

Mayor Ingram opened the meeting with an introduction and welcome. The individuals were appointed by the Mayor and clarification was given as to who was chosen based upon their expertise/relevance. Clarification was given by Heather Rhymes as to why only private pharmacies were present, as the chain pharmacies in our area were alleged as involved in the lawsuit that resulted in the Opioid Settlement. The Mayor gave Gabbie McConkey the floor for a thorough PowerPoint presentation that detailed the abatement funds, state council, and local goals in Monroe County according to the regulations and specs for funds that have been received to date.

Teresa Harrill asked about a timeline. The mayor responded stating we don't have to spend it all at one time, it does roll over. There is currently \$350,000 in the bank with \$125,000 unrestricted for around 5 years and approximately \$212,000 more restricted, for 18 years with 7 pages of restrictions. The mayor applauded our county for having this council. Stacy has been attending the meetings that are being held regionally regarding these funds and Gail stated we should be expecting auditing, therefore, data and documentation of fund usage will be necessary.

A discussion was held about potential members to be included in future conversations.

Regulating the occurrence of meetings was discussed. The consensus was to have them monthly.

Logistics regarding the council meetings were discussed, including a Member MOU for elected members. Some items mentioned for consideration include: public comment avenues and transparency (Heather Rhymes from the Monroe County Health Council offered their website for use), chair/secretary can be the point of contact person for the public, flexibility for members, zoom link for meeting attendance but not for voting, proxy members, post the minutes agenda, and term limits.

The discussion was held about the possibility of developing applications to use to apply for Monroe County funds. Council members will abstain from voting on proposals or projects they have a vested interest in. Suggestions for the application document were: detailed as possible, the amount being requested, sustainability, evaluation of the program, and control and monitoring. Discussion about project possibilities that may be deemed permissible being that of services for those in active recovery or dependency, healthcare providers, schools, law enforcement officers/detectives, jail programs, education/prevention, mental health services, and ER resources/assistance for those seeking treatment/recovery.

The floor was open to ideas for using funding. Jim Wall said, "Overdose investigations take months, families are calling more and more...only 3 investigators and a surplus of 100 overdose investigation going on at this time" Suggestions included: Investigators dedicated to Monroe County overdose deaths, prevention, recovery, treatment, healthy activities, built environment, & community based. The big picture must be considered, and overall well-being will require more than just curricula and short-term projects and programs.

Discussing overdoses within Monroe County, the mayor mentioned that autopsies come from the mayor's budget. Currently, they are paying for around 11-12 a month at \$2,000 per autopsy with the addition of a toxicology screen which costs between \$750-\$800. This is the only budget line that requires an increase yearly to meet the need. He also said that 90% of autopsies are suicide or overdose. It was also mentioned that juvenile detention needs are out of county and costly as well at \$35-\$85 a day.

Other discussion during this time was as follows.

Thomas (SHA) asked what currently exists and it was discussed to map where we are as a county and map where to go from there.

A draft MOU will be presented to members for suggestions/approval and further discussion will be held re: the fund application at the next meeting, which will be held May 16th @ 9AM.

(Minutes recorded & submitted by H. Rhymes)