

Opioid Steering Committee

Meeting Minutes

January 14, 2025

Opening:

Trina Janis opened the meeting at 1:00 at Region V Systems and online.

New Business:

Trina presented a request for the addition of \$75,000 to add to the Opioid Flex Funds. Proposal attached to the minutes. Rachel Mulchay voted to approve and move forward to the BHAC and RGB. This was seconded by Amy Holman.

Opioid Needs Assessment:

Mindy, JP, Maya, and Jenn each presented sections from the data collected for the Opioid Needs Assessment. After each section they asked the participants to write their thoughts on a sticky note and place on either Urgent/Requires Attention OR Emerging Opportunities. The results of these activities will be compiled and shared at the Opioid Needs Assessment Strategic Planning event that will be held next week, January 22nd at the Nebraska Extension Office. We had 14 people present in person and 20 who joined us virtually. (34 in total)

Action Items:

We need to update the Opioid Steering Committee Charter and the Blueprint. Prior to our next meeting, Trina will send out the current copies of each and we will review and make changes at the next meeting.

We will also need to update the Priority Abatement Strategies. We will review the results of the needs assessment along with the areas that were voted on as priorities during our strategic planning and discuss the focus of our next grant cycle.

Upcoming Events:

Region V Systems Opioid Settlement Needs Assessment Strategic Planning

January 22, 2025, at the Nebraska Extension Office from 9:00 - Noon.

**Results from the Strategic Planning will be made available to the Opioid Steering Committee 3-4 weeks following this event.

Next Meeting:

March 11th, 2025, at Region V Systems, 3600 Union Dr., Lincoln NE

PLEASE NOTE: This is our new address.

**Opioid Steering Committee
Obvious Expenditure
Opioid Flex Fund Proposal**

Date: 4/9/24 (Original Request)

Amount Requested for Flex Fund Expenses - \$50,000

- Opioid flex funds would be utilized to help obtain the resources necessary to meet identified treatment/rehabilitation needs that cannot be provided through other funding mechanisms or more traditional service provision modalities. They are only available to individuals residing/seeking service within Region V Systems catchment area.

✚ *Example: Person needing Methadone Treatment, who is not from Lincoln and does not have transportation or a place to stay for the consecutive 7 days that they must report to the treatment center. These funds could be used to cover the cost of transportation, motel room and/or food for the 6 nights that they must stay in Lincoln.*
- Flex Funds may be accessed through a request to Region V Systems Opioid Program.
- Request must meet criteria established by Region V Systems.

Date: 1/13/2025

Need For Additional Flex Funds

Amount requested for additional Flex Funds - \$75,000

As of 1/13/25 we have spent \$38,548.70 of the \$50,000 that was approved. We have helped 52 people in the following ways:

- Secure/remain in recovery housing.
- Secure transportation to outpatient treatment.
- Assisted with minor car repairs.
- Provided phones, phone service and food while in treatment.

We believe these funds are making a difference in the lives of those seeking or in recovery for SUD and hope to continue to offer assistance where no other assistance has been available.

Attached is one of the many emails, cards and notes we have received from those we have helped.

From: Tyler Keup <tylerkeup1983@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, January 8, 2025 4:54:41 PM
To: Trina Janis <tjanis@region5systems.net>
Subject: Re: Flex Funding

Dear Region 5 Systems,

I'm gratefully sending this email to convey my appreciation for the financial assistance your organization so kindly provided on behalf of many oxford house members in Lincoln Nebraska. As President of the Woods Oxford House, I was delighted to hear that assistance was being made available. Although I unfortunately wasn't able to qualify for funding - this didn't stop me from doing the paperwork on behalf of other members who did qualify for assistance and as a result, I got to see first-hand what a difference it made for others who were struggling financially in our sober living house.

In fact, many who have entered our house were facing financial difficulties, including myself, for obvious reasons (the poor choices we made while actively engaging in such addictive behaviors). Personally, I know all too well how recovery can result in a relapse due to a variety of factors, including but not limited to, financial stress, and coping with emotions as one tries to deal with past regrets without self-medicating.

However, your help prevented some members from being evicted from Oxford and forced to live on the streets due to their failure to pay EES (equal expenses shared). Some of these members had gotten released from jail or treatment without being court ordered and voluntarily came to Oxford in good faith with no job or money. God knows what would have happened had they not gotten any help from Region 5.

Additionally, another member who was on drug court had vehicle problems but got his car fixed thanks to you. Had he not been able to get this done it surely would have made getting to drug court, NA, and AA meeting, as well as other obligations more difficult.

In closing, I just want to thank you for all that you've done and express my gratitude for "all of those" who made such a difference. Afterall, trying to rebuild your life after addiction is hard enough but your willingness to provide aide on behalf of those who are in recovery is definitely commendable. Thanks for being there for those in need and giving me the pleasure of seeing how it impacted others as we continue our journey in recovery!

Sincerely,
Tyler Keup
Woods Oxford House President
341 N. 33rd
Lincoln, NE 68503

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