OPEN MEETING MINUTES

Name of Governmental Body: State Council on Alcohol and Other Drug Abuse (SCAODA)			Attending: Council members: Mark Rather (WIDOJ-DLES), Erick Blasing (DPI), Paul Krupski (DHS), Coral Manning (OCI), Autumn Lacy (DOC), Jan Grebel (DOT), Dr. Subhadeep Barman (Controlled Substances Board), Denise Johnson (citizen), Paula Jolly (citizen), Christina Malone (citizen), Kevin Florek (citizen), Chris Wardlow (citizen), Terry Schemenauer (citizen), Beth Collier (citizen representing providers), Nichol Wienkes (WCHSA), Representative Karen DeSanto, Senator Jesse James Ex-officio members: Audra Cohen-Plata (DSPS), Latisha Spence-Brookens (WTC), Chrissy Barnard (WCMH), Jeremy Gundlach (WI Board for People with Developmental Disabilities), Dr. Elizabeth Salisbury-Afshar (DPH), Dr. Ritu Bhatnagar (WI Society of Addiction Medicine) Guests: Maureen Busalacchi (MCW), Amy Anderson, Danielle Long (DOJ), Felice Borisy-Rudin, Jeremiah Olson, Kayla Neuman (WSLH), Michael Kemp, Lawanda Chambers, Hannah Huffman Department of Health Services staff: Alex Berg, Alison Glodowski, Allison Weber, Brenda Scheurer, Hannah Foley, Joanette Robertson, Michelle Haese, Michelle Streetman, Nancy Michaud, Robin Matthies, Roxy Legge Tribal Nations: Rob O'Claire (Bad River), Ruth Garvin (Ho Chunk), Andrew Miller (Stockbridge Munsee), Bethany Watters-Miller (Stockbridge Munsee) Officers: Kevin Florek, Beth Collier
Date: 3/6/2026	Time Started: 9:04 a.m.	Time Ended: 11:13 a.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 9:04 a.m. after quorum was established.

Florek welcomed Erick Blasing to the council who is serving as a new designee for the Department of Public Instruction. Blasing is an education consultant working in the areas of alcohol and other drug abuse prevention, school safety, driver education, and traffic safety.

The council reviewed and approved the December 5, 2025, meeting minutes.
Coral Manning moved to approve the minutes as corrected.
Beth Collier seconded the motion.
Motion carried; minutes approved.

The Wisconsin Council on Mental Health (WCMH) updates were provided by Chrissy Barnard, council tri-chair. Committees are being restructured, and applications are being reviewed to fill vacancies on the council. The children and youth committee is creating work groups. The secretary's office provided a presentation about the Rural Health Transformation Grant. DCTS discussed changes at Mendota. BPTR discussed the gaps analysis. DMS shared DHS 45, 31, 75 and reimbursement rate changes. Visit the WCMH website for meeting dates, meeting minutes, and other information.

Public comment was received from municipal judge for the Village of Shorewood Hills regarding unintended consequences in the OWI statute. The way it is written, anyone who is driving or operating a motor vehicle, under the influence of any

drug that affects their ability to drive, can receive a citation or charges for operating while under the influence. This includes prescription drugs that are being used appropriately. The law was intended to capture misuse of drugs not appropriate use of drugs.

2. SCAODA committee updates
Executive Committee (EC): The committee needs a secretary; this officer position description can be found in the bylaws.

Person-Centered Support Committee (PCS): Committee chair shared they found a co-chair, Lawanda Chambers. Chambers works at a counseling agency in the Milwaukee area. Their next meeting is April 21, 2026, to talk about their strategic plan and priorities. Most recently the committee discussed barriers to accessing language services and the committee plans to bring forth a motion at a future meeting.

Intervention and Treatment Committee (ITC): Committee chair shared the committee has been working on their strategic plan and priority areas. One outcome was the licensure board letter and how they had to use stigmatizing language because this is the language in statute. The committee talked about putting forth a motion to remove stigmatizing language from the name SCAODA and the bylaws. Also discussed revitalizing the children's youth family sub-committee and developing recommendations for how opioid funds could best be spent to support the older population needs.

Planning and Funding Committee (PFC): Committee co-chair shared the committee has a motion regarding the residential issue with interpreters and that the committee plans to bring this motion to the next full council meeting. The next meeting is April 15, 2026.

Prevention Committee (PC): Committee chair shared the committee last met January 15, 2026. They discussed pending legislation (e.g., Tobacco 21, intoxicating hemp products), and reviewed their work plan. Next, the chair invited committee member, Maureen Busalacchi, Medical College of WI, to provide updates on the WI Alcohol Policy Project.

- Alcohol and tobacco policy seminar at the WI Substance Use Summit pre-conference on August 4, 2026. Visit the conference website to learn more and register.
- Place of last drink (POLD) advisory committee convened to discuss next steps for implementing POLD within 10 to 15 communities this spring.
- WI Alcohol Inspector, tracks alcohol age compliance checks, is now available on a mobile app.
- WPHA Substance Use Section is looking at policy in terms of evaluating all the hemp and THC legislation.
- Alcohol dietary guidelines; there will be messaging congruent with alcohol awareness month that will be published on website in late March. Busalacchi shared PowerPoint slides on the updated guidelines.

3. MOTION: SCAODA will create a formal plan to identify and develop recommendations addressing stigmatizing language within its name and bylaws
Motion: SCAODA to create a formal plan to address stigmatizing language within its name and bylaws.
Collier moved to approve the motion.
Wardlow seconded the motion.
None abstain, all in favor, none opposed.
Motion passed unanimously.

4. Annual Synar Report — Division of Public Health Commercial Tobacco Prevention and Treatment Program

A presentation was given by the Youth Access Programs Coordinator, Commercial Tobacco Prevention and Treatment Program, DHS on the Annual SYNAR Report.

- For more information regarding the Synar regulation, refer to the Tobacco Regulation for Substance Use Prevention, Treatment, and Recovery Services Block Grant – Final Rule – 1996 (PDF | 264 KB).
- Learn about Synar's programmatic requirements including revisions to Synar Guidance as a result of the Tobacco 21 law (PDF| 308 KB).
- Tobacco 21 website: https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/tobacco/tobacco21.htm.

5. Agency reports

Department of Health Services (DHS) - Policy director at DHS provided department updates noting the Rural Health Transformation Project (RHTP) webinar. The recorded webinar can be found on the project website. Look for grant funding opportunities that come from RHTP in the coming months. Next, the legislative session is coming to a close. The

department monitors legislation, works with legislative offices on bills that are being considered. Will provide a recap at the next SCAODA meeting to discuss any bills that are applicable to the council and fall within the DHS umbrella. Lastly, regarding the crisis care facilities; it is hoped the 1310 hearing is scheduled soon to release the $10 million in funding so a funding opportunity can be released.

Department of Justice (DOJ) - Division of Law Enforcement Services (DLES) administrator highlighted:

- Collaboration with DHS for the first responder overdose prevention summit.
- Collaboration with DOT and near finalizing an overdose report in Badger TraCS.
- No update to provide on federal notices of award (NOA), now 15 months delayed in NOAs.
- Drug Take Back Day, April 25, 2026
- Wisconsin Department of Justice Current Grant Opportunities
- Two bills passed of interest to this group: Wisconsin Assembly Bill 624 (AB-624) and its companion, Senate Bill 610 (SB-610), titled "Drug-Free Homeless Service Zones," were introduced in the 2025-26 legislative session which increases penalties for controlled substances if violations occur near homeless shelters. 2025 Senate Bill 692 (SB 692), moves carfentanil from a Schedule II synthetic opiate to a Schedule I fentanyl analog.

Opioid Settlement Initiatives – The director of substance use initiatives at DHS provided updates on opioid settlement funds (OSF):

- Working through next phase of settlement funds strategy, stay connected through the OSF website.
- Funding opportunity for mail naloxone award announcement forthcoming.
- Funding opportunity for naloxone and drug checking technologies for law enforcement anticipated soon.
- WI to receive approximately $16.5 million in payments this calendar year, these are funds that come in through DHS to be distributed into WI communities, this does not include payments from the Purdue/Sackler case.
- Opioid settlement quarterly report will be published on website March 31, 2026.
- Opioid deaths dashboard on DHS website was updated January 15, 2026. Wisconsin went from 1,422 opioid-related deaths in 2023 to 817 opioid-related deaths in 2024, about a 42.5% decrease. According to the CDC, the U.S. average percent decline in opioid deaths from 2023-24 was approximately 33%. CDC data showed that WI tied in 2nd place for the most significant largest drops in opioid-related deaths.
- Wisconsin Substance Use Summit, opioids stimulants and trauma summit and prevention conference are combined for this one conference August 5-6, 2026, in Green Bay, WI.

Other agency updates – Wisconsin Society of Addiction Medicine is having their annual regional conference from September 24-25, 2026, in La Crosse, WI. Visit the conference website to learn more and to register, as well as encourage people in recovery to showcase their artwork.

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

The director of the bureau provided the following updates.

- The Behavioral Gaps Analysis is expected to be published by end of March 2026.
- Two administrative rules were published March 1, 2026. More information can be found at this website.
    - Crisis Care Facilities - a new facility type to serve people who are experiencing a crisis with several services including walk-ins, triage and assessment, short term observation and stabilization, and also the ability to serve persons under involuntary commitment as an option outside of emergency rooms and hospitals and where law enforcement can do drop off.
    - 2023 biennial rule - a process is conducted every two years to review all rules and ensure they align with current state and federal statutes and regulations, and other administrative rules. There are quite a few updates across most of the behavioral health rules.
- Psychiatric Residential Treatment Facilities (PRTFs). PRTFs are being created as a facility type under Act 9 to address a gap in Wisconsin's behavioral health system: the lack of in-state, youth-focused residential treatment options. Establishing this rule is a critical step toward expanding access to a structured, psychiatric level of care for children and youth with serious and/or complex behavioral health needs whose needs exceed community-based services; reducing reliance on out-of-state PRTFs; and preventing unnecessary hospitalizations or juvenile justice involvement. The statement of scope was approved January 2026. An advisory committee is being developed to begin drafting the rule.
- Current funding opportunities**:** https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/business/solicitations-list.htm
    - Treatment Alternative Program for people in the criminal justice system with substance use concerns. This program is designed to enhance community safety by providing focused treatment interventions for

participants as a voluntary alternative to conviction while fostering recovery and accountability. It targets the underlying causes or unmet needs that lead to criminal justice system involvement.
    - Supplemental Security Income (SSI) and Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI) Outreach, Access, and Recovery (SOAR) model. The SOAR model is designed to enhance access to SSI and SSDI benefits for individuals experiencing or at risk of homelessness, particularly those with serious mental illnesses or co-occurring disorders.
- WI DHS is developing a substance use strategic plan; establishing vision and priorities for substance use services across DHS divisions with clear roles, responsibilities, and collaborative framework. This is a 3–5-year plan with strategic priorities and goals that guide decision-making, a framework for aligning resources, programs, and partnerships, and a living document that guides annual program planning and budgets.

7. Call for future SCAODA agenda items
Presentation: The Role of Forensic Toxicology in OWI Cases

8. Adjourn
Coral moved to adjourn.
Collier seconded the motion.
All in favor, none opposed.
Meeting adjourned at 11:13 a.m.

Prepared by: Alison Glodowski on 3/6/2026.

These minutes are in draft form. They will be presented for approval by the governmental body on: 6/5/2026