

MINUTES

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

Present:

Peter Johnson, Sheriff, Co-Chair, Committee Member
Erik Lamoreau, Co-Chair, Committee Member
Ryan D. Pelletier, County Administrator
Christina Wall, Committee Member
Amy Ward, Committee Member via Zoom
Freeman Corey, Committee Member
Steve Pelletier, ARPA Administrator
Courtney Gary-Allen, Committee Member via Zoom
Dr. Samuela Manages, Committee Member via Zoom
Jon Holabird, Committee Member
Brooke Nadeau, Committee Member
Tammy Pelletier, Operations Assistant
Melissa Lizotte, Bangor Daily News

1. Co-Chair Erik Lamoreau called the meeting to order at 1:00 pm. All attendees were introduced.
2. In review of the minutes, Mr. Freeman Corey advised that the brainstorming session requested may not be needed due to the AMHC 2024 Community Needs Assessment and Gap analysis Update report that was recently published. The committee could use that information as the basis of understanding what the needs are in the County. The group decided to have a short brainstorming session as the report does not identify specific services/agencies that offer them.

MOTION

Mr. Corey moved to approve the minutes of July 16, 2024, seconded by Sheriff Peter Johnson.

VOTE

Motion voted and approved.

3. Ms. Courtney Gary-Allen presented an update on the MRC letter of intent for funding. They received 90 million dollars in requests, with the allocation being only 12 million dollars. Ms. Gary-Allen described the process that the MRC used for their application and scoring process which involved a Letter of Intent, followed by an application process. LOI's were scored by each board member, provided they did not have a conflict of interest. MRC did not put a cap on the amount of funding that could be requested, but Ms. Gary-Allen would recommend that this be something we consider in our process. There were 17 LOI's received from organizations within Aroostook County.

Mr. Steve Pelletier provided information on the ARPA funding application process, which involved a letter of intent, followed by an invitation to apply for funding. The scoring matrix is very important to the process and allows for consistent and equal evaluation of each application. Mr. Pelletier will share the materials with the group as an example.

Co-Chairs Lamoreau and Johnson advised the group of an application process developed by a county in Tennessee that we could use as our template. It addresses many of the rules and regulations that need to be followed and clearly defines the process and scoring process. Copies will be sent to all committee members for review to discuss at the next meeting, along with details like funding caps, application periods, multiple requests from the same organization, high needs program areas, matching funds from other sources, determining eligibility of the organization requesting the information, location of service, etc.

Ms. Gary-Allen reminded the committee that the use of the funding is to ‘supplement, not supplant.’ Settlement funding must be used to increase services not to replace them.

Several committee members suggested that we should look at getting funding directly in the hands of affected youth, perhaps in the form of a scholarship fund. Or for use by grandparents who may be raising their grandchildren due to parent opioid use/death. Families picking up the pieces should be considered for funding. Not all are involved in the DHHS system which provides resources to families.

Mr. Freeman Corey asked if it was possible to get a draft budget so they understand the funding availability through the settlement distribution schedule. There is a funding schedule on the Maine Attorney General’s website, but this is simply a guide and may not reflect actual payments received. Funding could be less, or more, or paid all at once versus over a period of time. The funding schedule will be provided to the committee at the next meeting.

4. Co-Chair Lamoreau began the mini brainstorming session to identify services/agencies under the 4 pillars – Prevention, Treatment, Recovery, & Harm Reduction. The result included the following:

Treatment	Prevention	Recovery	Harm Reduction
Outpatient -AMHC, Pines, Fish River, Groups, Private Practices, BLP, CTC	Prime for Life - Cary	2 residences (men/women) CARL	Maine Access Points
Inpatient - AMHC RTF	Drug Fee Aroostook - ACAP	3 Recovery Centers - Fort Kent, Caribou, Houlton	Bangor Public Health
IOP - AMHC	Aroostook Teen Leadership Camp - AMHC	1 Hope & Prosperity Center - ACAP	Naloxone Vending Machine – Mi’Kmaq

Crisis Stabilization Unit - AMHC	Break Through Youth - ACAP	22? -12 step meetings	Aroostook County Jail Naloxone Distribution
Northern Maine Medical Center			
Aroostook County Jail - MAT			

Mrs. Gary-Allen noted that there is a large outbreak of HIV in Penobscot and harm reduction is a high needs area. Aroostook County has no needle exchange program other than via mail delivery.

5. Mr. Ryan Pelletier opened a discussion for setting the next meeting dates. It was agreed by consensus that the next meeting would be September 10th from 11-1 with lunch provided and October 22nd from 1-3.
6. Co-Chair Lamoreau adjourned the meeting at 2:35 pm.

**Next meeting Aroostook County Opioid Task Force
Tuesday, September 10, 2024 11am-1pm
Administrative Hearing Room – Caribou Courthouse**