

Kenosha County Opioid Abatement Advisory Panel

Minutes – Tuesday, March 28, 2023, 1:30 p.m.

Committee Attendees: Kari Foss, Sheriff David Zoerner, Keri Pint, Guida Brown, Rebecca Dutter, Captain Katie Hall, Mary Ouimet, Chief Patrick Patton

Excused: Chief David Smetana

Guests: Dr. Judy May, Erin Decker, Kyle Flood, Josh Schreiner, Levi Stevenson, Lisa Koenen

General Business

1. Call to Order – The meeting was called to order at 1:30 p.m. Each Committee member in attendance introduced themselves.
2. Citizen Comments – Kyle Flood, community organizer, shared information about Milwaukee’s recent installation of vending machines throughout the city that contain fentanyl test strips, Narcan and other resources to address addiction and the drug crisis, and suggested the panel look into doing something similar in Kenosha. He also offered himself as a resource to the community re the drug crisis.
3. Call for approval of minutes from February 28, 2023. Becky Dutter moved, Guida Brown second, motion passed.
4. Levi Stevenson, QA with DADBHS presented information from Jennifer Madore re Opioid Heat Maps on 5 years of EMS runs and Medical Examiner data. Map shows the 53140 zip code as having the highest number of overdose incidents with pockets in Twin Lakes, a western Kenosha County trailer park among other areas. This info is used to determine intervention, harm reduction and outreach locations.

Review of data (2021) indicates 5 individuals on probation/parole and 1 incarcerated; highest percentage falls into 36-55 year-old white male demographic. Age appears to be moving up into 50-65 years old. Meds on board are often poly-substances but we don’t know if the person was seeking opioids. Lack of sophisticated data management is the barrier to being proactive rather than reactive. Two MAT programs are run at the jail for those who are ID’d as high-risk releases.

Reviewed data from the last 4 quarters – this info will be used to determine our 2023 outreach. The same areas appear as having high incidents.

There was a suggestion to include peer support with outreach, however certification has caused a barrier and we’ve not been successful in hiring peer support. Peer Support will be added to the April meeting as a topic.

Please review the DOC Opioid related deaths report.

5. Reviewed the list of Medicaid certified Residential Treatment facilities within 50 miles. First four listed facilities in Racine are closed. United Community Ctr. prioritizes pregnant women and users of IVD with a waitlist of 6 weeks; Meta has one home for women w/kids; Matt Talbot, Genesis, Second Century and Horizon Health Care (run by same company) have only a few avail beds to non-DOC referrals, no timeframe for wait due to size of waitlist, must be fully detoxed and have n-person assessment done in Waukesha; WI Community Services has exclusive DOC contract; IRIS 4 week waitlist; Lutheran SS has one house, 4-6 week waitlist; all this illustrates the difficulty in accessing services.

Racine County will build a residential substance abuse facility to open 2025. KC may be able to contract with RC for beds at that time. See the flowsheet provided by Matt Talbot that explains how decisions are made as an understanding of admission to their residential treatment.

6. Dr. Judy May, ASAP, shared information on Gabapentin and overdoses, please review the handouts. Gabapentin was originally approved to treat epilepsy and postherpetic neuralgia, currently used for a large variety of pain conditions. When opioid crisis became apparent, Gabapentin was used as a replacement and is now the 5th most prescribed med. WI is one of 11 states that lists it as a controlled substance. It first showed up in KC 2018; in 2021, Gabapentin was onboard for 11 deaths. Gabapentin overdose affects respiratory system.

Suggestion was to include Gabapentin as an outreach topic especially with prescribers/pharmacists; the education piece for the community would be the correlation between Gabapentin combined with opioids.

7. Outreach position suggested last month had been sent to the County Executive and we're waiting for a response.
8. Other topics added –
 - Both Sheriff Zoerner and Chief Patton asked to discuss narcotics analyzer devices. Sheriff Zoerner shared that 8 officers have been exposed to fentanyl/opioids and treated at the hospital in recent year(s). The TruNarc Analyzer and Pendar X10 are handheld instruments designed for on-demand field ID of drugs. Josh Schreiner described his use in the field with these analyzers (using Racine County's analyzer) and urged purchase consideration for this instrument for field use. Sheriff Zoerner mentioned that he has not had luck with grant funding for this item and also asked for purchase consideration with funds from the abatement settlement. Kari will add this topic to the April agenda and will provide info from RC re their device(s).
 - Our Narcan supply has been limited this year. KPH will use some of their SAMHSA grant to purchase additional Narcan. April's agenda will include further discussion.
 - April agenda to include time for discussion re Narcan supply, drug analyzer devices, supplemental awards and OD survivor data
9. Adjournment – Motion to adjourn made by Guida Brown, second by Rebecca Dutter. Meeting was adjourned at 2:56 p.m.