

MINUTES

Aroostook County Opioid Task Force
July 16, 2024 1:00 PM
Administrative Hearing Room – Caribou Courthouse

Present:

Ryan D. Pelletier, County Administrator
Dana Gendreau, Finance Director
Peter Johnson, Sheriff, Committee Member
Erik Lamoreau, Committee Member
Christina Wall, Committee Member
Amy Ward, Committee Member
Freeman Corey, Committee Member
Dr. Samuela Manages, Committee Member via Zoom
Jon Holabird, Committee Member via Zoom
Michael Greenlaw, Committee Member
Steve Pelletier, ARPA Administrator
Todd Collins, District Attorney
Bree Clayton, Better Life Partners – Zoom
Tammy Pelletier, Operations Assistant

1. County Administrator, Ryan Pelletier called the meeting to Order at 1:03pm.
2. Mr. Pelletier opened a discussion regarding the selection of a Chair and Vice Chair. The committee members want the meetings to be free flowing and not as formal to ensure that all voices are heard. Mr. Pelletier suggested the use of a consensus vote instead of formal motions. Erik Lamoreau has experience with grant funding and is familiar with the opioid fund guidelines surrounding the use of those funds. The committee agreed by consensus to have Erik Lamoreau and Sheriff Peter Johnson co-chair the committee.
3. The Maine Recovery Council By-Laws are thorough, but are not designed for Aroostook County's needs. Mr. Pelletier will work on creating a set of by-laws that are more appropriate for our area and will allow the committee to continue function in a less formal manner.
4. District Attorney, Todd Collins presented an overview of the process that the DA's office has taken to try and implement a Drug Court for Aroostook. The Drug Court was provisionally accepted but funding is needed. There was a bill in the legislation to establish a drug court but it was tabled. The DA is in the process of applying for funding through the Maine Recovery Council. They believe the initial funding for 2 years will allow them to be self-sustaining after this period. The goal is to have a North and South drug court for up to 25 people per year.

5. Mr. Pelletier opened a discussion regarding partnership opportunities between the Jail Commission and the Opioid Task Force for public relations and messaging. Mr. Pelletier mentioned ZenCity, which is a company that specializes in delivering messaging and getting community involvement and feedback. By consensus, the committee agreed to share resources and messaging with the Jail Commission.
6. Mr. Freeman Corey asked if we could find out what we actually have for services and resources within Aroostook County. This would allow the committee to better review applications and be sure funding is going to the right services. A brainstorming session was suggested for each of the members to come up with a list of resources they know of and that can be compiled into a master resource list. It would also be important to talk with members of the community to get their input on what services could have helped them in the past or could help them now. A public community session was suggested. Bree Clayton from Better Life Partners explained that they offer same day Zoom care via a Virtual Response Care. Many professionals on the committee were unfamiliar with this service, which highlights the need-to-know what services we actually have available in Aroostook County.
7. Mr. Pelletier reminded the committee of the next meeting scheduled for August 20th at 1 pm and adjourned the meeting at 2:22 pm.

**Next meeting Aroostook County Opioid Task Force
Tuesday, August 20, 2024 1:00pm
Administrative Hearing Room – Caribou Courthouse**