



AGENDA

Eau Claire County Opioid Settlement Task Force
Wednesday, June 21, 2023, at 3:30 p.m.
Eau Claire County Government Center
721 Oxford Ave., Eau Claire • Room 3312

Join from the meeting link:

<https://eauclairecounty.webex.com/eauclairecounty/j.php?MTID=mf45c64aba46367104fea833c538a4b9a>

Join by meeting number:

Meeting number: 2595 282 2413 Password: mCNCB296YT3a

Join by phone:

Dial in: 415-655-0001 Access Code: 2595 282 2413

1. Call to order and confirmation of meeting notice
2. Roll call
3. Public Comment
4. Review and Approval of Minutes – **Discussion/Action**
 - a. May 11, 2023
5. Potential Program Proposals – Peggy O’Halloran – **Discussion/Action**
6. Eau Claire County Peer Support Information and Referral Network: Application for funding to Eau Claire County Special Committee Opioid Task Force – Ron Schmidt – **Discussion/Action**
7. Community Input Process – Lieske Giese - **Discussion**
8. Future Agenda Items - **Discussion**
9. Adjourn



MINUTES

Eau Claire County Opioid Settlement Task Force
Thursday, May 11, 2023, at 5:30 p.m.
Eau Claire County Government Center
721 Oxford Ave., Eau Claire • Room 3420

Present: David Hirsch, Lieske Giese, Dave Riewestahl, Ron Schmidt, Tiana Glenna, Renee, Sommer, Tim Rabolt, James Rick (at 5:53 p.m.)

Others: Kathryn Schauf, Nick Smiar, Sarah Dillivan-Pospisil, Peggy O'Halloran

Roll call and confirmation of meeting notice

Chair Hirsch called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m. and confirmed meeting notice.

Roll call

Roll call is listed above under present.

Public Comment

No members of the public wished to make comments.

Review and Approval of Minutes from March 31, 2023

Motion by Ron Schmidt, seconded by Lieske Giese. No deletions, corrections, or additions. Motion carries.

Opioid Data Presentation

Sarah Dillivan-Pospisil and Peggy O'Halloran presented data on opioid use in the County. They acknowledged that there are some data gaps. From the data they presented information on existing resources and potential strategies.

Budget

Funds are available to begin the work. Not all settlements have been finalized at this time – final funding is unknown. Discussion around how to use the funds as they are one-time investments.

Proposed areas of spending

Members discussed potential areas of spending.

Existing services in place in Eau Claire County

Discussion centered around the earlier presentation and identifying areas of work and where gaps in service were. A key focus area was on developing “recovery ready communities”. This is a connected system that allows individuals to find care and have a community that supports sober living.

Multiple avenues for achieving these goals were discussed: Creating peer communities; Grant program to develop community capacity; Narcan vending machines; sober recovery events and living. It was also deemed important to work on community awareness and stigma reduction. Public perception is key in

achieving desired outcomes. The need for programming is desired not only in the City of Eau Claire but equitably throughout the County.

Committee members were tasked with designing program models to bring to the next meeting for vetting and discussion.

Establish time frame to bring recommendations to County Board

Members will review recommendations that are being crafted per discussion and will identify a timeline for bringing initial recommendations to the board.

Community Input/Engagement

Goals for engagement were discussed. Discussed goals for engagement and sought to identify spots for engagement. There will be a separate community engagement meeting. Lieske Giese will be preparing an action plan for discussion at a future meeting based on input received.

Future meeting frequency/length

A doodle poll will be sent for a meeting in one month for two hours.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by,

Kathryn Schauf, County Administrator

**Program proposals for the Eau Claire County Opioid Settlement Task Force
June 2023**

1. Project description: Drug/medication/sharps disposal

The document completed in May 2022, “Recommendations for Use of National Prescription Opioid Litigation Settlement Funds” recommended providing funding for licit and illicit drug disposal options, including sharps disposal options for the community and making lock boxes and lock bags available to secure medications at home. Reducing the overall amount of opioids in the community is essential to begin addressing the root of the opioid crisis. Providing no-questions-asked disposal options for both licit and illicit opioids and related paraphernalia is one way to begin the reduction of overall quantity. Individuals can simply place unused or unwanted opioids in receptacles that are routinely emptied. Lock boxes and lock bags provide a method to keep medications safely stored at home and out of the hands of children, pets, or others.

The Eau Claire City-County Health Department has received some funding from the state for the past several years to purchase medication lock boxes and lock bags, however the demand exceeds what the supply is each year, and funding is not guaranteed each year. This proposal recommends purchasing additional lock boxes and lock bags to reach more county residents, as well as providing additional locations for sharps disposal.

In fall of 2022, a group of Eau Claire city and county department representatives came together to identify options for disposal of sharps for community members, and identified there is a gap for the public to safely dispose of sharps. The county has several medication disposal containers throughout the community for community members to dispose of expired and unused medications but does not have community drop-box options for sharps. Input from the community and experiences of staff supported this as a need. All departments participating in the work group have had staff encounter sharps in public locations such as parks, or have had multiple questions/inquiries from the community about found sharps and questions related to how and where to dispose of sharps.

To address this need, the team created a plan that includes efforts to 1) Educate both the public and staff in city and county agencies about disposing of sharps safely, and 2) Place 8 outdoor sharps containers in public areas with 24/7 access in the community (Big Falls Park, Harstad Park, Owen Park, Altoona City Hall, Eau Claire County Government Center, Village of Fairchild, EC bike trail at Galloway and Dewey St., Augusta City Hall).

Budget:

- Lock boxes and bags: 300 lock boxes (32.95/ea) and 100 lock bags (20.95/ea) = **\$11,980**
- Initial purchase and set up of the sharps disposal containers = \$23,258.90 and the annual cost to maintain/empty containers is \$21,675.60. Total for sharps container project for 1st year = **\$44,934.50**

2. Project: Additional Harm Reduction supply and distribution

Currently the Eau Claire City-Health Department provides both Narcan and Fentanyl test strips to agencies and community members free of charge through grant funding. Naloxone/Narcan is a fast-

acting opioid antagonist that can safely reverse the oftentimes fatal effects of an opioid overdose. Fentanyl test strips can identify the presence of fentanyl in drugs. By ensuring first responders, community agencies, organizations, and citizens have access to and education about the proper administration of naloxone and use of fentanyl test strips, opioid overdose fatalities can be reduced.

This funding would provide additional harm reduction materials to the community and ensure that these tools are available if grant funding ends, with materials going to organizations and community members based on request. Funding will be used to directly purchase Narcan[®]/naloxone, and fentanyl test strip supplies.

Budget:

Additional 1-year supply needs estimated at 250 Narcan units (2 doses/unit) at \$75/unit, and 250 Fentanyl test strip kits at \$6.50/kit = **\$20,375**

3. Other projects: Support for opioid/overdose educational efforts in community

Currently, funding from grants supports the Eau Claire City-County Health Department to provide education and awareness related to opioid prevention through workshops and materials to help community members understand the opioid crisis and tools to help address it. Some of these educational efforts include the following:

- “What do you know about opioids?” workshop (covers opioid crisis including local opioid data, what are opioids, how to recognize and respond to an opioid overdose, safe storage and disposal of medication, and how to use Narcan[®] and FTS)
- Medication safety 60 second video and series of drop box location videos and print materials
- What are opioids? 30 second video
- Recognizing an overdose 30 second video
- Print materials on recognizing an opioid overdose and how to respond
- Print materials on what is Narcan and how to use
- Print materials on use of Fentanyl test strips
- This Packet Can Save a Life – print materials that includes community resources

With grant funding, the ECCCHD has developed and continues to share these educational tools in the community and has found great interest in and demand for this information.

Additional funding could support 1) Expanding promotion of existing tools, 2) Development of new resources (e.g. video, print, community town halls) for messages around stigma to include voices of those with lived experience, where and how to access community support and recovery resources, and others; and 3) Support staff time to continue implement these programs in a sustainable way.

Eau Claire County Peer Support Information and Referral Network

Application for funding to Eau Claire County Special Committee
Opioid Task Force

Information

Applying Agency: Eau Claire County Department of Human Services
Contact(s): Ron Schmidt, MSW Deputy Director
Email: ron.schmidt@eauclairecounty.gov
Phone: (715) 839-4780

Subcontractors: TBD. Subcontracting with peer support agencies will be used to facilitate both call response and warm handoffs from community referral contact points.

Abstract

The Eau Claire County Peer Support Information and Referral Network (PSIRN) is designed to assist the county community by creating an organization that will receive and respond to requests for peer support services at an early intervention point. County residents that experience opioid use disorder (OUD), substance use disorder (SUD) and/or mental health issues (MHI) usually have small incremental changes in their lives before mandated linkage with traditional county services (DHS, Public Health, Law Enforcement) occurs. The community has been requesting a community level effort to address these issues for many years. The community and county have expressed values that support early intervention/prevention, treatment vs. punishment when appropriate, and to intentionally provide the community with real opportunities to make changes in their lives that support self-sufficiency, recovery, and public safety. The values underlying these goals include, but are not limited to hope, accountability, and personal responsibility.

The PSIRN would enable the community to accomplish these goals by creating a community organization with a specific mission: To support safety and recovery in our community by providing high quality peer support services to persons with OUD, SUD and/or MHI.

The Special Committee has established some key concepts that it wishes to support in consideration of its business and its determination of Opioid Abatement Settlement Funds uses and any funding awards. Specifically, the group has identified the value of the existing recovery culture in the county, identified the value of informal, early intervention, and has met directly with peer support service providers to learn about the how lived experience can help people to make positive changes in their lives.

Peer Support as a service has national attention and can be considered an evidenced-based practice. A meta-analysis literature review is here [Peer Support in Mental Health: Literature Review - PMC \(nih.gov\)](#).

Further evidenced-based practices such as motivational interviewing, visit verification and others may be stressed as desired components and scored as feasible in any request for proposal.

The PSIRN is designed to deliver two primary services to the community: 1) receive and respond to requests for information about available peer support services and other community services and 2) Provide referrals to available community programs and deliver peer support services to community members experiencing OUD, SUD and/or MHI.

Eau Claire County Peer Support Information and Referral Network

Application for funding to Eau Claire County Special Committee
Opioid Task Force

Project Narrative/Program Design

Applicant agency is requesting funding for the following national Opioid Abatement Settlement Funds approved strategies and approved uses.

Strategies

Schedule A, E. EXPANSION OF WARM HAND-OFF PROGRAMS AND RECOVERY SERVICES

- (2) Expand warm hand-off services to transition to recovery services;
- (3) Broaden scope of recovery services to include co-occurring SUD or mental health conditions and
- (4) Provide comprehensive wrap-around services to individuals in recovery, including housing, transportation, job placement/training, and childcare.

Approved Uses

Schedule B, B. SUPPORT PEOPLE IN TREATMENT AND RECOVERY

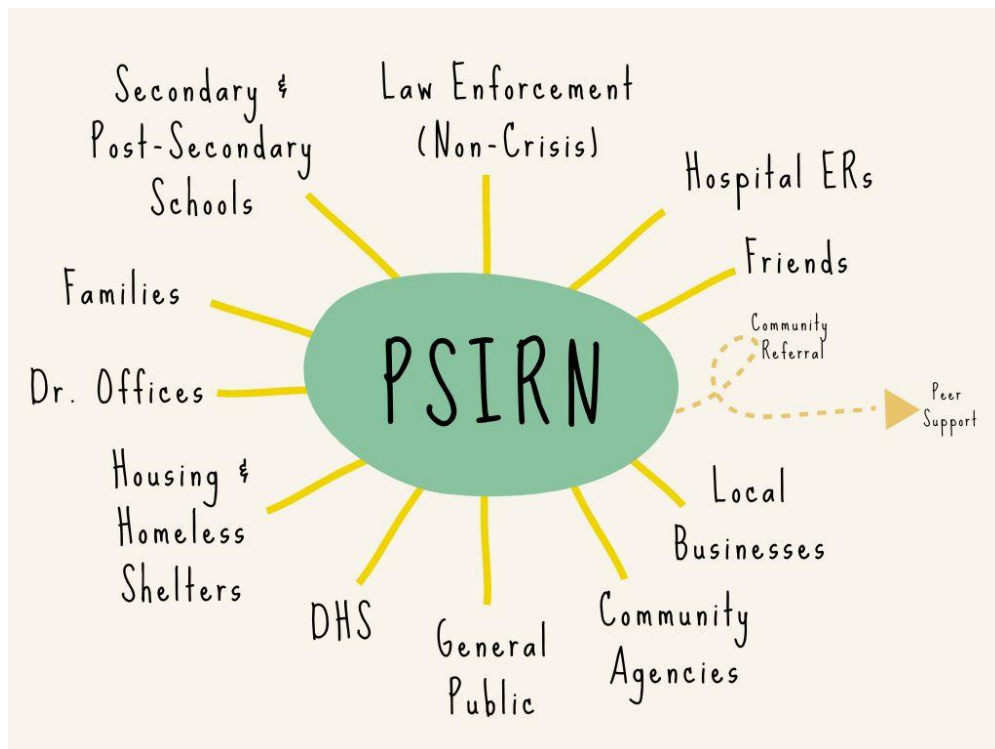
- (2) Provide the full continuum of care of treatment and recovery services for OUD and any co-occurring SUD/MH conditions, including supportive housing, peer support services and counseling, community navigators, case management, and connections to community-based services

Schedule B, C. CONNECT PEOPLE WHO NEED HELP TO THE HELP THEY NEED (CONNECTIONS TO CARE)

- (11) Expand warm hand-off services to transition to recovery services.

Other approved core strategies and approved uses are applicable.

Referral Sources for the Peer Support Information and referral network



Eau Claire County Peer Support Information and Referral Network

Application for funding to Eau Claire County Special Committee Opioid Task Force

Governance

As the funding applicant, the Eau Claire Department of Human Services is prepared to provide contract administration duties, program oversight, and coordinate an advisory group. The group will act in an advisory capacity. The group will consist of a representative from the Opioid Task Force Special Committee, one representative from each contracted agency, a ECDHS representative from the Mental Health Crisis unit and three (3) citizen participants. The advisory role is subject to adherence to any accepted RFP requirements. The group will be consensus oriented for any decision-making or recommended actions. The value of ongoing input about PSIRN outputs is essential to any evaluation about operations and/or goal attainment. The group will meet at least quarterly. Meeting minutes and reports from the group will be provided to the Eau Claire County Human Services Board.

The PSIRN is based on an independent contractor services model. The PSIRN will need adequate public information, marketing, and user information printed materials. The PSIRN will need appropriate infrastructure support regarding information systems, email, telephone, cellphone and/or facsimile supports to receive and respond to referrals.

After referral, the contracted agency will be responsible for disposition of the request. Dispositions could include but are not limited to: education and information about available peer support/mentor services, referral to existing community programs, open case to a peer support specialist or mentor, refer to crisis or emergency services, and/or determination that the request is not able to be addressed at this time.

Peer support/mentor cases may be temporary, short term, long term or episodic.

Goals and Objectives

- 100% of PSIRN referrals will be disposed. Data regarding the number of calls, disposition types, number of calls/persons referred to community agencies, number of calls/persons opened to peer support, and customer service feedback surveys is required.
- 50% of PSIRN calls/persons will be opened to peer support/mentoring* services.

*Will be engaged by a certified peer specialist, peer supporter, peer crisis responder, mentor, individual skill development worker, or tenant support mentor within designated time frames. Initial contact will be to build rapport with the referred individual and to assess the services that would be most helpful to achieve stability for the following days. A schedule will be made for continued services to achieve stabilization if needed. Need and receptiveness will be determined by the referred individual's response to continued engagement with the peer support worker. Peer support workers will exhaust techniques and approaches to achieve connection with each individual referred.

Individuals who wish to enroll in comprehensive peer services will be introduced to the variety of services provided throughout the collaborating peer agencies in the provider network. Referral to agency specializing in the area the peer feels would be most helpful for personal recovery will be made.

Eau Claire County Peer Support Information and Referral Network

Application for funding to Eau Claire County Special Committee Opioid Task Force

- 50% of PSIRN calls/persons opened to peer support/mentoring services will successfully complete.

Any contractor must demonstrate capability to manage records according to current federal and state requirements, to deliver direct peer support/mentoring services to clients, and be capable of monitoring program compliance for participants including, but not limited to: referral criteria, admission criteria, episode completion criteria and termination criteria. Any contractor must use methods to collect feedback data from participants.

A recovery philosophy concerning program requirements is required. Addiction and mental health diagnoses are often diseases that have natural relapse. The recovery philosophy acknowledges and encourages engagement and continued treatment efforts when relapse occurs.

Evaluation

After year one a process evaluation will be utilized to determine overall PSIRN compliance with the solicited RFP awards and established data on output or outcomes. Given the nature of this project, an outcome evaluation could occur in subsequent years, but would be premature to include in year one. Formal program outcome evaluations are designated to occur in operation years 3,4 or 5.

Diversity, equity, and inclusion

Eau Claire County is an EEOC employer and adheres to required Civil Rights Planning. This program would be folded into all programs under our Civil Rights Assurance and Reporting requirements. Service delivery that is culturally competent and available to all county residents in need is required.

Sustainability

PSIRN activities will be fully funded by with opioid settlement funds. During the first RFP year data will be collected to determine a sustainability plan. Local opioid settlement funds can continue this operation as approved by the Eau Claire County Board. It may be necessary to continue grant funding if the sustainability plan reveals limited, partial or near complete revenue opportunities. Some of the PSIRN activities will be billable to Medicaid, Medicare, and other insurance type.

Action Needed

Additional revisions or other information requests

RFP development

RFP approval

Funding approval

RFP evaluation and scoring

Vendor(s) selection

Eau Claire County Peer Support Information and Referral Network

Application for funding to Eau Claire County Special Committee
Opioid Task Force

Budget Worksheet

Title: Peer Support Information and Referral Network
Name of Organization: Eau Claire County Department of Human Services
Contract Period: 1/1/2024 - 12/31/2024

Annual Line Item Budget	Dollar Amt.
A - SALARY/PERSONNEL COSTS	\$0.00
B - FRINGE BENEFIT COSTS	\$0.00
C - EQUIPMENT COSTS	\$10,000.00
D - OPERATING EXPENSES	\$0.00
E - SUPPLIES	\$5,000.00
F - IN STATE TRAVEL	\$0.00
G - OUT-OF-STATE TRAVEL	\$0.00
H - CONSULTANT/CONTRACTUAL COSTS	\$275,000.00
I - TRAINING	\$0.00
J - INSURANCE & SURETY BONDS	\$0.00
K - ADVERTISING & PUBLIC INFORMATION	\$10,000.00
L - CONSUMER/FAMILY REIMBURSEMENT	\$1500.00
M - OTHER	\$0.00
N - SUBTOTAL - DIRECT COSTS (SUM of A-M)	\$301,500.00
O - INDIRECT COSTS	\$0.00
P - TOTAL COSTS (N + O), Rounded to the nearest dollar.	\$301,500.00