



**LEWIS & CLARK COUNTY METRO REGION
OPIOID ABATEMENT GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE**

March 16, 2026 – 11AM- 1 PM

City-County Build Room 326

Zoom link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82329486555?pwd=vbJ4Zl1bbQ6LSu5SEaBSMkmv403PNB.1>

Approved Meeting minutes

The following Committee Members responded present:

Council Member and Committee Chair Wesley Feist
Vice Chair Coleen Smith
James Petrovich
Commissioner Andy Hunthausen
Mayor Emily Dean

Committee staff in attendance:

Elisa Fiaschetti, Lewis and Clark County
Amanda Opitz, City of Helena
Nancy Lightner, City of Helena

Others in attendance:

Mikayla Kapphan, Good Samaritans
Eric Kroeger, Good Samaritans
Troy Christensen, LCC Sheriff's Office
Kayla Morris, St. Peters Health
Nova Smith, St. Peters Health (zoom)
Mikael Lindquist, LCC Criminal Justice Services
Michelle Potts, Montana Legal Services
Rachel Twoteeth-Pichardo, Helena Indian Alliance
Joelle Johnson, Helena Indian Alliance
Sarah Sandau, LCCPH
Shannon Sproul, Recovery Montana (Virtual)
Nicole Hackley, Prevention Support Services (virtual)

Recording Time Stamp



(00:00:09:) 1. Call Meeting to Order & Roll Call – Wesley Feist, Committee Chair

(00:00:40) 2. Minutes for January 14, 2026

No public comments

(00:01:16) Vice Chair Smith moves to approve minutes. Commissioner Hunthausen seconds. All in favor. Motion carried.

(00:01:28) 3. MOAT Updates

No comments or questions

(00:02:25) 4. Annual Report update from Coleen

Coleen reviewed the report

Comments:

Committee is interested in seeing information that delineates youth / adult subpopulations. Coleen mentioned this is tough given how the information is presented in the applications and report.

Vice chair Smith and Chair Fiest talked about presenting this at Kiwanis club and Hometown Helena next month.

Chair Fiest and Vice Chair Smith will present this information. Other committee members committed to attending.

Follow up:

- Staff will contact grantees to make them aware this report will be presented at these meetings.
- Staff will send the PowerPoint presentation that was created for the Community Needs Assessment presentation specific of this program.
- Once complete, staff will send this to the report to the MOAT and put on the website.

(00:09:27) 5. Status update on funded projects

Good Samaritan January & February Monthly Report & 6-Month Report. Good Samaritan staff, Mikayla Kapphan and Eric Kroeger, were there to answer questions.

Chair Feist asked for clarification on what they meant by serving rural populations. Good Samaritan staff said staff goes to North Helena Valley, East Helena, and Grizzly Gulch. Commissioner Hunthausen asked for clarification on what rural means. Chair Feist offered that the original intent was to reach rural communities like Lincoln and August.

Good Samaritan mentioned that transportation is a challenge to reach rural areas. They are working with partners and other organizations on transportation.



Mahor Dean and James Petrovich asked about housing and Good Samaritan said they have housed nine people since August.

(00:18:04) YWCA 6-Month Report- Vice Chair Smith acknowledges the success of a previous YWCA resident now working on the program.

(00:18:45) STORPI 1 Year Report

Follow up question from the committee about participants of the program. The report noted that there were 159 participants who filled out training evaluations. Can you tell us a little more about the demographics of the people who attended?

(00:20:25) Intermountain Deaconess Children's Services 6 Month Report- No questions from the committee

(00:20:44) St. Peter's Health Foundation 1- Year Report & September 2025

Kayla Morris was in person to answer questions, and Nova Smith was virtual. Commissioner Hunthausen asked questions about transportation and inquired if the transportation issue is getting better with all partners. Kayla Morris said it is still a challenge, but improving.

(00:24:33) 6. Current Available Funding Review- \$469,153.50

\$69,153.51 available now, \$400,000 available after July 1. This is the *full amount* available for both the spring and fall cycles (\$234,638 each).

Chair Feist commented that the intention of this meeting is to be reviewing these applications and discussing the applications and meeting again on March 30th on zoom to determine funding. Grantees will be awarded after July 1.

The committee will make the decision on how to divide the funding at the March 30 meeting.

(00:26:31) 7. Application review and presentations

Lewis and Clark Public Health- Grow Together- Sarah Sandau with LCC Public Health presented the program in person.

Vice Chair Smith ask what percentage of women receive opioids in the hospital. Sarah said she could find that out, but mentioned it is a hard number to find.

Chair Feist asked how the families are identified. Sarah said previously home visiting was restricted, but this is a universal model, and everyone has the ability to access a home visit. The program is offered to all.



Chair Feist suggested that if this was funded, we would want to reach out to the other counties so they are aware of it, because it would reach other regions.

Vice Chair Smith asked if babies need to be born in LCC. Sarah said they do not, but the outreach is focused on LCC.

James Petrovich asked about how they are hitting the population of mothers with opioid use disorder, and if we will miss the target population. Sarah responded that because the program is universal and accessible to everyone, they are only requesting $\frac{1}{4}$ of this position to be funded by the MOAT funding.

Mayor Dean asked about what would happen if this program didn't exist. Sarah responded with stories of families that utilized and benefited from home visiting.

(00:38:18) Commissioner Hunthausen brought up the question of Conflict of Interest given there were two applications from Lewis and Clark County, and he is a County Commissioner. Chair Fiest responded that because Commissioner Hunthausen is an elected official, there is no Conflict of Interest.

(00:39:32) **Good Samaritan Ministries- STOPS Campaign-** Mikayla Kapphan and Eric Kroeger from Good Samaritans presented in person. Chair Feist about resources in Helena, and asked about partnerships with Sheriff's office, East Helena Police Dept., Augusta Public health nurse, Friendship center. He asked if they had reached out to these resources. Mikayla reached out to East Helena but has not heard back. She mentioned that HPD usually reaches out to them. They will reach out the Friendship Center if they have a fit, Major Dean asked about the demographics of the population they serve. Mikayla response that most are 18+, a lot of elderly. They serve about 15 women, 20-30 men, and veterans. They don't see a lot of youth and primarily men. James Petrovich asked about peer specialist and credentials. Mikayla said the current resource navigator is trained, but not certified, and they can add it to the street outreach person. James also asked about sustainability and if there plan place for future funding. Eric said they are looking at this now with the MOAT and block grants. Looking at this as a whole and becoming a priority to find funding sources and not so grant heavy. Chair Fiest made the comment that if this were to be funded, the committee would want to see a sustainability plan and long long-term ability to serve.



(00:52:26) Chair Fiest made a comment that the total requested amount is about \$895,000, and this year we have available \$469,153.50, which is available after July 1.

(00:53:01) PureView Health Center- Transcranial Magnetic Stimulation- No one from Purview was present. Follow up questions to applicant:

- Overview of TMS: Brief, plain-language explanation of what Transcranial Magnetic Stimulation (TMS) is, how it works, and the conditions it is typically used to treat.
- Regional Capacity: Is St. Peter's Health currently at or near capacity for TMS services? Are there known waitlists or unmet needs in the region?
- SMART Goals: Can you outline concise SMART goals? What measurable outcomes will you track and over what timeframe?
- Equipment Lifespan: The request references leasing the TMS machine—what is the typical lifespan of the equipment, and would it support services over multiple years? Would an investment in the machine yield impacts for a long-term?
- Opioid Abatement Connection: Could you further clarify how expanding access to TMS will directly support opioid use prevention, treatment, or recovery outcomes?

(00:58:41) Recovery Friendly Montana- Shannon Sproull with Recovery Montana presented on Zoom
Chair Feist asked about outreach to rural areas. Shannon said ideally would be the reach out the rural areas, but the focus has been on Helena. Chair Feist would want to see SMART goals and more details on outcomes if approved.
Vice Chair Smith has budget questions specific to mailing naloxone. Shannon said Naloxone is hand delivered.
James echoed Chair Fiest and would like to see a way to better capture downstream impacts for employees and employers. He also asked about a connection with SHRM. Shannon said they are in the process of finalizing a survey to gather baseline data from participating employers and send that out every 6 or 12 months to quantify data points.

(01:10:26) Montana Legal Services- Montana Health Justice Partnership- Michelle Potts with MLSA presented in person.
Chair Fiest said the application was very thorough.
Vice Chair Smith asked if they track demographics, and Michelle responded that they did.

(01:19:00) Prevention Support Services- Community Capacity Building- Nicole Hackley with Prevention Support Services presented on zoom. Vice Chair



Smitt recused herself from this discussion as she is the former Executive Director and still helps with finances and the magazine.

Chair Feist made a comment about multi-year funding and that the committee does one year funding. He asked if this was to be funded, can they accomplish goals in one year, with an option to apply again. Nicole responded that the work could start right away and analyze the data and bring partners together.

Chair Feist asked if they have relationships in rural communities- or do these need to be established. Nicole said they do not have existing relationships, and they would need to be established.

Commissioner Hunthausen asked about building relationships.

Mayor Dean asked about previous efforts, and she asked about how they will build off this effort and not start from square one- and utilize existing programs and work that have been done. Nicole said they will build off what has been done before and build a sustainable system from the beginning.

(01:32:39) Lewis and Clark County Sheriff's Office- Medical Provider and MAT Bridges- Troy Christensen and Mikael Lindquist with from LCC presented in person.

Vice Chair Smith asked why the request is greater this time compared to the last request. Troy said the \$115,000 is for the PA and \$20,000 for Mikael income and the rest of the MAT bridges. Increase is for Mikael's work, that used to be funded by a federal grant, and the coordination work she does for MAT bridges. There are also costs for medications.

Vice Chair Smith had questions regarding replacement of existing funds/supplanting. Staff will follow up to clarify MOAT's definition of replacing funds.

James for clarification on PA's time on site and on call. Troy said the PA is in the facility at least 3 days a week/12 hour a week. Likely puts in 20 hours a week in clinic and on call.

Mayor Dean asked Commissioner Hunthausen about the budgeting process and this work becoming part of the Sheriff's office budget.

James mentioned an interest in tracking recidivism.

(01:46:24) Helena Indian Alliance- Strengthening cultural Connection- Rachel Twoteeth-Pichardo and Joelle Johnson with Helena Indian Alliance presented in person.

Vice Chair Smith asked about SMART goals. Joelle responded with the students that are currently being served in the school programs. The goal is to reach all students in the district.

Chair Feist clarified that this is in Helena School District. Rachel responded that they would like to expand to East Helena. The native population in Lincoln is 0 and very small in Augusta.



Commissioner Hunthausen confirmed that this committee has not recommended funding for a fully preventative program. Joelle gave a personal example of the impact of culture connection made for her in prevention.

(02:03:03) 8. Public Comment

No public comment

(02:01:46) Adjourn and Next Meeting

- Next meeting – March 30, 2026, 1-2PM (Virtual)
- Meeting adjourned at 1:03 PM