

Kenosha County Opioid Settlement Advisory Panel

Minutes – Tuesday, March 26, 2024, 4 p.m.

Pillar Health, Kenosha, WI

Committee Attendees: Kari Foss, Sheriff David Zoerner, Chief David Smetana, Mary Ouimet, Rebecca Dutter, Keri Pint

Guests: Lois Brandt, Dee Dee Martinson, Lisa Koenen

General Business

1. Call to Order – The meeting was called to order at 4:03 p.m.
2. Citizen Comments
 - a. Lois Brandt and Dee Dee Martinson asked for clarification of the basis of the panel. Kari shared that the Opioid Settlement Advisory Panel's (OSAP) directive is to make recommendations to the County Executive on the use of the Settlement funds. Exhibit E, referenced by Martinson, is the guideline through the lawsuit that the panel must follow.
 - b. Chief Smetana explained the panel's role is to listen to opinions/ideas coming from the public, then make a best-case determination on referring those vetted ideas to the County Executive. The funds are fairly restrictive.
 - c. Kari further explained that the Kenosha County Substance Abuse Coalition along with Kenosha County Public Health, Thrive, Community Health Assessment, and others are the working groups while the OSAP is an executive committee that makes fiscal recommendations to the County Executive for the use of the settlement funds.
3. Review of Minutes – Call for approval of minutes from January 23, 2023. Becky Dutter moved to accept, Keri Pint second, minutes approved.
4. Peer Support Specialist Training – Kenosha County purchased Peer Support Specialist Training. 30 individuals took the training, 22 completed with 5 of the 22 being Kenosha County residents. We cannot reach out directly to the individuals about positions however, Kari can forward peer support positions to her contact at the State who can contact those who have completed the course. Participants included residents from Racine, Walworth, Jefferson, and Brown Counties.
5. Settlement Updates – Kari shared an article about the settlement litigation for information only. Kenosha County currently has \$2.38 million earning about \$6K/month in interest.
 - a. Chief Smetana will have a meeting soon to discuss the use of Pleasant Prairie's settlement funds. The use is very restrictive – for treatment or remediation purposes only.
6. Panelist Updates –
 - a. The next meeting will be on May 28 from 4 to 5 p.m., in Somers, if available. If not, then in Twin Lakes. Sheriff Zoerner will contact Somers.
 - b. There was discussion about promoting meetings on social media, websites, and word of mouth since attendance is limited.
 - c. Sheriff Zoerner shared that the spectrometers were ordered at a savings of \$7K. Staff training will be soon. The goal is to have 2 instruments on the road at any given time.

- d. Supervisor Stock, chair of the Human Services Committee, has requested a detailed account of all opioid settlement dollar expenditures (over 5 quarters).
 - e. Trends: we are seeing an uptick in Xylazine overdoses. Milwaukee is seeing Carfentanil overdoses, but none in Kenosha County yet.
 - f. There was discussion on the opioid crisis messaging – it seems the public has become desensitized to what is happening. Personal stories seem to make a greater impact however, due to privacy issues those are difficult to share. BHS videos appearing on Facebook, in the Public Safety Building, and other locations are an attempt to share these personal stories. We continue to encourage partners to share stories, videos, etc., whenever possible. Screening in movie theaters before the movie begins was a suggestion.
7. Adjournment – Motion to adjourn made by Chief Smetana, second by Sheriff Zoerner. Meeting was adjourned at 4:46 p.m.