

Opioid Steering Committee
October 8, 2024, 1:00-3:00
Virtual Meeting Only

- I. **Welcome:** Trina opened and welcomed everyone to the meeting at 1:02 pm.
- II. **Request for Obvious Expenditure:** *Lincoln Lancaster County Health Department (LLCHD)- Wastewater ~ Tommy George, Raju Kakarlaoudi, and Angelina Stovall ~ \$25,000 1yr (Oct. 1 – Sept. 31)*

Tommy George with LLCHD, presented a PowerPoint showing data and information obtained through wastewater testing, performed at two wastewater plants located in Lincoln. LLCHD is asking for \$25,000 to cover the cost of a high-risk substance panel that is part of a larger ‘panel package’ (\$100,000+) collected. This panel detects cocaine, fentanyl, methamphetamine, nicotine, and xylazine.

Naloxone was also detected in some of the other testing, aside from the substance panel. It was supported under a subgrant and not included in the substances panel, so they won’t continue to test for it.

Benefits to wastewater testing: it’s less intrusive, costs less than clinical lab work, multiple targets within the same sampling, and anonymity of the originating source (patient privacy).

Information taken from the sample testing will not only be used for data collection but will also help identify data trends and have a better understanding of community needs, so they can better educate and provide proper resources. They are asking for consideration of *Obvious Expenditure* as there isn’t enough time to wait for the next grant application to continue the work on this project.

The committee discussed the following:

- Is it possible to test for other opioids not just fentanyl? That would require them to add another panel to the testing.
- Likely if we only look at opioids it would miss the synthetics (oxycodone, methadone, fentanyl).
- Look into testing opioid or opiate compounds to see which metabolite testing would be more effective. This may be more beneficial than just testing for fentanyl.
- Where are other funds coming from and how are they being used.
- Is this going to help us with our data, or do we have enough other resources to get the data that we need?

- From a funding perspective, it might be helpful to the committee if LLCHD could provide a spreadsheet of who you are getting funding from and what it is going towards. This could establish the sustainability and future of the program. It is the judicial responsibility of the committee to make sure the funds are being effectively utilized.
- More information is needed to make an informed decision. Is this meeting our line items within our needs assessment?
- What are their strategies in sharing or doing something with the data collected?
- The committee would like more time and information prior to making a decision.

This expenditure has been tabled until the November meeting where the committee can review and discuss the additional information requested.

The committee will receive the full proposal along with the budget prior to the next meeting. Trina will put together and send out the information requested two weeks prior to the meeting.

III. **Request for Obvious Expenditure:** *Contract expansion for Ne Pharmacists Association ~ Amy Holman ~ \$1,200*

An additional \$1,200 is needed for the installation of the second vending machine going to Matt Talbot. Additional electrical work needs to be done to accommodate where the machine is going to be located. The committee voted to approve this additional funding my majority vote.

Meeting adjourned

Next Meeting

- November 12th– 1:00-3:00 p.m. Location: Region V Systems, 1645 N Street, Lincoln Ne 68508