

OPIOID TASK FORCE
March 26, 2025 at 1:30 p.m.
Benton County Courthouse
Courthouse Basement Conference Room
111 E 4th Street. Vinton, IA

** Agenda is not printed in any particular order; only time specific items will be addressed at certain times

David Upah-no	Grace Schmidt-x
Chelsea Herber-x	Jean Ohlen-x
Hayley Rippel-x	Ray Lough-x
Brian Meeker-no	Ben Parmater-x
James Bieschke-no	Cindy Pattee-x
Monica Cox-x	Dan LaGrange-x

1. Call to Order

Meeting called to order at 1:28 PM.

2. Approval of Minutes

Motion to approve the February 25, 2025 meeting minutes:

- **1st:** Hayley Rippel
- **2nd:** Chelsea Herber

3. Updates Since Last Meeting

- Reminder: Funds must be used specifically for opioid-related activities; only 5% may be allocated for administrative expenses.
- Ray provided an update on current funding recipients and discussed future funding priorities.

4. Review of Opioid Fund Balance

- Current balance: **\$234,000**
- Notification received regarding an upcoming ACH deposit; timing remains uncertain.

5. Proposal Presentation: Jean Ohlen – PORT (Post Overdose Response Team)

- Jean proposed an amendment to her proposal in the amount of **\$2,375**.
- The PORT initiative would include:
 - Harm reduction services (safe syringe use, outreach to active users)
 - Naloxone distribution
 - Timeline targets implementation by **July 2026**
 - Proposed team: 1 EMS, 1 Public Health, 1 person with lived experience (possibly with/without treatment history)
 - Referrals and data collection processes discussed (SDOH tracking, evaluation methods, referral pathways)
 - Database access and data management questions were raised
- Shelby noted potential overlap with the existing ASAC Care Navigator/Law Enforcement Liaison program
- **Motion:** Grace moved to table the proposal for 3 months to allow for review of the existing ASAC Care Navigator program
 - **2nd:** Ben Parmater

6. Proposal Discussions and Follow-Up Questions

- Ray discussed a Parent Mentorship Program with Juvenile Courts and asked about replicating a similar program for individuals' post-overdose
 - Discussion on possible implementation through CRUSH using Peer Specialists in Benton County
 - Shelby to invite a local AA sponsor to the next meeting to explore community support
- **Harm Reduction Supplies**
 - Dan inquired about making supplies more accessible (e.g., boxes or vending machines)

7. Proposal Approval

- **VGH MAT Clinic Proposal – \$59,800**
 - Funding for 10 individuals to receive Suboxone (includes medication and training costs)
 - To be disbursed as a lump sum
 - Start date of contract/MOU to be determined
 - **Motion to approve:**
 - **1st:** Hayley Rippel
 - **2nd:** Jean Ohlen

8. Next Meeting

- Scheduled for **April 30th at 1:30 PM** at the **Benton County Courthouse Basement**

9. New/Old Business & Public Comments

- ASAC is requested to bring data on individuals served through Benton County opioid funds

10. Adjournment

- Meeting adjourned at **2:35 PM**
 - **1st:** Chelsea Herber