

BRIDGING THE GAP SUB-COMMITTEE

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MEMBERS

T. Morgan, M. Hunt, S. Palmani, G. Clift, T. Collins, T. Bevier,
K. Martis, T. Kelly, B. Kahle
301 N. Main St,
Adrian, MI 49221

MEETING LOCATION

Old Court House

Minutes: Wednesday, January 21, 2026

I. Call to Order

Present: Kevon Martis, Terry Collins

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, Deputy Administrator Shannon Elliott

Absent: Judge Morgan

The meeting was called to order at 3:00pm by Comm. Martis.

II. Approval of Minutes

A. Approval of Minutes: December 17, 2025

Motion by Kahle, seconded by Bevier to approve the minutes of December 17, 2025. Motion carried.

III. Old Business

No discussion.

IV. New Business

Commissioner Martis requested that the committee narrow the RFPs by category and the specific needs of Lenawee County.

The list of Opioid Remediation Uses (Exhibit E) was discussed. RFPs were received for 7 of the 9 eligible categories. Commissioner Martis shared that for this round of opioid funding, the County has approximately \$1.5 million available to award, while the total amount requested exceeds \$8 million. Additionally, some RFPs fall under multiple categories and are organized by their primary service.

Commissioner Martis asked the committee to identify which categories they would like to see implemented in Lenawee County and which categories are not currently recommended.

Transportation was the first category discussed. While transportation was acknowledged as a need for individuals in recovery, discussion focused on how to determine which

transportation gaps should be expanded. Commissioner Collins noted that multiple agencies in Lenawee County already offer transportation for meetings and appointments and expressed interest in seeing organizations collaborate on a coordinated transportation proposal in the future. It was also discussed that, while unconventional, telehealth could help address transportation barriers for individuals in recovery.

Commissioner Martis summarized the discussion, stating that while expanding transportation services has value, it is not currently a top priority. Therefore, the committee would not advance a recommendation for transportation funding at this time. Committee members agreed.

Telehealth RFPs were discussed next, some of which fell into Categories A and D. Kahle discussed the benefits of telehealth she has observed, particularly regarding insurance coverage challenges for in-person services and transportation barriers. Commissioner Bevier raised concerns about privacy if telehealth were implemented in the jail setting, while also acknowledging potential benefits. Kelly noted that younger individuals may be more comfortable communicating over the phone and that telehealth can reduce stigma. Discussion also included the benefits of mobile recovery services and potential opportunities to strengthen the recovery process.

Commissioner Martis summarized that telehealth could be an essential component of recovery services and is not being ruled out; however, the committee felt the three applications received require further discussion before a decision is made. Committee members agreed with this summary.

Category K: **Training** was discussed next. The RFP received under this category focused specifically on infrastructure. Kelly discussed potential interest in funding training in general, but not for the infrastructure-focused RFP received during this round.

Commissioner Martis summarized, and the committee agreed, that funding for the Training category would not be recommended at this time.

Discussion then moved to RFPs for a Recovery Community Center and HER Refuge. Commissioner Martis referenced prior opioid committee concerns regarding recovery **housing**, particularly long-term sustainability. Clift expressed his strong support for recovery housing in Lenawee County and hopes that a future RFP will address sustainability concerns. Commissioner Martis emphasized the importance of organizations collaborating on plans to cover long-term operational costs, especially when no fees are charged to individuals in recovery.

The committee confirmed that organizations not receiving funding in this round are welcome to submit RFPs in future cycles and acknowledged the ongoing need for some form of recovery housing.

Comm. Martis summarized that the committee would not make a recommendation to fund RFP's related to housing right now; committee members agreed.

Peer Recovery Coaches were discussed next, covering a range of scopes including juvenile services, court referrals, and access-to-care support. Bevier shared that, based on his experience, it can be challenging to recruit and retain peer recovery coaches. Kelly emphasized the significant need for youth-focused programs, noting that young people are currently underserved in Lenawee County. Kelly also discussed the importance of family engagement during juvenile treatment and the challenges young people face when changing schools during recovery. It would be helpful to know there is help and support, regardless of where they attend school.

Commissioner Martis summarized that youth-involved programs would be the committee's highest funding priority, as this area is underserved and greatly needed. Committee members agreed.

Discussion opened up regarding the next steps for the committee. It was recommended to look at the whole picture and how the funded categories will fit together, to serve Lenawee, not necessarily each isolated service. Community Development Coordinator Zysk recommended that you also consider both proactive and reactive approaches. Comm. Martis opened the discussion on the Marketing category and the importance of communicating available resources to the community.

Palmani shared feedback from an out-of-county peer coach who stated Marketing was an essential factor for people who want help but are unsure where to begin.

A. Review of Scoring Results:

- 1) July - December scoring sheets
- 2) Results of Voting Programs of Yes and No
- 3) Interactive SWOC Mapping of Programs/Discussion

V. Public Comment

No comment.

VI. Adjournment

Motion by Collins, to adjourn at 4:00pm, seconded by Bevier. Motion carried.