

**MINUTES OF A JOINT OPIOID PLANNING MEETING
OF THE JACKSON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS,
THE TOWN OF SYLVA, THE TOWN OF DILLSBORO, THE TOWN OF WEBSTER
AND THE VILLAGE OF FOREST HILLS
HELD ON JULY 09, 2024**

The Jackson County Board of Commissioners met in a Joint Opioid Planning Meeting with the Town of Sylva, the Town of Dillsboro, the Town of Webster and the Village of Forest Hills on July 09, 2024, 1:00 p.m., Justice and Administration Building, Room A201, 401 Grindstaff Cove Road, Sylva, North Carolina.

County Board of Commissioners

Mark A. Letson, Chairman
Todd Bryson, Vice Chair
Mark Jones, Commissioner
Tom Stribling, Commissioner
John W. Smith, Commissioner
Kevin King, County Manager
John Kubis, County Attorney (Zoom)
Angela M. Winchester, Clerk to the Board

Town of Sylva

Johnny Phillips, Mayor
Paige Dowling, Town Manager
Amanda Murajda, Clerk to the Board
Chris Hatton, Police Chief
Galadrial LaVere, Social Worker

Town of Dillsboro

Tim Parris, Mayor
Keith Clark, Alderperson
Gladys Pilarski, Alderperson
Debbie Coffey, Clerk to the Board

Town of Webster

Tracy Rodes, Mayor
Leigh Anne Young, Vice Mayor

Village of Forest Hills

Marcia Almond, Mayor
Larry Ingersoll, Councilmembers

Chairman Letson called the meeting to order.

(1) OPIOID PLANNING: Tonya Wilson-Snider, tenBiz President and on behalf of Southwestern Commission, stated Southwestern Commission was heavily involved in the Opioid Abatement Planning. There was a class action lawsuit across the country, including North Carolina. The area would be receiving around \$18 million, as a region. All seven counties in Region A decided to go through regional planning. There was an opportunity to leverage the funds, if they were working together with other communities and counties.

She presented: North Carolina Region A County Level Opioid Abatement Planning:

(a) Strategic Planning Process: progress to date:

- Complete: Strengths and Needs Assessment Reporting
- In Progress:
 - Strategic Planning
 - Implementation Planning
- Ongoing: Core Client Team + Internal Team Meetings
- March-June:
 - Hold county level strategic planning meetings
 - Draft region level strategic plan document

(b) How did they get there? Region A was supporting a Collaborative Planning Process to provide all counties with the information to help them choose from all of NC's approved strategies (Option A and Option B).

- Regional Needs Assessment
- Initial Priority Votes
- Identification of Potential Strategies

- (c) Each county had full control over how they decided to use their funds, as it aligned with the MOA. MOA options included:
- Option A or Option B for county level strategies and use of funds;
 - And/or the option to support regional strategies.
- (d) High Level Region A Findings:
- Strengths to build on:
 - Existing treatment and recovery efforts to build upon
 - Collaborative partnerships were strong
 - Efforts to reduce and prevent overdose deaths were underway
 - Opportunities:
 - Building on treatment and efforts to prevent misuse and reduce harm
 - Improving connections to care/treatment access
 - Reduce stigma across the region for people seeking treatment and in recovery
- (e) County Level Context:
- Strengths and Needs Assessment respondents:
 - Community survey: 41
 - Focus groups and/or interviews: 19
 - Top survey priority: supporting treatment and recovery
 - Highlights from open ended survey responses: noted availability of MAT program.
 - County specific needs highlighted in focus groups/interviews:
 - General treatment support and connecting people to the care they need
 - Support for people in recovery to find employment and combat stigma
 - Limited recovery housing
 - Peer support may be more limited than in some counties
- (f) Strategy Options A and B:
- Process requirements:
 - Establish a fund
 - Authorize spending
 - Understand A and B options and select strategies
 - Understand and follow reporting requirements
 - Hold annual meeting
 - Option A versus Option B:
 - Higher level, shorter list of 12 high impact strategies
 - 77 local governments have reported spending plans for high impact Exhibit A strategies
 - Additional strategies to select from
 - 9 local governments have reported spending plans for high impact Exhibit B strategies
 - Requires collaborative strategic planning process and additional reporting
- (g) Reporting Requirements:
- Local spending authorization report due to CORE-NC within 90 days of resolution
 - The Option B report and recommendations for counties proceeding with Option B
 - The annual financial report due within 90 days of any fiscal year in which opioid settlement funds were received, held or expended
 - The annual impact report due within 90 days of any fiscal year in which opioid settlement funds were expended
 - Annual meeting requirement

- (h) Top 3 priority regional needs map to Option A:
 - Recovery Support Services
 - Post Overdose Response Team
 - Naloxone Distribution
- (i) What support does the county need with the next steps?
 - Additional information gathering/further planning meetings?
 - Sharing additional information or resources?
 - Implementation planning meeting?

Informational item.

There being no further business, Commissioner Stribling moved to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Bryson seconded the Motion. Motion carried and the meeting adjourned at 1:19 p.m.

Attest:

Approved:

Angela M. Winchester, Clerk to Board

Mark A. Letson, Chairman