



**CHAMPAIGN COUNTY BOARD**  
**OPIOID SETTLEMENT TASK FORCE**  
County of Champaign, Urbana, Illinois

**MINUTES** – Approved as Distributed on October 30, 2023

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DATE: Wednesday, September 6, 2023  
TIME: 6:30 p.m.  
PLACE: Shields-Carter Meeting Room  
Brookens Administrative Center  
1776 E. Washington St., Urbana, IL 61802

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**Committee Members:**

<b>Present</b>	<b>Absent</b>
Aaron Esry	
Jennifer Locke (Chair)	
Diane Michaels (Vice-Chair)	
Emily Rodriguez	
Ed Sexton	
Chris Stohr	
Jennifer Straub	

**Others Present:** Matt Banach (Assistant State’s Attorney), Julia Rietz (State’s Attorney), Michelle Jett (Director of Administration), Kyle Patterson (County Board Chair), and Megan Robison (Recording Secretary)

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**Agenda Items**

**I. Call to Order**

Chair Locke called the meeting to order at 6:40 p.m. (*technical difficulties delayed the start of the meeting*).

**II. Roll Call**

A verbal roll call was taken, and a quorum was declared present.

**III. Approval of Agenda/Addendum**

**MOTION** by Ms. Straub to approve the agenda; seconded by Mr. Sexton. Upon vote, the **MOTION CARRIED** unanimously.

**IV. Public Participation**

None

**V. Communications**

None

**VI. New Business**

A. Selection of Vice-Chair

Mr. Esry **NOMINATED** Diane Michaels for Vice-Chair; seconded by Mr. Sexton. Upon vote, the **NOMINATION CARRIED** unanimously.

B. Opioid Settlement Information

1. Background
2. Amount Received
3. Amount Anticipated
4. Qualifying Expenditures

Ms. Jett gave a presentation outlining what these funds are and what the Task Force can do with them. She explained what opioids are and why there was a class action lawsuit. Mr. Banach explained when and how Champaign County joined the lawsuit in 2017. Ms. Jett also listed the local municipalities and counties that will also be receiving funding.

Board members received a list of remediation uses for the settlement funds and Ms. Jett explained the County Board has three options: prevention of opioid usage, treatment of opioid usage and analysis of usage within the County. Currently, the County has received a little less than \$600,000 and will receive another \$1.8 million over the next 15 years.

Ms. Jett also reached out to the County Coroner and received information about opioid-related deaths. The data shows that opioid-related deaths spiked severely in 2021 and have tapered off since then.

C. Effects of Opioids in Champaign County

1. Champaign County Sheriff

Sheriff Heuerman was unable to attend the meeting but did send some information to the committee members regarding the use of Narcan in Champaign County. Ms. Locke paraphrased a statement from the Sheriff explaining he hopes the County Board puts as much money as possible towards prevention.

Mr. Esry asked if County funds pay for the Sheriff's supply of Narcan. Ms. Jett explained that the Sheriff receives Narcan through a state grant, but it might be beneficial to reach out to the smaller police departments to see if they need assistance with purchasing Narcan.

2. Champaign-Urbana Public Health Department

The representatives from C-UPHD did not attend the meeting.

Ms. Jett has spoken with C-UPHD representatives, and they stated with some funding they would be able to reach out to the rural fire departments about training and the supply of Narcan.

Ms. Locke asked how many Narcan vending machines are located in Champaign County and what is the cost to provide more where they are needed. Ms. Jett explained the machine at C-UPHD is very frequently used and very successful. A new machine was just installed on campus, and they make deliveries to Rantoul. C-UPHD would like to have funding for more machines throughout the County.

The initial cost for a vending machine is approximately \$120,000 with the annual maintenance costs are around \$60,000-80,000.

3. County Board of Health

Due to technical difficulties, the County Board of Health representatives were unable to participate in the meeting.

D. Discussion

Ms. Jett suggested doing a needs assessment and she could contact GIS to do some heat maps and some other entities to provide additional information. Ms. Rietz explained the prevention of opioid usage is very important to her and she cautioned the County Board members on taking on liability/responsibility. She suggested finding a process to seek proposals from the experts in the field of what should be funded, then analyzing those proposals to make the final decision on what they would like to fund. She mentioned the opportunities within our own organization to enhance the work that is already being done. She also mentioned that schools, healthcare organizations, homeless communities and domestic violence organizations might have needs that are unknown to the Task Force.

Mr. Stohr expressed his agreeance with doing a needs assessment as a first step in this process. Ms. Locke would like to reach out to surrounding counties to collaborate and pull resources together to make the best use of the funds in our community. Ms. Michaels stated we need to make sure we aren't overlapping what other entities are already doing with their funds.

Ms. Rietz suggested hearing from a drug court representative and someone from Mental Health Board or Regional Planning Commission to see how they analyze requests for funding or to see if they would be able to assist with this project.

**VII. Other Business**

A. Date of next meeting

October 4, 2023 @ 6:30 p.m.

**VIII. Chair's Report**

None

**IX. Adjournment**

Chair Locke adjourned the meeting at 7:41 p.m.