



## **Oakland County Opioid Settlement Steering Committee**

Meeting #5 | October 15, 2024

Meeting Summary

### **Transparency Guidance**

The steering committee was provided with information regarding the [Transparency, Monitoring, and Accountability Guide](#) that was recently provided by the Michigan Association of Counties.

The guidance provided includes tools and suggestions for approaching transparency, as well as four county case studies as examples.

Potential approaches to transparency presented to the group included providing the public with meeting notes, process timelines or overviews, progress updates (including selected priority areas), assessment results, and opportunities for engagement (including listening sessions or opening meetings to members of the public).

Subsequently, the group discussed aligning steering committee efforts with these guidelines throughout the process. Specific ideas and approaches pertaining to transparency discussed by the group included the following items:

- Enhancement of information available on the Oakland County webpage, especially the settlement committee timeline that has been developed
- Development of a means for individuals to reach out with opioid settlement-related questions and suggestions (i.e. email address)
- Providing the public with a clear understanding of steering committee approaches for avoiding issues related to conflict of interest
- Balancing transparency of committee efforts and privacy of committee members

### **Strategy Spending Prioritization Results**

Results from the strategy spending prioritization “budgeting activity” that the group participated in during the prior meeting were shared with the group.

Top results from the activity were as follows:

- Staffing and infrastructure (average of 29% of group spending)
- Expansion of harm reduction (average of 25% of group spending)
- Expansion of warm hand-off and recovery services (average of 23% of group spending)

All other strategies in total received an average of 23% of group spending. The group returned to the top strategies identified by all listening session respondents and confirmed alignment of top selected strategies with community input.

### **Discussion on Priority Activities**

The steering committee was presented with an overview of various activities that fall within the top three strategies identified by the group as priorities. After receiving this information, a discussion ensued about specific activities that steering committee members are seeing as areas of needs based upon their work in the community and that the group believes should receive emphasis during spend plan development. Key highlights from those discussions are included below.

Staffing and infrastructure – activities of interest



- Additional staffing is needed due to compassion burnout and staffing shortages
  - Specific needs exist especially in relation to peer recovery coaches due to the value of trust for those with lived experience
  - Existing need for a Nurse Practitioner at Harm Reduction to minimize ER visits
- Need for salary support – funding is struggling to keep up with inflationary demands throughout the field
- Funding of continuing education credits and trainings for services providers
- Physical infrastructure is key to delivering services to the community
  - Substantial needs exist related to basic maintenance items due to amount of funding going to staffing (i.e. whole office generators for methadone clinics to continue delivering services during power outages)
- Cross-system management to address duplication of services, efficiency of systems, and reduction of staff burnout
  - Enhanced infrastructure for collaboration within a well-resourced, but disconnected system
- Expansion and development of recovery housing, as well as staffing to support

#### Expansion of harm reduction - activities for emphasis

- Need for point-of-care drug checking program (specifically through OC Harm Reduction as a well-established and trusted existing resource)
- Mobile care units to bring services to areas of need throughout the county
- Limitations for expansion of harm reduction due to policy challenges were expressed

#### Expansion of warm hand-off and recovery services – activities for emphasis

- Peer navigation/warm hand-off between courts and harm reduction
  - Embedding peer navigator within pre-trial services
  - Navigation of the complex mental health and SUD systems in general

#### **Roadmap and next steps**

The committee returned to the process roadmap of key milestones. It was shared with the group that after determining key activities for emphasis during spend plan development, the next step will be to move toward formalizing spend plan development.

Next meeting: Tuesday, November 19<sup>th</sup> 3:30-5 pm