

7/18/23 Opioid Abatement Committee

Present:

Amy Malone – Rochester City Councilor

John Burns – SOS

Ashley Wright – Strafford County Public Health Network

Joss Bernie – Waypoint

Nicole Rodler - Rochester PD Juvenile Diversion Coordinator

4:36 pm Meeting started

Malone started the meeting by recapping last month's meeting. She stated she talked to Katie Ambrose about adding a communication page on to the Rochester website and that can easily be done as the opioid committee really needs its own page and everyone should have access to it.

Wright asked would somebody in the city run the website and how easy would it be to add information to it. Malone stated it shouldn't be that hard or the wait long. Most city information has to go up within 72 hours so she would think once a week it would be updated.

Wright asked what the committee would use the webpage for. Would it be a landing page they point people to. And if it's just one page they would need to be finite. Malone stated that they do have a bigger option that they have the pricing for, but they don't want to invest time and money into it if they can get by with only just one page.

Wright stated that having the landing page is better than the alternative which is nothing. Then they would have something they can point people to, like if they wanted to say the group is working on these things and point them to it. They can also put the strategic plan there and show events if they have any. Having the basic information about SOS and Waypoint hours would be nice to have.

Wright asked what they are looking at for the strategic plan and Malone forwarded the strategic plan draft to everyone in the meeting.

Wright stated she was curious as to what projects they wanted to move forward with. Malone stated the top ones were getting the webpage, filling in the gaps of funding, and professional development.

Wright asked Burns what type of things this group could do to help SOS. Burns stated the biggest need they have is nobody wants to staff the Willand Warming Center. The biggest strain at SOS is on the daily operations because nothing is open in Dover and Rochester and people are treating SOS as a drop-in center when that's not what they

are. But they don't want to turn anyone away. Rodler stated that Home For Now is sitting empty and they have showers. Burns stated that during the daytime he needs a place to house people.

Wright asked if they could use their money for transportation if that is what is needed to get people to places that are open.

Burns stated that he would like to have a drop-in center and a recovery center separate from each other. Finding some balance between the two would make it safer

Wright asked if they can use any of these funds for capital improvements. Malone stated yes, as long as it stays in Rochester.

There was conversation about jobs and getting someone to staff Willand Warming Center. Wright asked do they turn their projects/initiatives into staffing. Rodler stated they need to have a conversation with the county that Willand needs to be open year round and then they can hire for year round.

Malone stated her thought is that since there are only two weeks until the next meeting, if they could get a wish list from SOS and they could then pick a couple things that are on it to help with.

Wright asked for pictures of the strategic plan notes and she can put them into pockets and find a direction. Wright stated they don't need to create things they just need to fill the gaps. For ex: How do they fill the staffing issues so Willand is open year round and can they host a class to build up the workforce.

5:22 adjourned