

Opioid Steering Committee
May 21, 2024, 1:00-3:00
Center Pointe
2202 S 11th Street
Lincoln, NE 68502

I. **Welcome:** Trina Janis opened and welcomed everyone to the meeting at 1:02 pm.

II. **Obvious Expenditure**

Trina gave a brief flex funds update – items that moved forward from OSC to the BHAC and Regional Board were approved by both Boards. The criteria's being set for requesting flex funds and Trina will email them out once they are finished.

The Region 5 Needs Assessment was also approved by both the BHAC and Regional Governing Boards and can move forward with the contract.

Amy Holman gave an update on the vending machine project. She is working with IVS, the vending machine makers, on the artwork for the machine wraps and the software programming of demographics for the machines (questions asked when getting product from the machines). She is also working on a process in which the NARCAN will be distributed to the designated areas.

Discussion:

- Screen durability – blackout issues (shouldn't be an issue as both machines will be indoors)
- Handouts/cards will be on the outside of the machine listing different resources. If you want something specific to be in the handout let Amy know.
- \$1500 to be reallocated (test strips not passed through legislation)
- QR code for the MyLink app will be on the machines and in the handout.
- Demographic questionnaire on the vending machine. Thoughts:
 - Pose as a deterrent or barrier to someone wanting to get NARCAN.
 - Housed or unhoused, ethnicity, age group, gender, and Zip code of residency was suggested (resident of Lincoln or outside of Lincoln). Caution about asking too many questions.
 - Does the system collect data on whether someone starts the questions but doesn't finish and walks away.
 - Cut back on the number of questions to 1 or 2 more critical questions or put questions on 1 machine then compare the two outcomes.

III. **Review of Grant Applications**

A total of 12 applications were received. The review committee (4 Region V employees, 1 BHAC board member, 1 RGB board member, 2 OSC members) awarded grant funds to the following agencies/projects:

- BAART
- Jefferson County Diversion Services
- Nebraska Pharmacists Association
- Physicians Laboratory
- Whispering Acres Camp G.R.I.T.

The goal start date for these funds is July 1, 2024, once they get final approval from the BHAC committee, then Regional Governing Board.

Those who did not receive grant funds this go around can re-apply during the next application process, the tentative date will be in October.

Technical assistance is being provided to those agencies/projects not awarded funds this time, guiding them to other possible funding options in the meantime.

IV. Timeline/ Discussion of Grant Release

BHAC committee meets May 29, RGB meets June 10, Grant cycle begins July 1.

V. Update to Funding Matrix

Trina reached out to the state and the handout reflects current dollar amounts. This will be kept in draft form and updated as numbers change.

Meeting adjourned

Upcoming Important Dates

Next Meeting

June 11, 2024 (will determine at this time if OSC will meet in July). If nothing is pertinent that would necessitate a meeting in June, it could be cancelled as well. Emails with any updates or cancellations to follow.

Update: the meetings for June and July have been canceled and meetings will reconvene August 13th from 1:00-3:00.

Special Event

Ryan shared with everyone that on August 29th, CenterPointe, in partnership with Wellbeing Initiative and Nebraska Pharmacy Association will be having an Opioid Awareness and Remembrance Day.

Location: CenterPointe garden center, at 7pm. This event will include a speaker w/lived experience, NARCAN training, and candlelight vigil. This is in conjunction with International Overdose Awareness Day which takes place on August 30th every year. Flyers will be coming out to share this event.

Next Steps

Review of Priority Abatement Strategies to determine focus for next grant cycle.