

OPEN MEETING MINUTES

Name of Governmental Body: State Council on Alcohol and Other Drug Abuse (SCAODA)			Attending: Council members: Kevin Florek (citizen), Beth Collier (citizen representing providers), Denise Johnson (citizen), Autumn Lacy (DOC), Chris Wardlow (citizen), Coral Manning (OCI), Erick Blasing (DPI), Erick Sokn (PEB), Jan Grebel (DOT), Jessica Geschke (Gov), Nichol Wienkes (WCHSA), Paula Jolly (citizen), Terry Schemenauer (citizen) Ex-officio members: Audra Cohen-Plata (DSPS), Chrissy Barnard (WCMH), Dr. Ritu Bhatnagar (WISAM), Dr. Elizabeth Salisbury-Afshar (DPH), Latisha Spence-Brookens (WTC) Guests: Kayla Neuman (WSLH), Danielle Long (DOJ), Amanda Leon, Amy Anderson, Connie Calderon, Jayden Hoover, Jess Morrow (WHRA), Katie Witz, Lawanda Chambers (ITC), Mari Kriescher, Mat Hazelberg (PULSE), Maureen Busalacchi (MCW), Felice Borisyrudin, Hannah Huffman (Arena Strategy) Tribal nation: Bethany Watters-Miller (Stockbridge Munsee) Department of Health Services: Alison Glodowski (BPTR), Michelle Haese (OS), Alex Berg (BPTR), Allison Weber (BPTR), Brenda Scheurer (BPTR), Christy Niemuth (DPH), Dan Bizjak (BPTR), Joannette Robertson (BPTR), Heidi Olson-Streed (DPH), Katelyn Blatter (BPTR), Michelle Streetman (BPTR), Morgan Kebbekus (BPTR), Thomas Bentley (BPTR), Tiffany Nielson (BPTR), Zachary Todd (Area Admin) ASL interpreter: Amy Simonsen (PIE)
Date: 6/5/2026	Time Started: 9:06 a.m.	Time Ended: 12:12 p.m.	
Location: Virtual via Zoom			Presiding Officer: Kevin Florek, Beth Collier

Minutes

1. Call meeting to order

Kevin Florek, SCAODA chairperson, called the meeting to order at 9:06 a.m. after quorum was established, 13 council members were present.

K. Florek welcomed new council representative for the pharmacy examining board, Erick Sokn, and DHS staff support for the intervention and treatment committee, Morgan Kebbekus.

The council reviewed and approved the March 6, 2026, meeting minutes.

Terry Schemenauer moved to approve the minutes.

Coral Manning seconded the motion.

Motion carried; minutes approved.

Wisconsin Council on Mental Health (WCMH) updates were provided by Chrissy Barnard. The WCMH met on May 20, 2026. Topics included discussion of committee structure, budget recommendations, a gaps analysis presentation, the council's fall tour, and the rural health transformation program. Budget recommendations brought forth to DHS included funding for the Community Support Program, loan forgiveness programs, community health workers, dialectical behavioral therapy when done to fidelity, and the Qualified Treatment Trainee program.

Public comment:

Sara Jesse, Public Health Sauk County, provided public comment as a representative of a committee facilitated by Vital Strategies that addresses FoodShare access for individuals with prior drug-related felony convictions. The speaker asked the council to prioritize access to FoodShare for this population, as currently in Wisconsin, people with a drug-related felony in the past five years have to take a drug test to get FoodShare benefits. Vital Strategies will provide a presentation on this topic to the council in September. Council members who would like more information and/or connections regarding this and other recovery-oriented policies, can contact [Giavana Margo](#).

Mat Hazelberg, President of [PULSE](#), a Wisconsin drug users union, provided public comment regarding Wisconsin's drug paraphernalia laws and the closure of Dane County's safer smoking program. With the closure of this program, individuals who previously smoked drugs are now asking for syringes, leading to risky injection behaviors and poorer health outcomes. The speaker asks the council to formally recommend legislative reform to decriminalize safer smoking supplies, follow the evidence, and neighboring state policies, to give health departments the legal tools needed to keep Wisconsinites alive.

Jess Morrow provided public comment on behalf of the Wisconsin Harm Reduction Alliance regarding recent efforts to restrict harm reduction services in Wisconsin, including syringe service programs and other evidence-based public health interventions. Restricting access to sterile syringes and other harm reduction supplies may increase preventable infections, healthcare costs, and barriers to services and support that can help individuals improve their health and wellbeing. The speaker encouraged the council to support harm reduction services, oppose policies that restrict access to life saving supplies, and advocate for continued investment in evidence-based programs that protect the health of individuals, families, and communities across Wisconsin.

2. New CMS Interoperability and Prior Authorization Final Rule ([CMS-0057-F](#)), Bureau of Clinical Policy and Pharmacy

Presenters Marjorie Blaschko and Rebecca Muenster gave a presentation on the CMS final rule 0057-F and Medicaid fee-for-service prior authorization processes. A copy of the presentation is on file. Interoperability project resources shared:

- Member Resources: [Medicaid: Promoting Interoperability](#)
- Provider Resources: [ForwardHealth: Prior Authorization Process Improvements](#)

3. DHS substance use services strategic plan update, Office of the Secretary

Presenter Michelle Haese gave a progress update on the DHS substance use services strategic plan. A copy of the presentation is on file. The council was asked to discuss and provide input on the following three questions. The council responded to the questions using a Kahoot survey where the responses were collected and documented.

1. When you think about substance use services in Wisconsin right now, what issues are most urgent that the DHS internal substance use services strategic plan should address?
2. What substance use services are working well in Wisconsin that DHS should protect and build on within our internal substance use services strategic plan?
3. What are substance use service-related updates you would like DHS to provide at the Substance Use Summit listening session in August?

4. Presentation: The Role of Forensic Toxicology in OWI Cases, Director of Forensic Toxicology, Wisconsin State Lab of Hygiene

Presenter, Kayla Neuman, gave a presentation on the role of forensic toxicology in operating while intoxicated (OWI) cases. A copy of the presentation is on file. Contact [Kayla Neuman](#) with questions.

5. SCAODA committee updates

Executive Committee (EC): Committee Vice Chair B. Collier asked for volunteers to participate in a workgroup to review and update SCAODAs bylaws. Notify the chair and vice chair if interested in participating.

Person-Centered Support Committee (PCS): Committee Co-chair L. Chambers introduced the following motion.

MOTION: SCAODA strongly recommends that the Wisconsin Department of Health Services include Place of Service 55 – Residential Substance Use Disorder Treatment Facility – within the interpreter services benefit as outlined in ForwardHealth Update 2023-28 to ensure that people receiving residential substance use disorder treatment can fully understand, participate in, and benefit from services regardless of their primary language or communication needs.

B. Collier moved to approve the motion. T. Schemenauer seconded the motion. Motion passed with 10 votes in favor, 0 against, and 2 abstentions.

Intervention and Treatment Committee (ITC): Committee chair N. Weinkes reported that the committee received a presentation from the Wisconsin Alcohol Policy Project regarding the new federal dietary guidelines related to alcohol consumption and their implications for clinical practice. The committee continues to examine alcohol use prevalence in Wisconsin and strategies to maintain focus on alcohol-related issues alongside opioid use disorder efforts. The committee also reviewed strategic plan goals related to youth and older adult treatment services and is exploring collaboration with the Wisconsin Mental Health Council on youth and family treatment initiatives. Additionally, the committee is reviewing the 2018 SCAODA report on at-risk substance use among older adults to identify opportunities to update recommendations and best practices based on current needs and service availability.

Planning and Funding Committee (PFC): Committee co-chair B. Collier reported that the committee received presentations on state budgeting and contingency management, withdrawal management and detoxification services in Wisconsin, and the DHS Division of Public Health substance use programming. The committee is also exploring the creation of an ad hoc billing committee to examine billing practices across funding sources and facilitate collaboration among billing representatives from various agencies.

Prevention Committee (PC): Committee chair C. Wardlow reported the committee has representation on the Wisconsin Public Health Association Substance Use Workgroup. The workgroup released a fact sheet on psychoactive hemp derivatives and continues to advocate for Tobacco 21 legislation and regulation for psychoactive hemp derivatives. The committee met with the Wisconsin Council on Mental Health Children and Youth Committee to identify opportunities for collaboration to strengthen prevention, treatment, and recovery resources for youth. Maureen Busalachhi provided an update from the Wisconsin Alcohol Policy Project on upcoming educational activities, including a pre-conference on alcohol and tobacco and the Place of Last Drink initiative, which continues to expand community participation to address overservice and improve public safety. Additionally, Busalachhi shared statewide prevention data, including trends in binge drinking, perceptions of alcohol-related risk, and youth substance use. A copy of the presentation is on file.

6. Agency reports

Department of Health Services, policy director, was not present to provide a report.

Department of Justice (DOJ): Drug initiatives advisor Danielle Long provided an update on the Drug Take Back event. Over 57,000 pounds of unused medications were safely disposed making this the highest collection since 2022. DOJ purchased 7,000 drug deactivation pouches and distributed them to 20 entities, mostly counties, through overdose fatality review sites. Positive feedback was received from the public about the Drug Take Back events as well as the 500 permanent drug drop boxes available. Lastly, the clean sweep funding opportunity closed in May for drug drop boxes. DOJ continues to receive requests for drug drop boxes to be placed in areas not allowed by the Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA) resulting in agencies having to move them.

Opioid Settlement Fund Initiatives (OSF): Director of substance use initiatives, Michelle Haese, provided an update on [OSF](#). Haese reported that the SFY 2026-27 spending plan has been implemented, with all SFY 2026 funds awarded across several initiatives, including law enforcement opioid abatement, room and board, Tribal nation investments, and substance use disorder initiatives for urban and rural women. Additional settlement funds have been received and allocated in accordance with the approved spending plan, including funding for after-school prevention and law enforcement opioid abatement efforts in CY 2027. Haese reported that \$17 million of the \$31 million received to date has been awarded, with additional funding anticipated later this year. The remaining funds will be distributed through future funding opportunities consistent with the approved plan. An overview of planning for the SFY 2028 spending plan was also provided, including a statewide survey to gather input from partners on future opioid settlement fund priorities. Final payment amounts from the most recently settled case are still pending.

Department of Public Instruction (DPI): Erik Blasing reported that DPI completed its [mini-grant](#) application process, with approximately 50 applications received from schools and groups seeking \$1,000 grants to support student-led substance use prevention education and youth risk behavior prevention efforts. DPI also provides a biennial [AODA grant](#) to school districts to implement substance use prevention education curricula, with the next application period anticipated in spring 2027. Due to remaining funds, DPI is offering a supplemental grant opportunity for FY 2026-27, which is open to public school districts or consortia and CESA partners.

Office of the Commissioner of Insurance (OCI): Coral Manning provided an update regarding fraudulent health care enrollment schemes reported in other states, including Montana and Alaska, involving individuals being targeted for enrollment in Affordable Care Act health insurance plans and subsequently being referred to out-of-state treatment services. Manning reported that some individuals with substance use concerns have been targeted through these schemes and may be left without effective treatment and with unexpected medical bills. While this issue has not been identified in Wisconsin, individuals who may be affected were encouraged to contact OCI. The council was also informed of a related [news article](#) regarding the scheme and the potential vulnerabilities being exploited within the health care system.

Division of Safety and Professional Services: Administrator for policy development Audra Cohen Plata shared updates related to the Prescription Drug Monitoring Program (PDMP). Focus groups were conducted with law enforcement agencies to get feedback on the drug related incident forms in TracS. An update was provided regarding the July rule change implementing the use of National Provider Identifiers (NPIs), rather than Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) numbers, for PDMP users. The system change allows the PDMP to accept dispensing data for non-scheduled but monitored substances and is expected to improve data validity for PDMP audits and reports provided to the Controlled Substances Board.

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

Director Joannette Robertson, BPTR, DHS, provided the following:

- [Behavioral Health Gaps Analysis](#)
- [Current grant funding opportunities](#)
- [Wisconsin Substance Use Summit](#) is an event focused on actionable strategies to build healthy communities through substance use prevention, intervention, treatment, and recovery services and supports. This event will be held August 5-6, 2026, at Onieda Conference Center.
- On April 24, 2026, SAMHSA released two new [Dear Colleague Letters](#) regarding Updated Guidance on Medication Assisted Treatment for Opioid Use Disorder and Updated Funding Guidance on Supplies and Services.
- DHS was awarded \$2.4 million from a SAMHSA Disaster Crisis Counseling Grant to assist individuals with crisis counseling following the flooding that occurred in the southeast region of the state in August 2025. DHS will work closely with Emergency Management, FEMA, and WisCap to implement services and supports.
- DHS is developing [Administrative Rule DHS 45](#) which is Psychiatric Residential Treatment Facilities (PRTFs) for youth. A final draft of the rule is expected to be completed by September 2026.

8. Call for future SCAODA agenda items

- Presentation: 2025 Mental Health and Substance Use Services Gaps Analysis, Office of Policy Initiatives and Budget
- Presentation: Foodshare Policy in Wisconsin and Foodshare Access for Individuals with a Prior Felony Drug Conviction, Vital Strategies

9. Adjourn

B. Collier moved to adjourn.

C. Manning seconded the motion.

All in favor, none opposed.

Meeting adjourned at 12:12 p.m.

Prepared by: Alison Glodowski on 6/5/2026.

Council reviewed and approved these minutes at its meeting on : 9/4/2026