap.
- The Task Force agreed that the RFP will include quarterly and annual reporting requirements.
- The Task Force agreed that proposals must align with Exhibit E and identified community priorities: transitional housing, peer supports, MAT access, transportation, and stigma reduction.

VIII. New Business

A. Outreach and Marketing – The group discussed hosting a public meeting in May to review priorities and gather community input before issuing the RFP in June. Suggestions included targeting special populations and moving future meetings to the County Boardroom for improved technology access.

B. Administrative Support – Judge DeStefano recommended using the 15% allowable for administrative costs to support staffing needs. Lisa will develop a budget proposal.

C. Program Suggestions – The Overdose Lifeline youth education program was mentioned as a valuable model to explore. Members discussed school access challenges for prevention programming and emphasized creative entry points such as ISD programs.

IX. Adjournment

Motion by Abbott, supported by VanSandt, to adjourn the meeting at approximately 10:30 AM. Motion approved unanimously.

Next Meeting – Wednesday, May 7, 2025 at 9:00 AM

Submitted by: Lisa Ransler