

Opioid Task Force Jan. 11, 2023

Held at the Health and Human Services Bldg., Jan. 11, 2023 at 5:30 p.m.

O'Brien appointed by Chair Davis to take notes.

1. Chair Joan Davis called the meeting to order at 5:33

2. Roll Call: Committee Members present in HHS Community Room: Joan Davis, Mike Peterson, Justin O'Brien, Levi Zimmerman, Holly Knapp, Miranda Magnuson, Chris Frakes

Also attending: Larry Bierke

Members attending by Zoom: None

Members absent: Erika Brunson, 2nd Law enforcement rep. (to be appointed by Peterson now that he is sheriff)

Guests in attendance: Misty Molzof of SWWRPC, Christie Johnston of SWCAP, Cara Biddick of UCS, Sheryl Brokopp, Jesse Brogley, Susan Mahaney

Also in attendance: Steve Deal, Bruce Paull, John Meyers, Brad Stevens

3. Agenda: Mike Peterson moved to approve; Justin O'Brien seconded. Passed unanimously.

4. Minutes: Justin O'Brien moved to approve the minutes from July 20, 2022 and December 6, 2022, with the addition to the July agenda of "motion by O'Brien to approve the agenda and Peterson to second," and the correction of Sheryl Brokopp's name. Mike Peterson seconded. Passed unanimously.

5. Reports from Committee Members and public: O'Brien reported that another lawsuit involving five retailers has settled with damages set in the billions of dollars, of which the state will get 2% and Iowa County a smaller percentage of that. So additional funds will be coming. Joan Davis said the current issue of *Counties* magazine has much information relative to our purpose. Copies were provided of the document, "9 Ways to Fight the Opioid Crisis," previously supplied by Jeff Lockhart, which is a brief national view of methods for approaching the crisis. Holly Knapp commented that Unified Community Services was already engaged in most of the activities itemized in the document.

6. Committee Chair Report: Davis mentioned the Opioid Epidemic Abatement Summit that the Wisconsin Counties Association will host on January 12 in Wisconsin Rapids. She hoped that a report on that would be forthcoming next meeting.

7. Update on Opioid Lawsuit: Larry Bierke said there was nothing new to report. The question was asked as to how much we have received to date. Bierke stated we have received payments of \$20,000 and \$40,000, which are in a secure and separate account.

8. Opioid Needs Assessment: Misty Molzof passed out copies of the Opioid Needs Assessment document she helped SWWRPC prepare for Iowa County. A discussion was held about the idea presented in the Assessment of “tasking a person or position with coordinating the existing resources.” Would it be a person? An organization? There is a need to connect all the things presently going on. Misty commented that since transportation has been cited as a regional concern, one possibility might be for one person to coordinate transportation for the entire region. As to the transportation issue, Bierke said it has been a concern about how we get individuals who are going through the drug treatment court to appointments, etc. They need transportation since they may not have a vehicle. Can the Iowa County taxi cover this for the funding of a few thousand dollars?

A question was raised whether we might use some funds to help fund a law enforcement position for DARE which would work with all the schools in the county.

Bierke stated that for these fund allocations, the process would be for the task force/committee to make requests to the Health and Human Services committee to get funds from the full board. For any requests this coming year, the board would have to authorize a budget amendment to accommodate such requests.

A question was asked whether funds can be given to private institutions. Bierke answered that while the Attorney General said “No” to giving money to non-profits, that refers to money from tax dollars, not money from law suit settlements.

Mike Peterson moved to accept the Assessment document and move it forward to the HHS committee. O’Brien seconded. Unanimous approval.

9. Davis spoke on the amendment to the Opioid Task Force Resolution directing the addition of several more members in order to increase the size and scope of the group.

Discussion was had on whether this task force needed to become a committee for the purpose of continuing its task of making decisions about the funds. To that end a resolution would be needed that defines the duties of the committee, said Bierke.

10. Next Meeting: Wednesday, March 1 at 5:30 at the Health and Human Services Bldg.

11. Adjournment: Mike Peterson moved, Levi Zimmermann seconded.

Adjourned at 6:50 p.m.

Justin O’Brien