

Region 5 Systems Opioid Steering Committee

September 9, 2025 – 1:00-3:00

Region 5 Systems / Hybrid

3600 Union Drive

Lincoln, NE

Present: (in person) Ben Murry, Rebecca White, Simera Reynolds, Christa Yoakum, Jill Kuzelka, Maria Hatfield, Theresa Henning, Trina, Janis

Present: (virtual) Bryan Davis, Cheyenne Drudik, Chris Allende, Ed Thornbrugh, Jeff Sorenson, Jessica Loos, Jill Pokorny, Joe Pastuszak, Laura Osborne, LeAnn Stevenson, Oscar Gonzales, Renee' Dozier, Sandy Morreisse, Ryan Carruthers, Sandy Morrissey

Absent: Amy Holman, Amy Reynoldson, Ryan Dale, Bullet Splichal, Brian Peters, Michon Morrow, Colby Holz, Cynthia Steele, Dave Miers, Dean Rohwer, LuAnn Even, Erik Delaney, Grant Brueggmann, Heather Anders, Jeff Curry, Jenn Nelson, Jeri Johns, Jerry Taylor, Joseph Wright, Kerry Kernen, Kim Showalter, Laura McDougall, Makenzie Crew, Patrick Kreifels, Rachel Mulcahy, Raegan Hain, Rhiannon Pitzal, Ronnie Spradley, Ruth Karlsson, Ryan Pospisil, Sandra Miller, Sheila Vinton, Sonya Turco, Stephanie Knight, Taisa Brumagen, Terra Uhing, Traci Reuter, Vic Johns, Will Schmeekle

Welcome

Trina opened the meeting at 1:02 p.m.

Meeting Minutes July 8, 2025

After committee review, Ben Murry motioned to approve, Rebecca White seconded the motion. Motion carried by majority vote in favor. No abstentions to note.

Opioid Response Network (ORN) Presentation – Rory McKeown

The ORN is funded by SAMHSA to provide technical assistance and works with many partners. Rory specifically covers Region 7 (Iowa, Missouri, Kansas, and Nebraska). The ORN works with governments, organizations, and individuals to provide free evidence-based training and education to address opioid, stimulant, and all substance use disorders. Requests can be submitted through the ORN website at <https://opioidresponsenetwork.org/>. Specific questions can be sent to orn@aaap.org or directly to Rory at rmckeown@umkc.edu.

Opioid Grant and Obvious Expenditure Outcomes – Joe Pastuszak

Joe Pastuszak presented and answered questions about the information included in the outcomes report. These outcomes are for fiscal year 24-25. It's worth noting, two of the grants (BAART and Physician's Laboratory) are more than one-year grants. An error was found during the presentation, and an updated outcomes report will be sent to the committee via email.

Cycle 2 Opioid Settlement Grants Update

28 grant applications were received, equaling requests of over \$3 million. Region 5 Systems will award a minimum of 2 projects and up to \$650,000. The review committee is finalizing their recommendations and will release this information by September 30, 2025. The recommendations will be presented to the Behavioral Health Advisory Committee (10/29/25) and Regional Governing Board (11/10/25) for final approval. Contracts will begin January 1, 2026.

Next Meeting:

Due to the holiday, the committee agreed to move the next meeting to **November 18, 2025 - 1:00-3:00 p.m.**