

DAKOTA COUNTY OPIOID RESPONSE ADVISORY COMMITTEE 2025 - 2026 STRATEGIC PLAN

OVERVIEW

The Dakota County Opioid Response Advisory Committee (ORAC) was established as a Board appointed advisory committee in October 2023 and supports the development of a comprehensive and effective countywide response to the opioid crisis. It provides recommendations to the County Board on the use of Opioid Settlement funds for external projects and initiatives. ORAC membership includes one resident with lived experience per district, three healthcare representatives, three community partners, and four local government staff members.

JOHNS HOPKINS PRINCIPLES FOR THE USE OF OPIOID SETTLEMENT FUNDS

- ▶ Spend money to save lives.
- ▶ Use evidence to guide spending.
- ▶ Invest in youth prevention.
- ▶ Focus on racial equity.
- ▶ Develop a fair and transparent process for deciding where to spend the funding.

PRIORITIES AND ACTIONS

The actions listed below will be launched over two years (2025 and 2026). The work may continue beyond 2026.



INCREASE COMMUNITY AWARENESS

Create and promote culturally appropriate and stigma reducing opioid messages to increase community awareness.

- ▶ Create a substance use disorder and recovery services community guide.*
- ▶ Start a paid communication campaign to increase opioid awareness and recruit help.



EXPAND RECOVERY SERVICES

Create and expand adolescent and adult recovery services to improve community health.

- ▶ Create a substance use disorder and recovery services community guide.*
- ▶ Expand peer recovery services.



PROMOTE OPIOID PREVENTION

Engage organizations and schools to promote adolescent opioid prevention.

- ▶ Research and report evidence-based adolescent opioid prevention efforts locally and nationally.
- ▶ Identify Dakota County organizations, diversion programs, and schools that serve priority-population adolescents. Develop relationships and share information.



NALOXONE EDUCATION & DISTRIBUTION

Distribute naloxone throughout Dakota County and educate community on how it works to reduce overdoses.

- ▶ Identify where naloxone is available and where overdoses are occurring. Create a distribution and training plan.
- ▶ Create a near-expiration naloxone usage plan for community and partners.

**The community guide is an overlapping action for both the opioid awareness and recovery services priorities.*

For more information contact James Johnson at James.johnson@co.dakota.mn.us.

Dakota County Public Health, 1 Mendota Road West, West St. Paul MN 55118
651.554.6100 / www.dakotacounty.us

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