

BRIDGING THE GAP SUB-COMMITTEE

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MEMBERS

Judge T. Morgan, Monica Hunt, Sarah Palmani,
Garry Clift, Bronna Kahle, Terry Collins,
Sheriff Troy Bevier, Jim Van Doren, Kathryn Szewczuk

MEETING LOCATION

Second Floor, Old Court House
301 N. Main St,
Adrian, MI 49221

Commission Chambers

Minutes: Wednesday, April 16, 2025

I. Call to Order

Present: Sheriff Bevier, Community Member Terry Collins, Community Member Gary Clift, Mental Health Representative Tim Kelly, Health Officer Monica Hunt, Community Member Bronna Kahle, County Administrator Kim Murphy, Deputy Administrator Shannon Elliott, Marketing and Communications Jen Ambrose, Board Chairman Jim Van Doren, Administrative Coordinator Carissa Zubke, Medical Examiner Office Sarah Palmani, Community Development Francine Zysk, Judge Todd Morgan

Absent: Kathryn Szewczuk

The meeting was called to order by Comm. Van Doren at 3:00pm.
Member introductions were made:

- Tim Kelly is filling in for Kathryn Szewczuk and will be present going forward. Kelly joins us with a human services background and serves on the Community Mental Health Board.
- Gary Clift is a community member and worked for many years with the Boys & Girls Club and has a strong interest in learning more about recovery programs. Clift is also a part of Kiwanis club.
- Comm. Terry Collins has a long law enforcement career and was personally affected by a loved one with opioid use.
- Sheriff Troy Bevier represents law enforcement and sees the first-hand effects of the opioid issue daily. Bevier would like to "see those who leave the jail leave better than when they came in". The sheriff discussed naran being available in the Sheriff's Office lobby 24/7, as just a small part of what law enforcement can do to help the community.
- Monica Hunt represents public health. She hopes to provide education, reduce the stigma, focus on harm reduction, and assist people with finding resources. The impact of opioid use can be seen on a daily basis at the Health Dept.

- Sarah Palmani is representing the Medical Examiners' office. She brings knowledge of overdose fatalities and statistics, along with fatality trends. Palmani stated that in addition, an overdose fatality review team is being planned in the near future.
- Bronna Kahle is the Director of Lenawee Community Foundation, a granting organization that assists non-profits and is aware of community needs in Lenawee County. Kahle is representing the community impact/advocate. During her State Legislature term, Kahle also served on a Health committee, which involved a lot of opioid-related issues.
- Judge Todd Morgan represents Lenawee District Court, a people's court, when people first enter the justice center; Judge Morgan very often sees drug-related effects. Judge Morgan has a good understanding of the needs of citizens before him.
- Comm. Jim Van Doren worked for over 30 years in the fire service and was personally affected by a loved one with opioid use.

Francine Zysk is the Community Development Coordinator for Lenawee County and will be assisting the subcommittee through the process. Zysk has a long history of opioid knowledge. For many years, she was the Chief Probation Officer in Livingston County. There, Zysk implemented an Intensive Outpatient Program and, during that time, resulted in zero deaths of those who participated in the program. Zysk assists with breaking the opioid use stigma in a variety of ways, and education to change the mindset; it could happen to anyone.

The Michigan Opioid Toolkit was utilized during the implementation of the County's Community Needs Assessment. The assessment found some key needs in the County, one being Recovery Housing. In 2024, a recovery housing subcommittee was formed, to explore the option of bringing Recovery Housing to Lenawee. At the conclusion of the subcommittee, they made a recommendation to focus on other gaps in the County, that the Opioid funding could benefit.

Coordinator Zysk spoke at a National Conference, regarding "A decade of Opioid Use".

II. New Business

A. Packet Overview

Zysk provided an overview of the binders distributed to the subcommittee. They include: Instructions to complete a Request for Proposal (RFP), RFP application, Exhibit E, and Opioid History.

Zysk stated that Exhibit E is released by the Federal and clearly lists which specific areas the Opioid funding can be used for. Zysk informed the subcommittee that this should be referenced when considering an application/RFP.

Information regarding the Opioid Request for Proposals was published by the County in March 2025 and information can be found on the County Website.

This subcommittee will be reviewing all potential applications in the future.

Community Development Coordinator Zysk encourages all interested parties to reach out to her with questions.

B. Opioid History

Zysk reviewed slides from the Opioid Presentation and clips from her National Conference slideshow:

- *Heroin is a corporate trademark that comes from morphine. Cocaine, a derivative previously sold as a candy to help with pain*
- *In the 1980s, campaigns were founded to say "no" to drugs*
- *In 2017-2018, State Legislation passed a law to stop the overprescription of drugs after finding this caused numerous deaths.*
- *A coating was then placed on opioid pills that, when crushed down, lowers the effects.*
- *Various opioid types include: 1: Natural: morphine, codeine, from poppy pods. 2: Semi-Synthetic: heroin, HYDROcodone, oxyCODONE, buprenorphine 3: Synthetic: methadone and fentaNYL*

During the community needs assessment, the Lenawee Opioid Action Plan Vision statement was created, with input from approximately 32 stakeholders.

The County's assessment included drug data from the medical examiner's office for a period of 2 years.

Of the total drugs obtained by MSP:

- *77% of them included some form of stimulant; only 9% were opioids.*
- *During that same timeframe, 50 individuals were looked at. 30 deceased patients had stimulant-based substances in the system at the time of death.*

National Drug Data shows an increase in psycho-stimulants by 37% from 2020 to 2021, with an increase in methamphetamine to 2.5 million in 2021.

Zysk reported that in 2022, Fentanyl took over as the number 1 drug, killing people 25 and under. Zysk explained that the distribution of Fentanyl is not always the same, which dramatically increases the death toll.

A video was shown regarding counterfeit pills that many times result in death and often include fentaNYL. If you do not know where a pill comes from, it is not safe. The video reported that pill-form substances cannot be tested.

April 29th is National fentaNYL Awareness Day. Coordinator Zysk invites the subcommittee to participate in a 30-minute zoom; information will be emailed.

Coordinator Zysk has trained over 200 County employees on narcan use.

III. Public Comment

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No public comment.

IV. Member Comment

No comment

V. Adjournment

Motion by Collins to adjourn at 3:56pm, seconded by Kahle. Motion carried.