

Opioid Settlement Advisory Committee
Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, March 11, 2025
10:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. CT

Committee members in attendance:

- Christopher Joseph, Committee Chair
- Major Thomas Iverson, North Dakota Highway Patrol
- Mary Korsmo, North Dakota State Association of City and County Health Officials Executive Director, Association of Counties
- Jonathan Holth, Managing Director, Recovery Reinvented
- Pamela Sagness, Executive Director, Behavioral Health Division, North Dakota Department of Health and Human Services
- Stephanie Dassinger Engebretson, Deputy Director and Attorney at Law, North Dakota League of Cities
- Aaron Birst, Executive Director, North Dakota Association of Counties

Committee members absent:

- None

Welcome and call to order:

Christopher Joseph, Chair, called the meeting to order at 10:03 am CT.

8/15/2024 meeting minutes review

- Mary Korsmo moved to approve the meeting minutes. Major Thomas Iverson seconded the motion. All in favor, 0 opposed.

12/11/2024 meeting minutes review

- Mary Korsmo moved to approve the meeting minutes. Major Thomas Iverson seconded the motion. All in favor, 0 opposed.

Opioid settlement updates

Tiffany Grossman from the ND Attorney General's Office shared updates. A \$7.6 billion settlement has been reached with Purdue and the Sackler family. There will be a sign on process for state and political subdivisions. ND state and political subdivisions are expected to receive a combined \$9 million. To date, the state has received \$22,741,528.31 and political subdivisions have received \$3,212,612.15.

Behavioral Health Division updates

Amy Lies, Opioid Addiction Administrator with the ND Department of Health and Human Services Behavioral Health Division, provided a history of what has happened in the state to date with opioid settlement funds. She informed the committee of the need to announce a new funding opportunity for the 2025-2027 biennium by April 1, 2025 to ensure a seamless continuation of opioid remediation and abatement efforts in the state. Discussion points were proposed to the committee, which included reviewing the committee priorities and additional considerations such as funding current Opioid Settlement Fund (OSF) grantees that have shown outcomes and continuing access to Narcan at no cost for individuals.

Committee Discussion

The committee discussed the priority of supporting Syringe Service Programs (SSPs). Discussion included ensuring the current law protects individuals who receive supplies from an SSP and the benefits for individuals to receive services at a SSP such as referrals for additional services including treatment.

The committee voiced a desire to continue to prioritize prevention.

Treatment in jails was also discussed, and information was provided on what was funded by the Opioid Settlement Fund grant. Additionally, BHD informed the committee that many other programs and funding sources do support efforts in jails.

The committee discussed unspent opioid settlement dollars appropriated for the 2023-2025 biennium. The BHD will gather information and provide an update to the committee at the next meeting.

Public Comment

Morgan Vetter from Three Affiliated Tribes inquired about the status of the State Opioid Response (SOR) grant due to changes with the federal administration. The Behavioral Health Division has not received any federal communication regarding changes to the SOR grant award.

Discuss next steps, next meeting agenda, and next meeting date

Next meeting will be held on 3/18/2025 at 10am both virtually and in person at the ND Association of Counties building. The committee will plan to discuss opioid settlement funds for the 2025-2027 biennium including priority recommendations for the use of funds.

Adjournment: Having completed the agenda items and hearing no further comments from Opioid Settlement Advisory Committee members or the public, Christopher Joseph, Committee Chair, adjourned at 10:49 CT.

Meeting Minutes submitted by Amy Lies, Opioid Settlement Advisory Committee, Administrator