



**CHAMPAIGN COUNTY BOARD  
OPIOID SETTLEMENT TASK FORCE**

County of Champaign, Urbana, Illinois  
Monday, December 4, 2023 - 6:30 p.m.

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Shields-Carter Meeting Room  
Brookens Administrative Center  
1776 E. Washington St., Urbana

**Committee Members:**

Jennifer Locke - Chair  
Jennifer Straub  
Chris Stohr  
Emily Rodriguez

Ed Sexton  
Aaron Esry  
Diane Michaels

**Agenda Items**

- I. Call to Order**
- II. Roll Call**
- III. Approval of Agenda/Addendum**
- IV. Approval of Minutes**
  - A. October 30, 2023
- V. Public Participation**
- VI. Communications**
- VII. New Business**
  - A. Effects of Opioids in Champaign County
    1. Champaign County Jail
  - B. Updates from Staff
  - C. Discussion
- VIII. Other Business**
  - A. Date of next meeting
- IX. Chair's Report**
- X. Adjournment**

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County of Champaign, Urbana, Illinois  
Monday, October 30, 2023 - 6:30 p.m.

Shields-Carter Meeting Room  
Brookens Administrative Center  
1776 E. Washington St., Urbana

**MINUTES – Subject to Approval**

DATE: Monday, October 30, 2023  
TIME: 6:30 p.m.  
PLACE: Shields-Carter Meeting Room  
Brookens Administrative Center  
1776 E. Washington St., Urbana, IL 61802

**Committee Members:**

Present	Absent
Aaron Esry	
Jennifer Locke (Chair)	
Diane Michaels (Vice-Chair)	
Emily Rodriguez	
	Ed Sexton
Chris Stohr	
Jennifer Straub	

**Others Present:** Michelle Jett (Director of Administration) and Megan Robison (Recording Secretary)

**Agenda Items**

**I. Call to Order**

Chair Locke called the meeting to order at 6:32 p.m.

**II. Roll Call**

A verbal roll call was taken, and a quorum was declared present.

**III. Approval of Agenda/Addendum**

**MOTION** by Mr. Esry to approve and amend the agenda to add Judge Dyer as VII. A. 1 and move the others down one spot; seconded by Ms. Rodriguez. Upon vote, the **MOTION CARRIED** unanimously.

**IV. Approval of Minutes**

A. September 6, 2023

**MOTION** by Ms. Michaels to approve the minutes of September 6, 2023; seconded by Ms. Straub. Upon vote, the **MOTION CARRIED** unanimously.

**V. Public Participation**

None

46 **VI. Communications**

47  
48 Chair Locke was in a local establishment this week where she found a used package of Narcan in the  
49 bathroom. She checked to see if there had been any emergency calls made from that location, didn't see  
50 any and hope that means the Narcan did its job.

51  
52 **VII. New Business**

53 **A. Effects of Opioids in Champaign County**

54  
55 **1. Champaign County Drug Court**

56  
57 Judge Ben Dyer, a Circuit Judge who oversees the Champaign County Drug Court, explained to the Task  
58 Force how drug court is designed, the goals of the program and what departments are involved. He  
59 explained that the most difficult substance they tackle are opioids and he knows of at least 5 people that  
60 he represented while in the Public Defender's Office who lost their battle with opioids. He stated that  
61 medication assisted treatment has been the most successful treatment they have seen, and they assist  
62 their clients with applying for Medicaid insurance to pay for the treatment. After treatment they go  
63 through Moral Recognition Therapy and then they slowly roll back treatment and therapy to allow for  
64 the client to begin working.

65  
66 Judge Dyer stated he would like to do more research on how the funds can be used. Some immediate  
67 thoughts would be for clients that cannot get into residential treatment due to insurance issues or for  
68 interim housing subsidy. County Department Heads would most likely ask for funds for additional  
69 personnel to dedicate to drug court proceedings.

70  
71 **2. Champaign-Urbana Public Health Department**

72  
73 Joe Trotter, Harm Reduction Program Coordinator at Champaign-Urbana Health Department, presented  
74 information about his program and what they see in Champaign County and surrounding areas.  
75 Overdoses are worsening nationwide and, in our area, because fentanyl (an opiate) is getting into the  
76 drug supply on the street.

77  
78 Ms. Michaels asked about the risk of liability with the use of Narcan. Mr. Trotter explained that there is a  
79 standing medical order that covers anyone in the State of Illinois that allows them to carry and  
80 administer Narcan without risk of liability as long as they don't use it on someone that is conscious. The  
81 use of Narcan will not harm someone that has not used opioids.

82  
83 Ms. Locke asked about the ease of access outside of Champaign/Urbana. Mr. Trotter and other staff  
84 members spend time out in the community making deliveries of Narcan to many different locations and  
85 they are trying to expand on that.

86  
87 Mr. Trotter would like to see funding going towards medically assisted recovery within the jail system,  
88 people are detoxing on their own and this only leads to them to want to use as soon as they are  
89 discharged from jail. The death rate upon release is fifteen times that of what it is on the street. Other  
90 options for funding would be drug diagnostic devices similar to what they use in the Chicago area and  
91 Narcan "vending machines" strategically placed throughout the County.

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93                   3. County Board of Health  
94

95                   Dr. John Peterson, County Board of Health member, spoke about medically assisted recovery  
96                   treatments, how they work and his extensive background in the field. He would like to know if the  
97                   Coroner’s Office is doing adequate testing for drugs and for them to send more data to the County  
98                   Board of Health. He stated the data shows much less heroin and cocaine in our area, with 80% of tests  
99                   showing fentanyl.

100  
101                   Mr. Esry asked how long a patient needs to take these medications before they are no longer needed.  
102                   Dr. Peterson reminded the Task Force that addiction is a lifelong disease. He recommends patients use  
103                   the medication for at least two years, but it could be a lifelong requirement.

104  
105                   Krista Jones, County Board of Health President, reminded everyone that the outlying communities do  
106                   not have the access like Champaign/Urbana. She would like to see funds going to the areas where the  
107                   resources are not as readily available.

108  
109                   4. Rantoul Police Department  
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111                   Justin Bouse, Rantoul Deputy Chief of Police, shared their 2023 statistics, details of their 4U Program,  
112                   areas of concern and lack of support services in the community. He shared some ideas for youth-focused  
113                   programs, increasing support services and opioid abuse prevention that the police department could  
114                   implement with these funds.

115  
116                   Mr. Esry asked if there are transportation barriers for treatments and services. Deputy Chief Bouse  
117                   explained that he knows of many instances of transportation barriers for so many different situations.  
118                   Mr. Esry suggested we look into the possibility of C-CARTS assisting with transportation needs.

119  
120                   Ms. Michaels reminded everyone that this money can be used for education/training, and we need to  
121                   work on educating our youth.

122  
123                   B. Updates from Staff  
124

125                   Ms. Jett is going to check to see if the County Jail currently does medically assisted recovery treatment  
126                   for inmates. She also mentioned it would be easiest to allocate money to the County Board of Health  
127                   and then they will execute the project for the County. If the Task Force would like to survey the local fire  
128                   departments, they could pay an intern to call all of the departments to determine what is their current  
129                   level of need. Finally, she stated she will check in with C-CARTS to see if they could assist with additional  
130                   transportation.

131  
132                   1. Outreach to Surrounding Counties  
133

134                   Ford and Douglas County did not respond to questions regarding their use of opioid funds.

135  
136                   Piatt County stated they are using their funds for Narcan education for law enforcement, community  
137                   education and community-based intervention projects. They are interested in talking about a regional  
138                   effort because they see the importance of collaboration.  
139

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140 Vermilion County is putting most of the money back into their probation and drug court programs. They  
141 are trying to cover any costs that are barriers to the clients in those programs. They would also be  
142 interested in talking about a regional effort.

143  
144 2. GIS Mapping Project

145  
146 The proposal from GIS was sent to the Task Force members. Ms. Jett explained that building a  
147 dashboard with different layers of data could be really helpful. The cost for this service is very  
148 affordable.

149  
150 C. Discussion

151  
152 Ms. Michaels believes we have the products to help those with drug addictions, but we lack the  
153 education and ability to distribute the products throughout the community. She would really like to see  
154 the County focus their funds on education and training. Ms. Locke agrees with focusing on education.  
155 Ms. Straub would like to fund better access to the products and services we already have available.

156  
157 Ms. Jett asked Mr. Trotter what the top five barriers are for people:

- 158 • Money
- 159 • Distance
- 160 • Stigma
- 161 • Services for in between using and being clean
- 162 • Access to mental health counseling

163  
164 Dave King, Community Outreach Manager for Carle Addiction Services, gave details of a grant that is  
165 available and might be of interest to the County for addressing the opioid epidemic.

166  
167 Task Force members listed the following items as next steps:

- 168 • Fund GIS mapping project – adding a layer for age
- 169 • Have grant writer begin working on the grant mentioned by Mr. King
- 170 • Begin conversations about medical detoxing in jail
- 171 • Have Sheriff come to next meeting
- 172 • Follow-up with C-CARTS

173  
174 **VIII. Other Business**

175 A. Date of next meeting

176  
177 Chair Locke set the next meeting date for December 4<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 p.m.

178  
179 **IX. Chair's Report**

180  
181 None

182  
183 **X. Adjournment**

184  
185 Chair Locke adjourned the meeting at 8:26 p.m.

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