



Oakland County Opioid Settlement Steering Committee

Meeting #11 | May 20, 2025

Meeting Summary

Emerging Substance Update: Carfentanil

The steering committee reviewed information on recent detections of carfentanil, a potent opioid intended exclusively for use in veterinary medicine, which first appeared in the illicit drug supply in the U.S. around 2016. Following a decline in detections between 2020 and 2023, carfentanil has since begun to re-emerge. Two recent fatal overdoses in Oakland County involved carfentanil, prompting MDHHS to issue a community alert. Recommended local actions shared with the group included promoting harm reduction messaging, distributing naloxone, and exploring strategies to remain responsive to emerging concerns.

Overview of Emerging Needs Fund Guidance

The committee reviewed new guidance developed by the Michigan Association of Counties (MAC) for creating an Emerging Needs Fund and examined Ingham County's approach as a practical example of this model. Ingham County launched an Emerging Needs Fund using opioid settlement dollars in response to a local spike in overdoses. An Emerging Needs Fund would support a responsive approach to urgent issues, such as rapid responses to overdose spikes, shifting drug trends, and sustaining program operations during funding cuts. Steering committee members expressed broad support for exploring the development of a similar fund locally but emphasized the need for clear parameters, oversight, and eligibility criteria.

Review of Draft Request for Information (RFI)

The group discussed a draft RFI intended to gather community input on unmet needs and service gaps. Feedback centered on ensuring the RFI is accessible to a broad array of community organizations, promotes an equitable approach, and elicits the level of detail needed to support well-informed funding decisions. The goal of the RFI is to guide equitable and strategic investments while maintaining transparency and accountability.

Next Steps

Next steps include refining the RFI draft based on steering committee feedback to ensure accessibility and clarity, finalizing it, and coordinating a timeline for release. Additionally, a proposal framework for development of a local Emerging Needs Funds will be drafted and shared with the group prior to pursuing seeking approval for its establishment from the Oakland County Board of Commissioners.

Next meeting: Tuesday, June 17th 3:30-5 pm