

BRIDGING THE GAP SUB-COMMITTEE

301 N. Main St, Adrian, MI 49221
p: 517-264-4508 | f:517-264-4512



MEMBERS

Judge T. Morgan, Monica Hunt, Sarah Palmani, Garry Clift,
Bronna Kahle, Terry Collins, Sheriff Troy Bevier,
Kevon Martis, Tim Kelly

MEETING LOCATION

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

Minutes:

Tuesday, October 14, 2025

I. Call to Order

Present: Commissioner Kevon Martis

Also Present: Sheriff Troy Bevier, Community Development Coordinator Francine Zysk, Community Impact/Advocate Bronna Kahle, Medical Examiner Office Manager Sarah Palmani, Health Officer Monica Hunt, Citizen Garry Clift, Mental Health Rep. Tim Kelly, Communications Coordinator Jen Ambrose, Admin. Coordinator Carissa Zubke, Community Engagement Quinn Wilt, Administrator Kim Murphy, Deputy Administrator Shannon Elliott

Absent: Judge Todd Morgan

The meeting was called to order by Comm. Martis at 2:00pm.

II. Approval of Minutes

A. Approval of Minutes: September 17, 2025

Motion by Collins to approve the minutes of September 17, 2025, seconded by Bevier. Motion carried.

III. Old Business

No discussion

IV. New Business

A. Youth Prevention and Intervention Program - Parkside Family Counseling

Therese Langan, Director of Parkside Family Counseling, LLC, provided a presentation on Parkside's Unified Prevention and Intervention Program. This program is designed to serve youth ages 10–21 and their families in Lenawee County.

Langan discussed the current state of adolescent services for those with substance use disorder (SUD), noting that such services are currently minimal in Lenawee County. She highlighted that young people who use their first substance before the age of 14 are at an increased risk of developing a substance use disorder.

The proposed program would use a trauma-informed approach to address the needs of youth

at risk for SUD or opioid use disorder. The program would support early intervention and include components such as peer support, therapy, and case management for both youth and their families.

Langan emphasized that the goal of the program is to make these services accessible to all teens and families in need, regardless of whether they are involved in the juvenile justice or child welfare systems.

The presentation also included an explanation of the benefits of home-based therapy. Meeting teens and families in their home environment provides numerous advantages; therapy at school would also be an available option.

Services offered through the program would include:

- *Peer recovery support*
- *Case management*
- *Individual and family therapy*
- *Family and caregiver support*
- *Community collaboration*

Langan noted that tools such as the ACE (Adverse Childhood Experiences) assessment would be used as part of the intake and evaluation process.

During the discussion, it was asked whether some of these services could be offered within the Lenawee County Jail. Langan confirmed that they would be open to providing services in that setting.

Currently, Parkside Family Counseling has six staff members and 15 contractual employees providing services. The proposal requests funding for a one-year period. It was confirmed that this would be a new service offered by Parkside.

Langan also addressed several barriers that families currently face in accessing services, including:

- *High insurance deductibles that families are unable to afford*
- *Medicaid as the primary insurance, with secondary commercial insurance that does not cover certain services*
- *Families not being involved with the Juvenile Justice System*
- *Families not being involved with Child Protective Services*

Despite being a new service, Langan confirmed that Parkside has the necessary resources to implement the program successfully.

B. Reset for Success- School Collaboration - Parkside Family Counseling

Therese Langan, Director of Parkside Family Counseling, LLC, provided a presentation on Reset for Success: School Collaboration.

The proposal outlines a collaboration between Parkside and interested middle and high schools. This 6-week school-based program would focus on educating teens about substance use and provide direct support from a substance use treatment professional from Parkside Family Counseling. The primary goal of the program is to reduce substance-related school

suspensions.

Programs such as ACE (Adverse Childhood Experiences) screening and evidence-based educational content would be delivered via an online platform developed by Stanford University's REACH Lab. A professional from Parkside would conduct assessments to identify each student's needs, such as additional support through peer groups.

This program would also allow therapists to communicate with families and assess whether there are additional needs within the home environment.

Currently, many schools in the county simply suspend students for substance use without offering the necessary help or intervention. This program is designed to be piloted in two schools in Lenawee County.

On a first offense of bringing drugs to school, a Parkside professional would come to the school to conduct a brief screening, offer a treatment referral, and determine if other services or referrals are needed.

Langan discussed the negative impacts of 7- to 10-day suspensions on adolescents, including loss of motivation, increased dropout risk, switching to online learning, or academic failure. By keeping students in school and providing time to work with a professional to address substance use risks, this supportive approach can be far more beneficial and impactful.

Langan also shared concerns about disorders increasingly seen in adolescents related to marijuana use, including cannabinoid hyperemesis syndrome (uncontrollable vomiting due to high THC levels) and even cases of psychosis.

The proposed funding is for a one-year period.

A discussion followed regarding sustainability and long-term collaboration with schools.

Langan expressed optimism that the program could be sustained beyond the pilot phase.

Currently, Parkside has an agreement with the LISD for programming with 7th-grade students and has expanded outreach to include 5th graders.

If implemented, information about the availability of services would be distributed to all families within participating school districts.

C. Engagement for All - Parkside Family Counseling

Therese Langan, Director of Parkside Family Counseling, LLC, provided a presentation on Engagement for All Services, a program based on client need rather than funding source.

Parkside partnered with the Lenawee Department of Health and Human Services and the Lenawee County Juvenile Court system to offer intensive home-based therapy to adolescents and their families. Over time, Parkside expanded its services to include support within schools as well.

Langan discussed a persistent gap they have observed over the years: many families need services but either lack insurance, have commercial insurance with high deductibles, or do not qualify for substance use disorder (SUD) treatment funded through Community Mental Health (CMH).

The Engagement for All program aims to close this gap by offering SUD and engagement services through Peer Recovery Support and Case Management. Langan explained that case management includes helping clients build a support network, secure stable housing, access

income resources, and address health and wellness needs, among other services. She noted that engagement services are not a covered benefit under commercial insurance—even when it is secondary insurance.

D. Clinical Indicators to Reduce Over-prescribing - Opioid Free America

Dr. Matt McCord, Co-founder and Executive Director of Opioid Free America, presented his proposal titled *Preventing Addiction Before It Starts*.

Opioid Free America (OFA) is a national nonprofit organization committed to ending the opioid crisis by preventing addiction at its source. Their AI-driven platform identifies risky prescribing patterns, engages prescribers directly, and delivers measurable healthcare savings. Opioid Free America currently operates in 26 states, partnering with Medicaid programs, unions, counties, and commercial insurers.

Dr. McCord noted that 1 in 3 Americans have a personal story related to opioid use. He emphasized that many cases of opioid use disorder (OUD) begin with a valid prescription—with 75% of individuals with OUD reporting this as their starting point.

In Lenawee County, the opioid prescribing rate is 28.6 per 100 residents.

The OFA program begins by analyzing healthcare claims data from the current workforce.

This data is fed into their system to generate an Opioid Impact Assessment using AI-powered predictive analytics. The results identify prescribers who are overprescribing or not following evidence-based best practices.

The program is HIPAA-compliant, with no patient information shared. Its focus is exclusively on prescriber behavior, not individual patients.

Dr. McCord also highlighted the financial benefits of the program, including reduced costs for employer-sponsored health plans. Validated results show a 60–80% reduction in high-risk prescribing after implementation, and a 3–5% overall health insurance plan savings.

Proposed Lenawee Objectives and Outcomes:

- Over 80% of at-risk prescribers adopt best practices
- 20% reduction in opioid prescribing per 100 residents
- 60% reduction in at-risk plan members
- 3–5% health plan savings

The proposal requests one year of funding, primarily to support individual provider engagement efforts. Dr. McCord noted that OFA is the only prevention-focused, AI-driven platform specifically targeting opioid overprescribing.

He clarified that the program is not intended to interfere with appropriate prescriptions for patients undergoing end-of-life care.

Dr. McCord also addressed how the program differs from MAPS (Michigan Automated Prescription System). While MAPS is patient-focused, OFA is prescriber-focused. He reported that physician response to the program has been largely positive.

The presentation concluded with a discussion on proper steps for responsible pain management prescribing.

V. Public Comment

No comment.

VI. Adjournment

Motion by Collins, seconded by Bevier to adjourn at 3:46pm. Motion carried.