

**Region V Systems  
Opioid Steering Committee**

Meeting Minutes  
January 9, 2024  
1:00 – 3:00 p.m.

- I. **Welcome:** Trina Janis opened the meeting at 1:04 p.m. via Microsoft Teams.  
**Introductions:** Janis welcomed attendees, followed by introductions
- II. **Davidson Wissing-** DHHS- Division of Drug OD Prevention Coordinator for the State of Nebraska presented the overdose data for Region V, in comparison with the rest of the state.
- \* Davidson will share his slide presentation with the steering committee. The data sheets can also be found on the DHHS website. [Drug Overdose Prevention Data \(ne.gov\)](https://www.dhhs.gov/nebraska/drug-overdose-prevention-data)*
- III. **Sherrie Watkins-** Opioid Response Network- Questions from Exhibit E  
ORN has been working with Trina, Theresa, and Patrick on convening an opioid settlement funds focused regional summit to be held in March.
- **Expanding syringe service programs** – piece of legislation that has been prioritized and put forward that would make an adjustment to our statutes allowing for syringe services. Question: Is helping legislation to move forward on proposed statutes a covered fund, so that we can expand syringe service programs, and has this kind of service been covered in other states and something that can be explored for Nebraska? *Sherri explained there is a fine line between lobbying and advocacy. If Nebraska lifts the ban on this program, Opioid Settlement funds can be used by way of Advocacy (training, fact sheets, research-based information on the effectiveness of syringe services programs) to provide education and training to legislatures.*
  - **Expansion of Warm Hand off programs and recovery services** –\* *ORN has provided consultation tools and training on how to implement a program like this. More information can be requested by emailing Sherri.*
- IV. **Obvious Expenditure Request** - Amy Holman - Project Coordinator of the Nebraska Pharmacist Association – Overseas two grant funded programs:
- Meds Disposal program- unwanted or expired medications takeback for safe disposal
  - **Statewide Narcan Program-Stop Overdose Nebraska** –
  - **Ideas/Options** of getting Narcan out to populations who really need it.
    - ✓ Vending Machines (pilot program) \$4500 to \$8200 plus \$1300 shipping/set up. Put somewhere like Matt Talbot, CenterPointe, etc. Could possibly have Fentanyl testing strips (if legally allowed).
    - ✓ Educational Videos
    - ✓ Assemble packets that would be placed in locations where outreach is done (hospitals, Barnabas Community, college campuses, CenterPointe, libraries, etc.)
    - ✓ Collaborate with school programs for student organizations and/or parents/guardians/staff.
    - ✓ Programs for those coming out of incarceration.
    - ✓ Cost would include – Narcan, Fentanyl/testing strips, bag, employee time, marketing, video production.
  - **Discussion:** *Do you feel as a committee, this is something you want to fund?*
    - ✓ Are there any rules or regulations that do not allow Narcan to be out in the open (handout basket, vending machine, etc.)? *They would not apply to the OTC which is what is now being dispensed by pharmacies in Nebraska.*

- ✓ Is this something that would be a one-time thing or is this something that would be ongoing, sustainability? *More research and funding use will be discussed at the summit.*
  - ✓ Are the vending machines going to just enable someone to keep using them or should we weigh heavier on treatment aspect and root causes etc. *Can be seen from different points of views, happy medium. Can support the user and benefit (someone other than the user) caregiver, family, police, friends who otherwise might not have easy access to Narcan.*
  - ✓ Vending machines (someone would utilize if nothing more than to avoid stigma) and/or Narcan boxes in colleges, schools, hotels.
  - ✓ Counselor perspective – do whatever needs to be done to save a life.
  - ✓ More information is needed to know if there is a law that says Narcan can be given out by someone other than a pharmacist and is it specific to prescription or OTC. *Could be a funding policy but not law since it is now OTC. Someone is going to investigate this further and report back.*
  - ✓ Maintenance of machines and pull data from other places who already have vending machines in use. What does it look like in the long term? More information is needed to decide.
  - ✓ Amy can get more information to better support the idea. Perhaps start smaller with just the packets.
- **Recap:** (Theresa) Amy is asking the committee to help with the funds to implement ways to make Narcan more accessible via vending machines, packets, etc. Would it be just for start-up or ongoing/sustainability. Putting together a grant funding process to guide the priorities that are within the grant or RFP. As a committee, do you see this is an *Obvious Expenditure* that needs to be funded now, outside of the grant and RFP process? Thoughts:
    - ✓ High priority for further review.
    - ✓ Ryan would be willing to pilot a vending machine at CenterPointe.
    - ✓ Amy is going to put a more detailed proposal and how a pilot program (vending) would work, along with packets.

***Meeting adjourned***

The following items were not covered in today's meeting due to time constraints:

**Region V Systems Opioid Settlement Funds Summit- Resource Panel-????**

**Discussion regarding Hybrid Option**

**Next Meeting** February 13th – 1:00-3:00 p.m. Location TBD

**Next Steps**

- a. Introduction to Blueprint
- b. Final List of Resource Panel
- c. Summit Agenda and Registration