

MINUTES

Aroostook County Opioid Task Force
April 29, 2026
Administrative Hearing Room – Caribou Courthouse

Present:

Peter Johnson, Sheriff, Co-Chair, Committee Member
Christina Wall, Committee Member
Michael Greenlaw, Committee Member - Zoom
Amy Ward, Committee Member - Zoom
Dr. Samuela Manages, Committee Member - Zoom
Freeman Corey – Committee Member
Dana Gendreau, Interim County Administrator & Finance Director
William Dobbins – County Commissioner
April Duffy, Policy & Treatment Recovery Coordinator

Absent:

Erick Lamoreau, Co-Chair, Committee Member
Brooke Nadeau, Committee Member
Jon Holabird, Committee Member

1. Co-Chair Sheriff Peter Johnson called the meeting to order at 12:02 PM. Revisions to the Agenda – adding Mr. Freeman Corey to ‘Other Business’. Agenda revision final.
2. Co-Chair Sheriff Peter Johnson called to the floor Commissioner William Dobbins for presentation of L.E.A.D (Law Enforcement Against Drugs). Commissioner Dobbins presented that 7 Aroostook County schools have agreed to participate in a 1yr piloted program starting in the fall of 2026. This program would place one specific deputy within the participating schools, building relationships with these students and assisting them with their home life struggles. Schools were to include Ashland, Mars Hill, Woodland, Washburn, Limestone, Caswell, and Easton. Commissioner Dobbins explained the funding originally voted on during the December 2025 Commissioners meeting approved the program and the absorption of the allotted \$100,000 set aside for the prevention pillar. However; funds have now projected the annual cost to be \$209,000. Mr. Freeman Corey questioned the process of the approved funds, as this application/program was never presented to the Opioid Task Force. Ms. Christina Walls agreed with Mr. Freeman Corey’s concerns and went on to discuss the possibility of ‘emergency funds’ for programs who missed the deadline. Could they now apply considering the Commissioner approved funding outside of the application window. Mr. Freeman Corey, Ms. Christina Wall, Ms. Amy Ward, Dr. Samuela Manages, Mr. Michael Greenlaw all requested the minutes reflect their disapproval of the process; however, stressed their excitement for such a program. Ms. April Duffy thanked Commissioner Dobbins for his presentation and if no further questions, excused Commissioner Dobbins.
3. Sheriff Peter Johnson called agenda item ‘update on 2025/2026 cycle spending. Ms. April Duffy drew the committee’s attention to the chart included within the agenda packet. To date \$226,401.94 has been spent from the 2025 awardee cycle. No funds have been dispersed for the 2026 cycle, no monies to report. Dr. Samuela Manages stated that there were programs approved for the 2026 cycle that she did not believe were recovery

programs, such as Michael's Active Recovery did not fall under treatment. Dr Samuela Manages requested that the pillars be more clearly defined.

Awardees	Total Awarded	Money Spent	Difference	% of award left	Summary
AMHC	\$50,000.00	\$50,000.00	\$0.00	0.00%	Total Money Disbursed \$226,401.94
Michael's Active Recovery	\$75,000.00	\$57,705.83	-\$17,294.17	-23.06%	
Mi'kmaq	\$50,000.00	\$42,177.89	-\$7,822.11	-15.64%	
ACAP	\$75,000.00	\$26,518.22	-\$48,481.78	-64.64%	
Northern Maine Wellness	\$50,000.00	\$50,000.00	\$0.00	0.00%	
Total	\$300,000.00	\$226,401.94	-\$73,598.06	-24.53%	

- Ms. April Duffy reviewed the final numbers as advised by the Scoring Committee and voted and approved of by the county commissioners. Applications reviewed and scored were ACAP (99) AMHC (81) CARL (88) Homeless Services of Aroostook (91) Michael's Active Recovery (91) Mi'Kmaq (89) Northern Maine Wellness (78). Due to scoring below the approved scoring rubric requirement, AMHC and Northern Maine Wellness were removed from the pool of awardees. Due to no Prevention Pillar applications received, the scoring committee voted in favor of reallocating \$100,000 to be used at the next awardee cycle for 2026. The scoring committee requested concerns and questions to be brought to the next meeting (this meeting) were as follows, construction projects, and should there be a structure to the limit of what can be awarded for construction? Should incomplete application be tossed? Or points taken away? A review and revamping of the scoring rubric is needed, and a focus on eligibility. A suggestion was made to have an entire cycle focused on prevention.

Score			\$ 75,000	Treatment	
91	\$ 55,875.00	45%	34,105	Michael's Active Recovery	
88	\$ 67,000.00	55%	40,895	CARL Center of the Advancement of Rural Living	
	\$ 122,875.00	100%	75,000		
Score			75,000	Ham Reduction	
89	\$ 50,000.00	100%	50,000	MicMaq	
		0%	-		
	\$ 50,000.00	100%	50,000		
Score			75,000	Recovery	
91	\$ 125,659.00	63%	46,967	Homeless of Aroostook	
99	\$ 75,000.00	37%	28,033	ACAP	
	\$ 200,659.00	100%	75,000		
			200,000	Grand Total Award	

5. Ms. April Duffy opened the floor to committee members to discuss changes needed to the Application, Letters of Intent, and Scoring Rubric. Mr. Corey Freeman expressed his concern for awarding organizations with Task Force Funds on their construction costs. He stated that he was primarily concerned with sustainability and longevity. Mr. Michael Greenlaw discussed revisiting the pillars for a more defined idea as to what funds can be utilized for. Our next meeting will begin the process of application and scoring review/creation.

Much discussion was had regarding pillars/categories. Ms. Dana Gendreau suggested a vote be taken 2026-2027 cycle regarding the \$200,000 allocation based on discussion. Mr. Michael Greenlaw moved to allocate all 2027 Opioid Awarded Funds to go to the Prevention pillar. Mr. Freeman Corey seconded, Ms. Christina Wall stated that she thought Treatment was such a high need in the county and should not be left out – she had initially voted no, however changed her vote to yes making the vote all in favor.

6. Other Business - Ms. Dana Gendreau presented a preliminary set of OTF Bylaws and Conflict of Interest Policy. Each section was reviewed and discussed. Further discussion to be had on section 4. Terms. Sheriff Peter Johnson suggested terms for the committee having a 1 year, 2 year, and 3 year seats so that everyone is not up for replacement at the same time. Sheriff Peter Johnson also stated that with the uniqueness of the Task Force brings a special level of passion and knowledge to the table. These types of members resonate with the community they are representing, so perhaps no term limits and an annual check-in with each Committee member to see if they are willing to serve another year. Ms. Dana Gendreau questioned whether the co-chairs/chair should be voted in annually, to which no one inferred. Should there be attendance guidelines, Sheriff Peter Johnson stated that other committees to which he is a part of, they use 3 unexcused absences as the threshold for committee representation removal. A proposed timeline was tabled for the June meeting, along with revisions to the application, LOI, and scoring rubric. Ms. Dana Gendreau stated she would bring the revised Bylaws and Conflict of Interest Policy based on committee input today to the table for another review during the June meeting. Once the bylaws and conflict of interest policy are voted on, they will be brought to the Board of Commissioners for approval.

Other Business - Mr. Freeman Corey would like to revisit the idea of the availability of opioid monies training expense for trained professionals. He also stated he would like to see something along the lines of rent assistance for individuals in recovery as well as funds for grandparents to caretakers of young children while parents are in recovery.

7. Sherriff Peter Johnson questioned if there was any more business to attend to. No one had anything further to add. Mr. Freeman Corey moved to adjourn the meeting, Mr. Michael Greenlaw seconded. Co-Chair Sheriff Peter Johnson adjourned the meeting at 1:39PM.

Next meeting Aroostook County Opioid Task Force June 30, 2026