

OPEN MEETING MINUTES

Name of Governmental Body: State Council on Alcohol and Other Drug Abuse (SCAODA)		Date: 12/5/2025	Time Started: 9:37 a.m.	Time Ended: 12:45 p.m.	Attending: Council members: Mark Rather, Libby Strunz, Paul Krupski, Coral Manning, Autumn Lacy, Dr. Subhadeep Barman, Christina Malone, Kevin Florek, Chris Wardlow, Terry Schemenauer, Beth Collier, Nichol Wienkes, Senator Jeff Smith (Avrie Marsolek), Senator Jesse James
Location: Virtual via Zoom					Ex-officio members: Audra Cohen-Plata, Chrissy Barnard, Jeremy Gundlach, Dr. Elizabeth Salisbury-Afshar, Faith Price, Dr. Ritu Bhatnagar
					Guests: Lawanda Chambers, Sheila Weix, Liz Kallio, Mari Kriescher, Roger Frings, Sharon Reilly, Maureen Busalacchi, Connie Calderon, Kayla Neuman
					Department of Health Services staff: Alison Glodowski, Michelle Haese, Michelle Streetman, Robin Matthies, Roxy Legge, Sukhvir Singh, Alex Berg, Allison Weber, Ashley Borlick, Dan Bizjak, Danielle Long, Hannah Foley, Heather Carlson, Jason Cram, Jess Cwirla
					Presiding Officer: Kevin Florek, Beth Collier

Minutes

1. Call meeting to order

Kevin Florek, SCAODA chairperson, called the meeting to order at 9:37 a.m. after quorum was established.

Florek welcomed Elizabeth (Libby) Strunz to the council who is serving as a new designee for the Department of Public Instruction. Libby is a school mental health consultant working in the areas of bullying prevention, trauma sensitive schools, driver education and traffic safety, alcohol and other drug use prevention, opioid prevention, and suicide prevention.

The council reviewed and approved the September 5, 2025, meeting minutes.

Florek moved to approve the minutes as corrected.

Chris Wardlow seconded the motion.

Motion carried; minutes approved.

The council reviewed and approved the 2026 meeting schedule. The council meets the first Friday in March, June, September, and December from 9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

Wardlow moved to approve the 2026 council meeting schedule.

Coral Manning seconded the motion.

Motion carried; meeting schedule approved.

Wisconsin Council on Mental Health (WCMH) updates were provided by Chrissy Barnard, including a summary of topics discussed at the November 2025 WCMH meeting. Topics included the impact of recent Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) changes; Rural Health Transformation Grant initiatives; staffing transitions related to retirements; the Department of Health Services (DHS) strategic plan; recovery housing; and a council presentation at the Mental Health and Substance Use Recovery Conference. The council announced its 2026 meeting schedule with quarterly meetings being held the third Wednesday of February, May, August, and November from 1 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. The fall tour will continue to be held in September.

Guest presentations included updates from the Bureau of Prevention Treatment and Recovery (BPTR) related to block grants, as well as information regarding the peer recovery coaching and psychiatric rehabilitation center administrative rules for youth. Additional updates were provided by the Division of Medicaid Services (DMS) regarding Medicaid.

Public comment: Florek made a comment as a member of the public. Florek, CEO of Tellurian, has been operating Dane

County detox for over 40 years. Tellurian received notice that Dane County will no longer be funding this level of care in 2026.

Barnard made a comment as a member of the public. Barnard, Hope Haven Director, shared a link in chat to the Hope Haven Peer Respite Operations Report for their first quarter. Out of 65 people, 11 identify substance use as their primary concern. A copy of the report was provided and is on file.

Sharon Reilly with Great Lakes Interagency Tribal Council asked if the public comment review period is still open for the peer recovery coach admin rule (DHS 72). Florek granted the deputy director of BPTR to respond. The rule has been promulgated and the opportunity for public comment for that rule is closed. The rule was published in the fall of 2025 and [a link](#) was posted in the chat. Medicaid reimbursement will begin the spring of 2026.

Dr. Bhatnagar and Sheila Weix addressed the anticipated impact of the discontinuation of county funding for medically supervised detoxification services in Dane County beginning in 2026. Comments referenced potential impacts on emergency departments, hospitals, and law enforcement, as well as increased wait times and travel distances for individuals seeking services. Discussion also noted a broader statewide need for improved coordination following detoxification services and potential funding considerations. Council members Nichol Weinkes and Beth Collier indicated they would review possible options and assess how SCAODA may be able to support.

The chair departed the meeting at 9:50 a.m. and the vice-chair assumed the role of chair.

2. DHS 72: Peer Recovery Support Services —Division of Care and Treatment Services (DCTS) and Division of Medicaid Services (DMS)

A presentation was given by DHS, DCTS, and DMS, regarding DHS 72 expansion of peer recovery support services. Council members received a copy of the presentation slides. Non-council members may request a copy by emailing staff support at DHSSCAODA@dhs.wisconsin.gov. For questions related to the implementation of DHS 72, email DHSDCTS72@dhs.wisconsin.gov.

3. State Opioid Response presentation —Substance Use Services Section, Bureau of Prevention Treatment and Recovery (BPTR)

A presentation was given by the DHS, DCTS, BPTR, opioid response unit supervisor, regarding the State Opioid Response grant. A copy of the presentation slides was provided and are on file.

4. SCAODA committee updates and committee membership discussion

Executive Committee (EC): The committee chair shared the EC needs a secretary. Refer to SCAODA by-laws, article II, section 3.3 for officer position description. You must be a member of the council to be eligible for secretary.

Person-Centered Support Committee (PCS): A committee member shared an overview of the committee's discussion, priorities, and emerging direction over the past year. This included revising the committee's name and mission to reflect a more universal and inclusive approach. Alignment with a person-centered support approach better articulates goals related to access, equity, and empowerment for underserved communities. The committee began drafting a new strategic plan, building on past plans, and aligning them with the updated mission. The committee identified a need to recruit new members, especially those representing communities most impacted by substance use disorder (SUD) related disparities.

Intervention and Treatment Committee (ITC): The committee chair shared the committee has incorporated the recommendations from the last council meeting regarding the oversight board creation letter. The committee also reviewed their strategic plan and discussed the revitalization of the Children's Youth and Families sub-committee.

Planning and Funding Committee (PFC): A committee co-chair shared the committee met in November 2025 and discussed the [recovery voucher program](#) with the grant's specialist from the Department of Administration, opioid settlement funds with the policy initiatives advisor from the Office of the Secretary, and received a demonstration by RehabPath's provider ambassador on the www.recovery.com treatment platform.

Prevention Committee (PC): The committee chair reported activities of the ad hoc committee, including a presentation on the psychoactive hemp derivative report, which was attended by over 50 individuals. The ad hoc committee also hosted a SCAODA listening session during the Prevention Conference held in September 2025, with approximately 45 individuals in

attendance. Key themes and topics raised during the listening session included requests and considerations related to prevention messaging, data, and access issues. These included suggestions to enhance Real Talks materials to address medication sharing; to adapt Small Talks materials to be more conducive to use on social media platforms; and to tailor prevention messaging for rural communities, including the provision of support and technical assistance to implement campaigns in rural areas. Additional topics raised included interest in expanding substance use data dashboards, particularly related to cannabis use; concerns regarding youth alcohol consumption and underage drinking norms; concerns related to access to drugs through mail delivery within correctional systems; and concerns regarding the cost of naloxone for individuals purchasing it. Questions were also raised regarding the Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS), including strategies to increase school participation, opportunities to expedite data analysis so results can be shared timelier with schools, counties, and partners, and the feasibility of expanding the survey sample size.

Additionally, the PC is planning to convene another ad-hoc workgroup to produce a report focused on upstream causes of substance use and misuse to help inform prevention and policy decisions around prevention.

The committee chair invited a committee member to share additional committee updates which included the establishment of the Wisconsin Public Health Association (WPHA) substance use section; the inclusion of Place of Last Drink within the BadgerTrack system; the launch of the Wisconsin Alcohol Inspector to track alcohol age compliance checks; and updated dietary guidelines related to alcohol consumption which emphasize moderation. Public health research was shared related to alcohol consumption risks, the importance of public education around those risks, and a coordinated effort with partners to share information regarding alcohol-related risks was noted.

5. MOTION: oversight board creation letter for substance abuse counselors

Motion: SCAODA to approve the board creation letter with amendment.

Wardlow moved to pass the motion.

Dr. Subhadeep Barman seconded the motion.

3 abstain, 9 in favor, none opposed.

Motion passed unanimously.

6. Agency reports

Department of Health Services (DHS) - Policy director at DHS provided department updates noting the Rural Health Transformation Program application submission. A summary of the application and a complete narrative can be found at this [link](#).

Department of Justice (DOJ) - Division of Law Enforcement Services (DLES) administrator highlighted the Treatment Alternatives and Diversion Program (TAD) and the success the program has had across the state. Next, the drug initiatives advisor at DOJ provided additional updates noting Drug Take Back Day results with the state leading the country in the collection of unused medication, continued work on the new suspected overdose TracS report, and the Division of Criminal Investigation overdose death initiative under the high-intensity drug traffic area (HIDTA).

Opioid Settlement Initiatives – The director of substance use initiatives at DHS provided updates on opioid settlement funds (OSF) for state fiscal year 2025 noting recent awards to support peer service expansion in opioid treatment programs (OTPs) and office-based opioid treatment programs (OBOTs) with a dedicated portion of funds to support mobile unit's maintenance. Additionally, information was shared on OSF state fiscal year 2026 noting two funded initiatives including room and board costs for Medicaid members in residential substance use disorder treatment and law enforcement opioid abatement. [See awards listing here](#).

Other agency updates – no updates were provided by other state agencies.

7. Bureau of Prevention Treatment and Recovery (BPTR) updates

Deputy director, BPTR, DHS, provided the following updates.

Events: If you have questions about a specific event below, please reach out to the presenting organization.

- March 7, 2026: [Mental Health Summit](#) (Milwaukee)
- March 13, 2026: [Help and Hope Conference](#) (Racine)
- March 19-20, 2026: [Wisconsin Council on Problem Gambling Annual Conference](#) (Waukesha)

Call for presenters:

- Wisconsin Peer Recovery Conference: [Workshop proposals are due December 31, 2025](#).

- NAMI Wisconsin Annual Conference: [Workshop proposals are due January 5, 2026](#).

Trainings: The trainings below are managed by the Behavioral Health Training Partnership at UW-Green Bay. Email questions about these trainings to bhtp@uwgb.edu.

- December 12, 2025: [How DBT-C Can Mitigate Suicidal Behaviors in Children](#) (Virtual)
- January 9, 2026: [Acquired Brain Injury & Suicide Risk](#) (Virtual)
- January 14, 2026: [Diagnosing & Treating Autism & ADHD: Scientific Advancements and Best Practices](#) (Virtual)
- January 28-29, 2026: [Family Based Youth Suicide Risk Management Workshop](#) (Virtual)

The Opioids, Stimulants, and Trauma Summit and the Prevention Conference is moving to a combined format in the fall of 2026. More information will be provided as planning begins.

Current Grant Funding Opportunities: <https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/business/solicitations-list.htm>

8. Call for future SCAODA agenda items

Presentation on [Annual SYNAR Report](#): Youth Access Programs Coordinator, Commercial Tobacco Prevention and Treatment Program.

9. Adjourn

Manning moved to adjourn.

Wardlow seconded the motion.

All in favor, none opposed.

Meeting adjourned at 12:45 p.m.

Prepared by: Alison Glodowski on 12/5/2025.

Council reviewed and approved these minutes at its meeting on: 3/6/2026