

OPIOID TASK FORCE
 October 1, 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-x	Grace Schmidt-x
Chelsea Herber-x	Jean Ohlen-x
Hayley Rippel-x	Ray Lough- x
Brian Meeker-no	Ben Parmater-no
James Bieschke- no	Cindy Pattee-no
Monica Cox-x	Dan LaGrange-x
Tina Eden-x	Katie Cox-x
Shelby-x	Josh Karsten-x

1. Approval of Minutes from August 27, 2025
 Motion to approve: 1st – Hayley Rippel, 2nd – Jean Ohlen. Motion carried.
2. Updates Since Last Meeting
 - o Correction noted: pill lock bags were purchased.
 Motion to approve change: 1st – Chelsea Herber, 2nd – Ray Lough. Motion carried.
3. Financial Review
 - o Deposits and balance of the Opioid Fund reviewed.
 - o Current total balance: \$246,907.90.
4. Proposals and Discussion
 - o Ray Lough: Awaiting paperwork on a new opioid bankruptcy to allow Benton County to be involved. A follow-up letter will be sent.
 - o Hayley Rippel: Will prepare a detailed budget vs. actual report for year-end, outlining expenses.
 - o Discussion on estimating potential total settlement funds (approximately \$430,000).

ASAC Proposal

- o Request: \$35,000 annually for FY26–FY28 to fund a 0.50 FTE Care Navigator in Benton County.
- o Care Navigator has built referrals and community partnerships.
- o Motion to approve a two-year grant agreement (\$35,000/year).
 Motion: 1st – Jean Ohlen, 2nd – Grace Schmidt. Motion carried.

Sheriff’s Office Proposal

- o Ongoing uncertainty regarding reimbursements for psych meds, transportation, and MH care.
- o Reimbursements confirmed for committals.
- o \$50,000 request remains but tabled for one month to ensure best allocation.

Virginia Gay Hospital Proposal

- o Updated CPI quote: \$15,398 for two trainers to provide two-day de-escalation training, including travel.

- Training possibly outside of hospital setting; licensure requirements being checked.
- Sustainability discussed.
- Motion to approve: 1st – Grace Schmidt, 2nd – Jean Ohlen. Motion carried.

Suboxone Clinic Update

- UIHC MAT Mobile Clinic is planning to expand into Benton County.
 - VGH NP willing to oversee medical side.
 - MOU may be ready by January.
5. Next Meeting
 - Scheduled for November 12, 2025, at 1:30 p.m. in the Upstairs Courtroom.
 6. New/Old Business & Public Interest Comments
 - Opioid work may be added to the public health website; Grace Schmidt will work on descriptions and data.
 - Chief Karsten suggested potentially adding a nurse to the jail to better address inmate needs.
 - Hayley Rippel will compile updated financials to assess feasibility.
 - Committee membership list to be updated.
 7. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn: 1st – Grace Schmidt, 2nd – Ray Lough. Motion carried.

Meeting adjourned.