



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

MINUTES – Approved as Distributed on February 24, 2025

DATE: Wednesday, November 13, 2024
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	Emily Rodriguez
Jennifer Locke (Chair)	Ed Sexton
Diane Michaels (Vice-Chair)	
Emily Rodriguez	
Jennifer Straub	

Others Present: Michelle Jett (Director of Administration), Kait Kuzio (Grant Coordinator), Julia Rietz (State’s Attorney), Shannon Siders (Court Services Director), and Megan Robison (Recording Secretary)

Agenda Items

I. Call to Order

Chair Locke called the meeting to order at 6:35 p.m.

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 Ms. Michaels. Upon vote, the **MOTION CARRIED** unanimously.

IV. Approval of Minutes

A. August 7, 2024

MOTION by Mr. Esry to approve the minutes of February 20, 2024; seconded by Mr. Stohr. Upon vote, the **MOTION CARRIED** unanimously.

V. Public Participation

None

VI. Communications

None

VII. New Business

A. CU at Home – revised request for funding

Chair Locke reminded everyone of their previous vote to approve funding for CU at Home. In the meantime, they acquired additional funding for acquisition of the property and would like to amend their funding request.

Melissa Courtright, Executive Director, gave a quick recap of their program and the current plan for expansion. They have secured the full purchase price through the Housing Authority and are revising their request asking to use the whole \$580,000 for renovations to the building. They want to design the space for optimal outcomes and for the safety of their clients. Cedar King, Project Manager, mentioned they are working on creating an intake matrix that gives opioid users priority.

Ms. Rietz joined the conversation and reminded the Task Force members that the settlement agreement has very specific parameters on how these settlement funds can be used by the County. She cautioned the Task Force because this project would serve more than opioid users and they must ensure the funds are only used to assist opioid users.

Task Force members continued to discuss ways they can use these funds to help CU at Home with their current project and stay within the parameters of the settlement agreement. Ms. Jett suggested working behind the scenes on a contract with the attorneys before bringing it back to the Task Force for additional discussion/vote.

B. Rosecrance – request for funding to offer a sign-on bonus for an Addiction Medicine Practitioner

Ms. Kuzio stated that Rosecrance is working on hiring a physician that would oversee the medically assisted treatment program. They have posted the position and stated they have a good pool of applicants. They believe a sign-on bonus of \$7,500 would help with attracting a qualified person to the position. They have not selected an applicant so there isn't a pressing need to approve this right away. Task Force members decided to wait to discuss this item at a later date.

C. Probation Department – request for transportation support

Ms. Siders explained that they occasionally have a client that needs transportation to treatment and how difficult it is to staff for those needs. She would like to ask for funding to cover the transportation costs, but she doesn't know what the best option would be to get someone to treatment.

Task Force members continued to discuss different options for transportation. Ms. Rietz added that she believes this would fall under the parameters of the settlement agreement. Chair Locke suggested setting aside \$2,000 for transportation and the Task Force members agreed. They directed admin to work on a contract for transportation.

D. Administration of Opioid Settlement Funds

Chair Locke stated when they began this Task Force, they wanted to get a lay of the land and learn from stakeholders what they thought the priorities should be for these funds. They decided to focus on housing, treatment and education. She agrees with Ms. Rietz that the Task Force is not the best solution

for administering the funds. One of their options would be to ask the Mental Health Board to administer the funds. Ms. Kuzio suggested some different options on how they could work with the Mental Health Board.

Mr. Stohr expressed concern that the Mental Health Board would run into the same issues they had tonight with approving expenses. Ms. Michaels thinks the Mental Health Board could create a subcommittee that includes a couple County Board members because she would like to see the County still have some oversight. Ms. Jett stated the Mental Health Board is fine with taking over the administration of these funds, but the County Board needs to take a vote to structure the agreement with them. Ms. Straub suggested having the Mental Health Board draft a proposal for the Board to approve.

The Task Force recommends having the Chair and one other member meet with the Director of the Mental Health Board and discuss their options.

E. Next steps discussion

Continue working on details of agreements for future approval.

VIII. Other Business

A. Date of next meeting

To be determined

IX. Chair's Report

None

X. Adjournment

Chair Locke adjourned the meeting at 8:00 p.m.