



**CHAMPAIGN COUNTY BOARD
OPIOID SETTLEMENT TASK FORCE**

County of Champaign, Urbana, Illinois
Monday, October 30, 2023 - 6:30 p.m.

Shields-Carter Meeting Room
Brookens Administrative Center
1776 E. Washington St., Urbana

MINUTES – Approved as Distributed on December 4, 2023

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

Committee Members:

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

Others Present: Michelle Jett (Director of Administration) and Megan Robison (Recording Secretary)

Agenda Items

I. Call to Order

Chair Locke called the meeting to order at 6:32 p.m.

II. Roll Call

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

III. Approval of Agenda/Addendum

MOTION by Mr. Esry to approve and amend the agenda to add Judge Dyer as VII. A. 1 and move the others down one spot; seconded by Ms. Rodriguez. Upon vote, the **MOTION CARRIED** unanimously.

IV. Approval of Minutes

A. September 6, 2023

MOTION by Ms. Michaels to approve the minutes of September 6, 2023; seconded by Ms. Straub. Upon vote, the **MOTION CARRIED** unanimously.

V. Public Participation

None

VI. Communications

Chair Locke was in a local establishment this week where she found a used package of Narcan in the bathroom. She checked to see if there had been any emergency calls made from that location, didn't see any and hope that means the Narcan did its job.

VII. New Business

A. Effects of Opioids in Champaign County

1. Champaign County Drug Court

Judge Ben Dyer, a Circuit Judge who oversees the Champaign County Drug Court, explained to the Task Force how drug court is designed, the goals of the program and what departments are involved. He explained that the most difficult substance they tackle are opioids and he knows of at least 5 people that he represented while in the Public Defender's Office who lost their battle with opioids. He stated that medication assisted treatment has been the most successful treatment they have seen, and they assist their clients with applying for Medicaid insurance to pay for the treatment. After treatment they go through Moral Recognition Therapy and then they slowly roll back treatment and therapy to allow for the client to begin working.

Judge Dyer stated he would like to do more research on how the funds can be used. Some immediate thoughts would be for clients that cannot get into residential treatment due to insurance issues or for interim housing subsidy. County Department Heads would most likely ask for funds for additional personnel to dedicate to drug court proceedings.

2. Champaign-Urbana Public Health Department

Joe Trotter, Harm Reduction Program Coordinator at Champaign-Urbana Health Department, presented information about his program and what they see in Champaign County and surrounding areas. Overdoses are worsening nationwide and, in our area, because fentanyl (an opiate) is getting into the drug supply on the street.

Ms. Michaels asked about the risk of liability with the use of Narcan. Mr. Trotter explained that there is a standing medical order that covers anyone in the State of Illinois that allows them to carry and administer Narcan without risk of liability as long as they don't use it on someone that is conscious. The use of Narcan will not harm someone that has not used opioids.

Ms. Locke asked about the ease of access outside of Champaign/Urbana. Mr. Trotter and other staff members spend time out in the community making deliveries of Narcan to many different locations and they are trying to expand on that.

Mr. Trotter would like to see funding going towards medically assisted recovery within the jail system, people are detoxing on their own and this only leads to them to want to use as soon as they are discharged from jail. The death rate upon release is fifteen times that of what it is on the street. Other options for funding would be drug diagnostic devices similar to what they use in the Chicago area and Narcan "vending machines" strategically placed throughout the County.

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3. County Board of Health

Dr. John Peterson, County Board of Health member, spoke about medically assisted recovery treatments, how they work and his extensive background in the field. He would like to know if the Coroner's Office is doing adequate testing for drugs and for them to send more data to the County Board of Health. He stated the data shows much less heroin and cocaine in our area, with 80% of tests showing fentanyl.

Mr. Esry asked how long a patient needs to take these medications before they are no longer needed. Dr. Peterson reminded the Task Force that addiction is a lifelong disease. He recommends patients use the medication for at least two years, but it could be a lifelong requirement.

Krista Jones, County Board of Health President, reminded everyone that the outlying communities do not have the access like Champaign/Urbana. She would like to see funds going to the areas where the resources are not as readily available.

4. Rantoul Police Department

Justin Bouse, Rantoul Deputy Chief of Police, shared their 2023 statistics, details of their 4U Program, areas of concern and lack of support services in the community. He shared some ideas for youth-focused programs, increasing support services and opioid abuse prevention that the police department could implement with these funds.

Mr. Esry asked if there are transportation barriers for treatments and services. Deputy Chief Bouse explained that he knows of many instances of transportation barriers for so many different situations. Mr. Esry suggested we look into the possibility of C-CARTS assisting with transportation needs.

Ms. Michaels reminded everyone that this money can be used for education/training, and we need to work on educating our youth.

B. Updates from Staff

Ms. Jett is going to check to see if the County Jail currently does medically assisted recovery treatment for inmates. She also mentioned it would be easiest to allocate money to the County Board of Health and then they will execute the project for the County. If the Task Force would like to survey the local fire departments, they could pay an intern to call all of the departments to determine what is their current level of need. Finally, she stated she will check in with C-CARTS to see if they could assist with additional transportation.

1. Outreach to Surrounding Counties

Ford and Douglas County did not respond to questions regarding their use of opioid funds.

Piatt County stated they are using their funds for Narcan education for law enforcement, community education and community-based intervention projects. They are interested in talking about a regional effort because they see the importance of collaboration.

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Vermilion County is putting most of the money back into their probation and drug court programs. They are trying to cover any costs that are barriers to the clients in those programs. They would also be interested in talking about a regional effort.

2. GIS Mapping Project

The proposal from GIS was sent to the Task Force members. Ms. Jett explained that building a dashboard with different layers of data could be really helpful. The cost for this service is very affordable.

C. Discussion

Ms. Michaels believes we have the products to help those with drug addictions, but we lack the education and ability to distribute the products throughout the community. She would really like to see the County focus their funds on education and training. Ms. Locke agrees with focusing on education. Ms. Straub would like to fund better access to the products and services we already have available.

Ms. Jett asked Mr. Trotter what the top five barriers are for people:

- Money
- Distance
- Stigma
- Services for in between using and being clean
- Access to mental health counseling

Dave King, Community Outreach Manager for Carle Addiction Services, gave details of a grant that is available and might be of interest to the County for addressing the opioid epidemic.

Task Force members listed the following items as next steps:

- Fund GIS mapping project – adding a layer for age
- Have grant writer begin working on the grant mentioned by Mr. King
- Begin conversations about medical detoxing in jail
- Have Sheriff come to next meeting
- Follow-up with C-CARTS

VIII. Other Business

A. Date of next meeting

Chair Locke set the next meeting date for December 4th at 6:30 p.m.

IX. Chair's Report

None

X. Adjournment

Chair Locke adjourned the meeting at 8:26 p.m.