

Opioid Abatement Advisory Board Minutes

Wednesday, April 1st, 2026

10am – 11am Remote via Zoom

Present: Brice Boutot, Sarah Smith, Marina Lent, Fred Hehre, Sarah Toste, Anna McCaffrey

Also Present: Martina Thornton, County Manager, Diane Conroy LaCivita, Health and Human Services Director, Kala Thapa, Ally Gittens Dias, Mosaic Municipal TTA, Liz Whynott, Mosaic Municipal TTA

Key Presentations:

Ally Gittens Dias presented comprehensive community engagement strategies, emphasizing the importance of including people with lived and living experience of opioid use

Best practices discussed: providing compensation (preferably cash), ensuring confidentiality, using trauma-informed approaches, avoiding stigmatizing language, and "closing the loop" by sharing results with participants

Main Discussion Points:

The board discussed partnering with existing groups like the substance use disorder (SUD) Coalition and forming a Community Advisory Board

Strategies include interviews, focus groups, listening sessions, and surveys to gather community input

Emphasis on reaching active drug users, people in recovery, and affected family members, not just clinicians and service providers

Upcoming Opportunities:

April 9th: Dukes County Health Council Community Partnerships Collaboration Workshop in Tisbury (20+ stakeholders attending)

April 11th: Hospital Health Fair (opportunity for surveys and outreach)

BU students (Kala and Jaden) will conduct community needs assessment interviews with local stakeholders via Zoom.

Administrative Items:

Brice made a motion to approve Sarah signing contracts between Jaden, Kala, and the County.

Marina seconded.

Board approved unanimously to allow Sarah to sign contracts with BU students (\$5,000 each, \$10,000 total)

Discussion of how to allocate costs among towns, particularly Edgartown, which hasn't yet contributed funds to the collaborative pool. Sarah to follow up with the State to determine an appropriate formula for equal billing distribution for shared expenses.

Meeting adjourned at 11:08am

Next meeting: April 15th