Spokane County Regional Behavioral Health
(Administrative Services Organization) Division, SCRBH (ASO)

Opioid Abatement Council Meeting

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Meeting Date:</th>
<th>Location:</th>
<th>Start Time:</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Thursday, February 8, 2024</td>
<td>Zoom Meeting ID: 856 4237 4042</td>
<td>10:00 a.m.</td>
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| Adjourn Time: | 11:00 a.m. |

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<tr>
<th>Attendance:</th>
<th>X=Present</th>
<th>E=Excused</th>
<th>U=Unexcused</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Name</td>
<td>Representing</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jessica Thompson (Facilitator)</td>
<td>X Spokane County, Integrated Care Coordinator/Program Administrator Spokane County Regional BH-ASO</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ashely Magee (Backup Facilitator)</td>
<td>X Spokane County, Integrated Behavioral Healthcare Manager Spokane County Regional BH-ASO</td>
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<td>Vicki Guse</td>
<td>E Adams County, Director of Adams County Integrated Behavioral Health</td>
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<td>Ed Dzedzy</td>
<td>X Lincoln County, Director of Public Health</td>
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<td>Justin Johnson</td>
<td>X Spokane County, Director of Spokane County Community Services Dept.</td>
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<td>Laura Schultz</td>
<td>X Spokane County, Fiscal Operations Manager, Spokane County Community Services Dept.</td>
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<td>Terrance Robins</td>
<td>X Ferry County, Pend Oreille &amp; Stevens, Substance Use &amp; Housing Resource Coordinator, Northeast Tri County Health District</td>
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<td>Chris Grover</td>
<td>X City of Cheney, Mayor</td>
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<td>Mark McAvoy</td>
<td>E City of Liberty Lake, City Administrator</td>
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<td>TBD</td>
<td>U City of Spokane</td>
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<td>Albert (Al) Merkel</td>
<td>X Spokane Valley, Spokane Valley City Council</td>
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AGENDA / MINUTES:

1) **Welcome and Introductions – Jessica Thompson, Facilitator**
   a. Roll call by Participating Local Governments (PLG) in attendance. PLGs not in attendance include the City of Spokane, City of Liberty Lake and Adams County.
   b. Reviewed and approved meeting minutes from the January 11, 2024 meeting.
2) Annual Expenditure Reports & Administrative Costs -
   a. Reminder that 2023 Annual Expenditure Reports are due to be posted on the OAC website.
   b. The OAC Website is up and running. Spokane County is open to input and suggestions. The current website meets the minimum requirements of the One Washington MOU. Jessica Thompson shared the meeting link in the meeting chat, [https://www.spokanecounty.org/5488/Spokane-County-Opioid-Abatement-Council](https://www.spokanecounty.org/5488/Spokane-County-Opioid-Abatement-Council).
   c. Discussion and update regarding the 2023 5% administrative costs. At the last OAC meeting it was discussed the 5% of expended opioid settlement funding from each PLG would be requested to assist in covering administrative costs, though 10% has been agreed to in both the One Washington MOU and the Spokane County Regional OAC MOU, associated with facilitating the Opioid Abatement Council. Justin Johnson shared that Spokane County is going to hold off on sending out invoices and collecting the 5% administrative costs at this time. Spokane County is working through internal discussions to determine a methodology on how to receive funds based on the complexity of when and how opioid funds are distributed and the drastically different amounts each PLG receives based on population size. Any administrative costs associated with facilitating the OAC will be absorbed by Spokane County until a methodology is developed and agreed upon by the Spokane County Board of County Commissioners and the Spokane County Budget Office.
      i) Al Merkel asked if the the determination of the 5% should be based on the total distributed amount distributed in that year or on what is currently available.
      ii) Justin Johnson noted that the 5% would have to be determined based on what PLGs have dispersed and what is currently available at the time PLGs are invoiced. Justin Johnson shared that there are not specific rules on how to determine the distribution of admin costs and that Spokane County would like to create a methodology before invoicing any PLG.
      iii) Terrance Robbins asked for clarification that the 5% administrative costs being discussed would be after the 10% administrative costs each PLG is allowed to recoup based on the One Washington MOU. Justin Johnson shared that is correct.
      iv) Al Merkel proposed that to keep it simple, Spokane County could determine the actual costs of administrative functions associated with facilitating the OAC, split the amount equally between all PLGs and invoice for that amount.
      v) Justin Johnson shared that if we did as suggested PLGs who received smaller allotments would be paying disproportionally more than those who receive larger allotments. Justin Johnson also reported that currently, Spokane County will cover the administrative costs to support each PLG until such time as an internal admin methodology can be established. Spokane County will look for support from the other PLGs for administrative costs sometime in later 2024.
      vi) Ed Dzedzy shared that it sounds like the 5% may be more than what is needed to cover the administrative costs of facilitating the OAC and a solution could be to reduce the percentage requested. Justin Johnson shared that Spokane County believes that the 5% is necessary and justifiable, however determining when and how much each PLG is invoiced for, is challenging. Spokane County is in discussions and would only invoice as needed. If there was enough funding already invoiced to cover the administrative costs associated with facilitating the OAC, Spokane County would hold off on invoicing again, until all funds are utilized. This is the plan so that PLGs can prioritize using the Opioid Settlement Funding for its intended purposes – to assist in combatting the opioid epidemic and providing services, supports and resources to our communities. It was reiterated that Spokane County will cover the costs associated with facilitating the OAC until a methodology for the process has been established.

3) Opioid Settlement Spending Updates – OAC Members –
   a. Process Updates – Each participating local government present was asked to give a brief update on
current use, process update, and their areas of focus for opioid funds in their jurisdiction.

- **City of Cheney, Mayor Chris Grover**
  - Cheney is still in the planning phase and is working to gather community input. No Opioid Settlement Funds have been spent at this time. Cheney is working to bring all stakeholders together and come up with a plan. Mayor Chris Grover expressed interest in working with Spokane County in providing education to youth regarding substance use.

- **Lincoln County, Ed Dzedzy**
  - Lincoln County is still in the planning stages and is working with community partners, county departments and schools to generate ideas on how to best utilize the funds. Lincoln County is working to narrow down on gap areas and what the needs of the community are. It has been challenging to move forward due to uncertainty of when and how much funding will be received. Additionally, it has been difficult to strategize and plan due to the small amount of funds being received. However, Lincoln County is still moving forward in developing strategies and identifying where and how the money can make the greatest impact on the community.
  - Ed Dzedzy inquired about the expansion of the Spokane Regional Crisis Stabilization Center that was described by Justin Johnson. Justin Johnson shared the Spokane Regional Crisis Stabilization Center (SRSC) is a Spokane County owned building, that is jointly funded through the City of Spokane, Department of Corrections and the Washington State Health Care Authority. Pioneer Human Services has the delegated responsibility of operating the SRSC.

- **City of Spokane Valley, Council Member Al Merkel**
  - The City of Spokane Valley submitted their Annual Expenditure Report and has yet to expend any the $16,000 in Opioid Settlement Funds that were received in 2023. The City of Spokane Valley is interested in seeking partnership with other PLGs to leverage funds. Council Member Al Merkel asked if any PLGs were interested in partnering. Council Member Al Merkel shared that he observed the presentation done by Spokane County on potential Opioid Settlement priorities and was interested in learning more about Maddie’s Place. Council Member Al Merkel noted that the City of Spokane Valley is exploring potential grants for treatment, including grants to cover deductibles preventing people from accessing treatment. Al Merkel also shared that the City of Spokane Valley is looking into providing education on opioid prescriptions and is interested to know if anyone knows of research on current misuse of prescription opioids.
  - Terrance Robbins shared that according to a presentation from the Caldwell Police Chief counterfeit fentanyl pills are cheaper, $1.00 - $2.00 per pill, making fentanyl on the street more of a concern than prescription opioids.

- **Spokane County, Justin Johnson**
  - Spokane County Regional Behavioral Health provided a briefing to the Spokane County Board of County Commissioners and focused target areas that include both one-time allotments and ongoing sustainable services funded through Opioid Settlement dollars.
  - The key areas for one-time funding include treatment and long-term housing support for pregnant and parenting women with babies struggling with Neonatal Abstinence
Syndrome. These two (2) areas are not covered by through state or federal funding and would have the greatest long-term impact on the community.

- For the supported housing, one-time allotment, Spokane County is looking into housing support for Pregnant and parenting women with children impacted by Neonatal abstinence syndrome. Supportive housing would allow for safe, stable housing for Pregnant and Parenting Women and their babies struggling with Neo Natal Abstinence syndrome as well as offer other support services, including care coordination, employment support and other resources as needed. The goal is to improve long-term outcomes for this population.

- For the treatment of Opioid Use Disorder, Spokane County is looking into expanding the SRSC to include twenty-three (23) hour crisis triage and sobering services. This would allow for direct access to a wide range of service array for individual experiencing challenges related to Substance Use and prevent the need for incarceration and unnecessary utilization of hospitals. In doing this, Spokane County is looking at potential partnerships with other PLGs. Spokane County is currently looking at a one-time investment for the capital project associated with expanding the SRSC and plans to utilize current funding through the Spokane County Community Services Department to sustain ongoing services. This will also include the billing of Medicaid and other commercial insurance when appropriate. Spokane County is open to any conversations around partnership for this project.

- Spokane County is also looking into education and prevention programs for youth, specifically the Botvin LifeSkills Training program. This is a program with proven benefits and outcomes. Spokane County can make more information about this program available to other PLGs if interested.

- Spokane County is also looking into tracking and reviewing overdose data in partnership with the Spokane County Sheriff’s Office. Overdoses that result in death are not immediately identifiable, making it difficult to have accurate data on the scope of the issue facing Spokane County. This project would include the hiring of an analyst to collect data and provide information to all municipalities related to overdose deaths so that all municipalities have a more accurate picture of the scope of the opioid epidemic.

- **Ferry, Pend Oreille and Stevens County, Terrance Robbins**
  - Ferry, Pend Oreille and Stevens Counties are working on creating a list of people to include on taskforces related to opioid misuse and how best to spend Opioid Settlement Funding. In addition, there is a meeting this week to discuss the potential partnership between all three (3) counties (Ferry, Pend Oreille and Stevens). Meetings are planned to begin in two (2) weeks with the first meeting going over the One Washington MOU, the Opioid Abatement Council and best practices for the spending of Opioid Settlement funding. At the meeting, Terrance Robbins hopes to discuss some of the priority areas, including Medication Assisted Treatment in jails, treatment and support for Pregnant and Parenting Women. From there, the group will select priories, discuss funding amounts and present to county commissioners.

4) **Open Forum Discussion – OAC Members**

   - **Terrance Robbins** shared that there are various grants to assist in obtaining Narcan for free, including publichealth.org, Washington State Department of Health and grants through WASPEC. **Dr. Amy Burns** (member of the public) shared a link in that chat to the Department of Health Website regarding education and distribution of Naloxone. [https://doh.wa.gov/you-and-your-family/drug-user-health/overdose-education-naloxone-distribution](https://doh.wa.gov/you-and-your-family/drug-user-health/overdose-education-naloxone-distribution).
b. Justin Johnson shared that there have been discussions with the City of Spokane about appointing a new member since the departure of Kimberly McCollum and the recent change in leadership.

5) Open Comment (5 Min)

a. Dr. Amy Burns, Addiction Specialist and Psychiatrist in Spokane, WA attended the OAC meeting to share her thoughts on the opioid epidemic in Spokane based on her experience working with individuals struggling with Opioid Use Disorder.

i) Dr. Burns shared that her motivation for coming and speaking to the OAC is based on the patients that she works with. Dr. Bruns noted that her concern is that the funding will be split into many smaller adjacent projects resulting in the funding not being able to address overall gaps. Dr. Burns shared that there is a need for a low barrier, walk-in clinic where no appointments are needed at all hours that accepts all insurance and has a pharmacy onsite. Dr. Burns also noted that funding a lobbyist/grant writer would be helpful for non-profits in applying for funding and would ensure long-term sustainability of local non-profit agencies serving people with opioid use disorder.

ii) Al Merkel asked Dr. Burns how many beds would be needed to address the gap and the need for services. Dr. Bruns clarified that she believes the need is more for a Buprenorphine Clinic where people can access Medication Assisted Treatment without an appointment. Dr. Burns noted that making appointments is a challenge for people with opioid use disorder due to limited availability. Dr. Burns also shared that this would allow people to get services when they are ready, versus when there are available time slots for appointments.

iii) Justin Johnson shared that not all members of the OAC are the decision makers for how Opioid Settlement Funding is used. Elected officials are the decision makers, and for Spokane County, that is the Spokane County Board of County Commissioners. Justin Johnson also shared that the state receives about 50% of the Opioid Settlement Funding and that the National Opioid Abatement Trust (NOAT) Committee is designed to determine how the states allotment of Opioid Settlement Funding is utilized and that they are currently seeking feedback.

6) Next Meeting – Jessica Thompson, Facilitator

a. The next OAC meeting is scheduled for Thursday, March 14, 2024.

Meeting was adjourned.

**ACTIONS:** Each PLG is asked to send their opioid settlement spending updates, via email to Jessica Thompson. That information will be uploaded to the website per the One Washington MOU agreement.

**Next Meeting:**

**Match 14, 2024, at 10:00 am - Zoom Meeting**

**Name of recorder(s):**

Ashley Magee & Jessica Thompson