



Opioid Abuse Advisory Committee Special Ad Hoc Meeting

Meeting #21 Minutes
Wednesday February 26, 2025

Virtual Meeting

A special ad hoc meeting of the Opioid Abuse Advisory Committee was called to order by Advisory Committee Chair Lori Martinec. The following members of the Advisory Committee were in attendance: Becky Heisinger, Sara DeCoteau, Mallie Kludt, Erin Miller, Brian Mueller, Amanda Miiller, Kristen Carter, Tyler Laetsch, Margaret Hansen, Jason Jones, Jason Foote, and Joe Kippley,

Introduction of the naloxone initiative and the opportunity to advance the program in response to a combination of emerging opportunities was provided by Department of Social Services (DSS) Cabinet Secretary Matt Althoff. Appreciation was given to the DSS team for their efforts and those of others across South Dakota in distributing naloxone to date in an effort to prevent overdose deaths related to opioids. The gap was identified, however, in that there is some level of paper trail in the acquisition of naloxone today and that distribution was not truly anonymous for individuals seeking that level of anonymity. Concurrently, discussions were held between the Attorney General's Office and Emily's Hope, a Sioux Falls-based organization dedicated to removing the stigma around substance use disorder through awareness, education and prevention. Their efforts in recent months have also included procurement and distribution of naloxone through public access points using repurposed newspaper boxes, placed in high-traffic locations. Amanda Miiller, SD Attorney General's Office Deputy, conveyed that the Attorney General's office appreciates the communication and efforts of DSS and Secretary Althoff for their efforts in coordinating this meeting.

Following these remarks, an overview of the Naloxone (NARCAN) Community Saturation Project was provided by Melanie Boetel, Director, Division of Behavioral Health (DBH) within DSS. See enclosed slides for information provided regarding the need for enhanced naloxone access. Boetel further described the opportunity to, in partnership with the AG's office and Emily's Hope, facilitate a comprehensive community-level saturation effort across the state, providing access to overdose reversal medication and means to monitor for measurable impact in the hopeful reduction of opioid overdose deaths or related hospitalizations or harm. A total of 20,000 naloxone kits would be procured through negotiation with a pharmaceutical company party to the master opioid settlement agreement, Teva Pharmaceuticals, and supplemented by medication procured by DSS in partnership with Department of Health in its State Opioid Response grant-funded efforts. A proposal was developed by which Emily's Hope would be responsible for the distribution of kits and data tracking, providing information back to DSS and the AG's office about ultimate kit access points and utilization. A distribution plan is under development with Emily's Hope at the time of this meeting.

The request of the committee was made to authorize up to \$375,000 of settlement funds for the procurement of an estimated 15,000 kits in the event negotiations with Teva Pharmaceutical did not yield favorable outcomes to the state, and/or if additional kits were needed to be purchased beyond those provided as product (versus cash settlement payments). Since the committee approved the use of

funds in its preceding meetings, including projected allocation amounts by project through FY2029, a portion of the projected allocations associated with Teva would be utilized for this purpose.

Discussion followed. Erin Miller posed a question about what the plan would be for access and distribution, as well as what considerations are being taken to account for any legal barriers to public access.

Joe Kippley advised that the City of Sioux Falls experienced some legal challenges and pursued legislative action to aid in facilitating this; HB 1141 will be relevant to this subject. Beth Dokken relayed that DOH testified in committee this morning as a proponent of HB 1141. Joe Kippley relayed that the intent of HB 1141 was specific to over the counter (OTC) products.

Tyler Laetsch relayed that Teva produces prescription only products and advised that over the counter products would be most beneficial to distribute at the community level given its non-prescription status as well as the materials included in the packaging providing more information to the end user. Laetsch also relayed concern that the price point is higher than anticipated.

Becky Heisinger inquired about the approach to where and how 20,000 kits would be made accessible, and if they'd be placed in higher priority areas or not. Melanie relayed that the DBH team has a saturation model that will be used to guide priority placement, and the epidemiology team will be in continual review of data as boxes are placed and kits are distributed.

Brian Mueller inquired about the ability to reduce the budget to a lower amount until the details are better defined and the negotiation is complete. Amanda Miiler clarified that the AG's office is seeking authority to negotiate on behalf of the committee at this point more than cash outlay, and that if the terms are not met (e.g., the product is not OTC or its expiration date not suitable) then the negotiations will stop.

Joe Kippley moved to approve moving forward with negotiations with the stipulations that it's a) an OTC product and b) we have a method for distribution that involves at least one community partner. Brian Muller further requested that the distribution be statewide in its focus and not just east river or Sioux Falls. Motion seconded by Tyler Laetsch.

Further discussion included suggestion that training be considered and explored for individuals accessing the medication on how to recognize the signs of overdose and naloxone administration in partnership with American Heart Association or similar opportunities.

Motion passed with majority vote.

Meeting concluded.