



City of Milwaukee

200 E. Wells Street
Milwaukee, Wisconsin
53202

Meeting Minutes

CITY-COUNTY HEROIN, OPIOID, AND COCAINE TASK FORCE

ALD. MICHAEL MURPHY, CHAIR

Michael Lappen, Vice-Chair

*James Mathy, Ald. Khalif Rainey, Daniel Bukiewicz, Ken
Ginlack, Cassandra Libal, Courtney Geiger, Michael Wright,
James Hutchinson, Selahattin Kurter, Shaun Doyne, Amanda
DeLeon and Tahira Malik*

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Legislative Liaison, Tea Norfolk, 286-8012

Wednesday, June 21, 2023

10:00 AM

Virtual Meeting

This is a virtual meeting. Those wishing to view the proceedings are able to do so via the City Channel - Channel 25 on Spectrum Cable - or on the Internet at <http://city.milwaukee.gov/citychannel>. Those wishing to speak on a particular item should contact the staff assistant listed above to receive the log-in information. Please make this request no later than 24 hours prior to the start of the meeting.

1. Call to order.

Meeting called to order at 10:04 a.m.

2. Roll call.

Present 12 - Murphy, Rainey, Lappen, Bukiewicz, Geiger, Doyne, DeLeon, Malik, Wright, Hutchinson, Kurter and Ginlack

Excused 2 - Mathy and Libal

Also present:

Dr. Constance Kostelac, Medical College of Wisconsin

Nicole Fumo, Medical College of Wisconsin

Cap. Gregory Miller, Milwaukee Fire Department

Jeremy Triblett, Behavioral Health Services

3. Introduction of new membership.

Member De Leon introduced herself as an area treatment member offering medications for opioid use disorder (MOUD) and boots to the ground perspectives.

Due to technical difficulties, member De Leon introduced member Malik as an community recovery area representative representing Samad's House.

4. **Review and approval of the previous meeting minutes from February 9, 2023.**

Meeting minutes from February 9, 2023 were approved without objection.

5. **Discussion, review, update, or motion(s) on City-County efforts, programs, initiatives, grants, or activities.**

A. *Overdose Public Health and Safety Team (OD-PHAST)*

Dr. Kostelac and Ms. Fumo gave an update presentation as follows:

For background, OD-PHAST was a 3-year grant-funded project through the federal Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA) and part of the Comprehensive Opioid, Stimulant, and Substance Abuse Program (COSSAP) at the County level through the Medical Examiner's Office (MEO). Focus of OD-PHAST was to prevent overdoses (fatal in particular) and bring multi-disciplinary partners together. A toxicology resource was added to MEO as well as two social work positions for postvention follow-up and next of kin interviews. Guiding principles were those shared with North Star: reduce overdoses in the County; recognize substance use disorder as a chronic, treatable disease; use multi-sector data responsibly to inform response strategies; and share accountability for reducing overdoses.

Confirmed drug deaths in the County based on 2019 - 2023 (2022 year-to-date) showed 79 percent of drug deaths involved fentanyl alone or in combination, 57 percent of drug deaths involved cocaine alone or in combination, 33 pending cases for 2022, and new trends in xylazine and nitazene. There was a 5 percent increase in drug deaths (confirmed and suspected) from 2021 (644 confirmed) to 2022 (679 with 646 confirmed and 33 pending toxicology). There was a 2 percent decrease in drug deaths (confirmed and suspected) from January to May 2022 (288 confirmed) to January to May 2023 (281 with 82 confirmed and 199 pending toxicology).

There was a Milwaukee County Overdose Dashboard as an available resource for community members, organizations, and researchers to use. The dashboard was set up by the MEO and Office of Emergency Management (OEM) offices, would be updated monthly, and was undergoing revisions and enhancements. The dashboard was commonly used to look at fatal overdose data at the County level and other jurisdictions. Data could be categorized by jurisdiction and demographics. Work was being done to include non-fatal overdose data.

OD-PHAST was restructuring, seeking an extension, looking at efficiencies, and would continue to provide recommendations. Restructuring discussion included review of an updated PHAST toolkit, looking at making a cohesive team between the DST and OFR teams, increasing the leadership structure, and aligning with recent feedback from a site visit from the BJA/CDC. Changes would include combining the DST and OFR teams to have combined meetings monthly, possible in-person quarterly meetings, prioritization of recommendations, coordination with existing groups for recommendations implementation, and identifying public health and safety leaderships for help and support. Recommendation prioritization would be on high benefit/high effort long term projects as opposed to high benefit/low effort quick wins, low benefit/low effort easily to accomplish tasks as time would permit, and rethinking of low benefit/high effort recommendations.

Listening sessions were ongoing to raise awareness of fentanyl, co-use, mixed substances among other things. Past sessions included 3 days in August 2022 and a session two weeks ago at Serenity Inn.

Member Ginlack added that the listening session garnered good insight for individuals regarding harm reduction barriers, fentanyl test strips, access treatment, and perspectives on the definition of harm reduction.

From the sessions, Mr. Triblett added that there was no universal definition for harm reduction, some individuals did not want to use fentanyl test strips and were more likely to use them after treatment or reuse, some processes and programs did not work, harm reduction vending locations should include bathrooms and bus stops among other public places, and awareness of harm reduction supplies was better than ignorance.

Chair Murphy said that recommendations should be brought to the task force or to members to endorse as soon as possible, he was glad to see a reduction in fatal overdose, and he was hopeful the decrease trend would continue.

Dr. Kostelac said that she would forward recommendations.

B. Milwaukee Overdose Response Initiative (MORI)

Cap. Miller gave an update. MORI was a MFD paramedic and lived experience response to an overdose. MORI was in its fourth year, recognized nationally, and was providing technical assistance to other grant recipients and cities. There have been over 11,000 contacts made since 2019 with 311 warm handoffs to treatment. There were already 49 taken into treatment from January to May 2023 compared to 26 for the same time period and a total of 68 for 2022. The NACCHO grant was expiring July 2023. Opioid settlement funds was anticipated to cover that gap into next year. The 3-year COSSAP had 13 months remaining. State supply of narkan to MORI was discontinued due to MORI not being a health department. Other partners have helped to provide narkan including Community Medical Services, County Sheriff's Office, and Milwaukee Health Department. 3,201 HOPE kits were distributed since March 2022. They were also helping the Milwaukee Police Departments to distributed HOPE kits. They were awarded a \$124,000 from the State for the EMS Leave Behind Program with anticipated 2,000 HOPE kits to distribute next year. They were involved with the MAT Behind the Walls program and the Milwaukee Community Collective popup events on a biweekly basis to assist with warm handoffs of people to treatment and distribution of harm reduction materials.

Member Kurter inquired about use of zylaxine test strips.

Cap. Miller and members discussed that decriminalization of zylaxine test strips (considered drug paraphernalia) would need to occur in order for agencies to use them similar to the decriminalization of fentanyl test strips. BHS was looking to utilize zylaxine test strips but cannot use their resources currently. Lobbying and legislative efforts and support for zylaxine test strips, similar to fentanyl test strips, were in the works.

Chair Murphy said that he was glad to see 311 individuals were treated and that there was a TV news interview and feature on MORI.

C. Behavioral Health Services (BHS) programs

Mr. Triblett gave an update. They were hiring another coordinator to total 3 on their prevention team. Better Ways to Cope regrant dollars were in process. They were in the final stages to issue an RFP in the next 30 days for their opioid settlement dollars. Community input recommendations were incorporated into the RFP application. Interviews, scoring, and first round selections were made. Considerations were made based on proximity of locations to areas of overdose, proximity to other vending locations, and areas of highest overdose incidents. Selected agencies for a vending machine would include Matt Talbot Recovery Services, AMRI Counseling Services, Mayfair Mall, Outreach Community Health Centers, Diverse & Resilient Wisconsin Community Services, The King Center, Community Advocates, Guest House of Milwaukee, Greendale Health Department, Oak Creek Fire Department, and Milwaukee County Community Reintegration Center. Vending machines were being delivered to these locations by the end of the month. Each agency would have a MoU to work with Vivent. Vivent would manage the machines.

Vice-chair Lappen added comments. The County had joined the National Association of Counties (NACo), a peer exchange on opioids, and participated in a conference in North Carolina. Milwaukee County would host the next peer exchange this August featuring innovations, panels, site visits, and possibly lighting of the Hoan Bridge to coincide with International Overdose Awareness Day (August 31, 2023). Further invitations were forthcoming. A hope was to leverage the relationship with NACo for future opportunities and to feature the County and City. There have been residential AODA expansions. There was funding available through the State opioid funds for up to \$2.5 million to assist with room and board costs for Medicaid. They were working with residential providers and their internal system to make sure that those resources were deployed appropriately. They have seen increased community provider services in the last year or two.

Member Wright inquired about the Milwaukee NACo peer exchange being virtual and featuring MORI.

Vice-chair Lappen replied that there would be some virtual components and some in-person only components. The schedule for the peer exchange was under development. He was confident MORI was part of the invites to be a presenter. More information and invites were forthcoming.

D. Milwaukee Health Department (MHD) projects

Member Geiger presented on MHD harm reduction distribution, opioid litigation funds, events, and prevention projects for 2023. Narcan distribution were 546 (March), 626 (April), 217 (May), and 132 (June so far) totaling 1,524. The decrease in distribution was attributed to a narcan shortage. MHD had an intern who had graduated and would be hiring a harm reduction coordinator to lead SUD harm reduction education and distribution efforts. FTS distribution were 4,933 (March), 1,450 (April), 1,022 (May), and 2,265 (June thus far) totaling 9,670. HOPE bag distribution were 1 (March), 0 (April), 83 (May), and 77 (June thus far) totaling 161.

There were two RFPs for the End Overdose MKE project to acquire a consultant as a partner to produce various deliverables and for sober living housing opportunity to expand/increase bed availability in underserved Milwaukee communities. The consultant would be responsible for community events, annual overdose prevention

summit, sDoH and SUD website, and communication to various populations in a culturally competent and sensitive manner. RFP selections were expected soon.

Events would include Milwaukee Community Collective pop-up events for harm reduction resource distribution, meals, local resources, and much more on Mondays from 1-2 pm rotating between north and south sides as well as International Overdose Awareness Day on August 31, 2023. Partners for the Milwaukee Community Collective included Street Angels, WCS, Hunger Task Force, Samad's House, UMOS, Narcotics Anonymous, Legal Action, and more. International Overdose Awareness Day would occur at three sites: Samad's house (2875 N. 23rd St.) from 10 am - 12 pm, UMOS (2701 S. Chase Ave.) from 1 - 3 pm, Mitchell Park Pavilion (524 S. Layton Blvd.) from 4 - 8 pm. Ribbon tree signing would be at one location at Samad's House.

Ongoing prevention projects included Public Health 3.0; policy development and implementation (rapid drug testing); Community Advisory Board; projects with partners in priority areas serving vulnerable populations for access an deduction of harm reduction materials; focus on vulnerable populations that have been historically underserved and have high health disparities; and the City-County task force.

E. Other

There was no other discussion.

6. Public comments.

Dr. Kostelac said that another initiative was the development of an overdose spike alert system that DHHS was working on. Pilots have been done with other counties that were similar.

Chair Murphy added that Milwaukee Fire Department should be involved with the alert system since the idea of such a system was initiated by the fire chief.

7. Agenda items for the next meeting.

To be determined.

8. Set next meeting date and time.

To be determined.

9. Adjournment.

Meeting adjourned at 11 a.m.

*Chris Lee, Staff Assistant
Council Records Section
City Clerk's Office*

This meeting can be viewed in its entirety through the City's Legislative Research Center at <http://milwaukee.legistar.com/calendar>.

