



ANOKA COUNTY OPIOID SOLUTIONS INITIATIVE

Opioid Advisory Council Minutes

Friday, February 14, 2025

9:00-11:00 am

Blaine Human Service Center, Room 2402

Mission: To improve health, save lives, and reduce the impact caused by opioids and other substances in Anoka County by managing opioid settlement funding and supporting strategic partnerships.

Vision: All Anoka County residents and partners are supported, engaged, and prepared to overcome the opioid crisis and meet the challenges related to substance use in the community.

Called to Order by Patti Constant, Senior Program Specialist – Opioids, at 9:02 am

Present: Lori Lachner, Patti Constant, Randi Prebil, Ryan George, Chris McCook, Diana Hoffman, Katherine Cole, Susan Ferron, Jess VanKuyk, Joe Amerman, Nancy Norman, Peggy McNabb, Dorian Harvey, Carrie Wood, Krista Johnson, Joshua VanHeuveln, Corey Kohan, Troy Friesen, Reysel Castillo, Justin McNeal, Megan Schueller, Nicholas Warnke, Christina Lefkovich, Samantha Guthman

Absent: Tim Kizer, Molly Nee, Derek Schuldt, George Borrell, Musab Adam, Lacey Towe, Melissa Olsen, Quita Curtis

1. Welcome, Introductions, Moment of Grounding, and Approvals

- Patti welcomed everyone with a *Happy Valentines Day* wish. Thank you for being here today.
- A moment of silence was observed to honor all the people that we have lost to deaths of despair (including suicide, drug overdose, & alcoholism), all of those currently struggling with behavioral health challenges (substance use disorders, mental illness), those who are bravely walking the recovery path, and all the families, friends, community members, and supports that are impacted.
- A reminder from Patti: Every single person in this room brings a unique piece of knowledge, information, and experience. Every perspective helps provide a piece of a bigger picture – no one is more important than another. The magic of the group is that we are all together, and that every person is respected and valued.
- This is also a field FILLED with acronyms. We become comfortable in ‘our little piece of the puzzle’ and think everyone shares that knowledge. I invite and encourage each of you to question/ask when things are unclear. We do NOT, nor should we, all come with the same background information, so we need to feel comfortable questioning/asking.





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PROPOSAL: AcroKnock... if you hear someone using an acronym or language that you are not familiar with, please knock three times – it's a gentle/friendly reminder to us all! I thank each and every one of you for what YOU bring to this group.

- Patti acknowledged new members; self-introductions were made:
 - Krista Johnson, Owner/Operator of Meraki Recovery Housing
I have eleven recovery houses; nine of which are here in Anoka County providing 100 beds / opportunities for people to thrive in recovery.
 - Troy Friesen, AmeriCorps member, serving full-time with Anoka County Public Health.
- Motion to approve the January 10, 2025, Advisory Council meeting minutes by Josh VanHeuveln. Second by Carrie Wood. Motion carried.
- Motion to approve the February 14, 2025, Advisory Council meeting agenda by Ryan George. Second by Lori Lachner. Motion carried.

2. Assorted County and Community Updates / Patti Constant

- Patti called on members to share on upcoming events, opportunities, trends or issues you are seeing, etc. What should this group be aware of?
 - Polar Plunge -- supports Special Olympics. February 22, Lakeside Commons Park, Blaine.
 - Deterra Bag via U.S. Mail -- two weeks after having back surgery in a Ramsey County hospital, Lori Lachner's friend received a Deterra bag by mail to disperse of her leftover meds. Great service. Worth checking on with Mercy/Unity Hospital.
 - Route 65, East Bethel – Bingo fundraiser for NACE Food Shelf this Saturday.
 - Anoka County Library NAPS – Patti reported there have a few delays. There will be noticeable signage with implementation -- possibly March.
 - Carrie Wood reported that the Jail and Corrections Workhouse continue their work on providing naloxone kits for inmates as they are released back into the community. Determining kit contents (number of doses). Identifying criteria for which releasees will be offered a kit -- targeted inmates with a history or to all releasees.
 - Carrie Wood and Corey Kohan each spoke on their work providing inmates with Suboxone, noting that it is challenging and time-consuming, but important to have available for keeping our inmates safe. Carrie noted the jail is looking at using an injectable to offset the abuse that comes with ingestible.
 - Patti reminded everyone of the Minnesota Dept of Health's portal that provides naloxone at no cost to eligible groups, i.e., schools, corrections, law enforcement, treatment programs, and more. While the portal is not currently open for placing orders, you can register online and request to be notified when the portal opens for ordering naloxone.
- RFPs
 - Patti reported on being in the midst of the RFP review and award process.





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- Seventeen RFPs were received. Funding the full 17 would be approximately \$1.5 million.
- Full compilation of the review, along with a recommendation, will go before the Executive Committee for approval.
- Award outcomes / project details will be released / shared with the Advisory Committee once signed contracts are in place.

- Naloxone Efforts

- Patti reported NAPs in Anoka County are slowly increasing, noting:
 - Nowthen City Hall is working on becoming a NAP.
 - ACBC Food Shelf is now becoming an official NAP.
 - City of Coon Rapids working on implementing NAPs at three fire station sites and potentially one at the police station.
- Patti asked council members to continue to look for gaps or locations that may make a great NAP. Contacts for sites interested in becoming a NAP are either Steve Rummier HOPE Network or Patti Constant.
- Troy Friesen, as full-time AmeriCorps member working with Anoka County Public Health, highlighted the opioid projects he is currently working on:
 - Integrating naloxone training into CPR/Stop the Bleed training.
 - Contacting professional CPR instructors, nurses training programs, etc., to see where they are at with providing naloxone training in their programs. Do they have access to it? Providing training programs with resources. All seem to be doing some instruction on naloxone. Helping them to promote the PulsePoint app as well.
 - Developing sustainable naloxone programs within EMS, fire law, enforcement, EMTs, the jail, Corrections. Goal being to leave behind a naloxone kit for families or people at higher risk of overdose.
 - Working on an October 4 or 11 community event – similar to last November's Spotlight on Opioids and Overdose.
 - Working on having a presence / providing resources at other community events as well. Patti asked council members to keep Troy informed of specific community events awareness. Events do not need to be substance use related.
 - Justin McNeal noted registration is now open for the May 5th Ramsey Business Expo at Adrenaline Sports Center. Begin Anew Recovery will have a resource table.

- Printed Materials

Patti reported she is continuing to work on getting updated statistics for Anoka County Opioid Solutions Initiative brochures and materials. Once printed, brochures and materials will be available for council members for their organizations, community groups, etc., for education, promotion, and more.

- Opioid Fatality Review Training

Patti reported on an Opioid Fatality Review Training she recently attended in Portland. Learned much about the process. Came back with good information, resources, and tools, along with thoughtful and intentional ways of picking themed fatalities and using them to identify recommendations for action. Is a big project that will take time to



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implement. Our Opioid Fatality Review Panel will be a subset of this Advisory Council. Some places here in the United States have been doing this for over ten years, with impressive outcomes.

3. Advisory Council Goals and Opioid Related Projects/Statistics for 2025

Patti asked members for their thoughts on potential Advisory Council goals and/or projects for 2025. Where are we going next? Our process is not linear.

Where do you see this group going? What is important for us as a group to achieve or take on this year?

There was discussion and strong interest surrounding community events being purposeful – providing community engagement, education, storytelling, and more. Lori Lachner suggested community events tied to schools for parents and students and focused on prevention, such as the Hidden in Plain Sight walk-thru display hosted by St. Francis Schools a few years back. Justin McNeal suggested ensuring events are hosted in the various cities across the county.

Carrie Wood would like to explore an event within the jail wherein inmates could learn about what all is available out in the community. There would be security logistics, but other jails are doing this. Targeted audience! Carrie would also be interested in providing Advisory Council members with a tour of the jail if there is interest.

Corey Kohan noted the annual Law Day in Anoka County as a potential opportunity to educate – coming up early May.

Krista Johnson spoke to the definite gap and suggested a targeted naloxone training event for the service industry. When we work to distribute our expired naloxone to gas stations to have available in their restrooms, for example, most gas station employees have no idea what we are talking about. The bar industry as well.

Nick Warnke offered to sponsor video ads promoting community events – 90-second reels for social media, for example. A direct connect to the community and thousands of people on FaceBook, Instagram, and TikTok.

Patti reported she and Diana Hoffman have had conversation about taking on more community events – *‘taking it on the road’* or throughout the county. Two components – vendor resource tables and providing education.

Given the time and energy it takes to coordinate a community event, how can we make it easier and achievable, yet be realistic?

Dorian Harvey suggested purchasing a mobile / traveling unit, i.e., an old school bus or a modified mobile shipping container, which is what the Science Museum of Minnesota uses for its traveling exhibits.

Krista Johnson noted the importance of hosting breakout training sessions for folks to earn continuing education credits for licensure.





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Nick Warnke acknowledged the testimonies as being engaging. People want to talk. Story sharing helps the community. Seeing faces directly affected brings the reality of it home.

Once the RFP grants are awarded, Susan Ferron would like to see this group connect with recipients and offer to help make their grant projects successful. Patti added grant recipients will be invited to Advisory Board meetings as well to present on their work / projects.

4. Member Presentation –

Anoka County Community Corrections, Corey Kohan, presented The Role of Corrections – a PowerPoint addressing:

- Key System Roles and Functions of Corrections / Probation Officers Statute, State, County Board, Courts
- Predicting Future Criminal Behavior, and Four Core Competencies / Skill Sets that Facilitate Offender Behavior Change. Building trust. We're here to help you.
- 2023 Adult and Juvenile Probation Statistics -- 9,000 adults and 254 juveniles.
- Court Services, along with components of Pre-Sentence Investigation (PSI) Reports.
- Smarter Sentencing tailored to individual client risks, needs, and community safety factors.
- Determining Level of Supervision and Probation Conditions.
- Supervision Tools and Interventions.
- We pay attention and spend a lot of time ensuring that our work is ethical, objective, unbiased, and fair. We don't want the court to make decisions based on subjective or biased input. We have an ethical responsibility to treat people fairly and equitably.
- The recently renegotiated vendor contract that allows probation officers to screen for drugs at any given/ chosen time. We are working to do more intentional testing around fentanyl, given the current 17% positive screens we are seeing.

Corey noted the time and suggested that his thoughts and ideas for working together – Corrections and community partners – be tabled until a future time.

Member Presentation –

Lori Lachner shared her lived experience with addiction, in chronological order, a timeline of her life from a very young age, interweaving the personal aspects of her family life with the impact of having an addiction for many years. She shared her beliefs about addiction, along with the hope and success she found at Hazelden, acknowledging that it was the best experience of her life. Safe detox. Supportive environment. Learned she is a good person with a bad disease. Learned she can live in recovery.

I not only accept my past, but I am grateful for it. The hole in my soul has been filled with gratitude, humility, and acceptance.

Long-term recovery has connected me with other women who share a common purpose and who know how to live in a decent way . . . learning

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and giving. Real people are in long-term recovery from addiction and their lives and the lives of their families are better. We need to make it possible for more people to get help and remove barriers from recovery. Create a better life. I want to help others with the same opportunity that was given to me.

Applause from Advisory Council listeners. Thank you to Corey and Lori for today's presentations.

5. Closing

- Patti noted our March 14th meeting agenda will include a special guest. Alicia House, Executive Director of Steve Rummeler HOPE Network, will speak to us on harm reduction and stigma. Time will be set aside at the end of the meeting for those who would like to participate in naloxone training, by Alicia.
- I appreciate everyone's time. Thank you for all the work you do and for being a part of our group.
- Next Meeting -- Friday, March 14, 2025, 9-11:00 am, Blaine Human Service Center, Room 2402

Adjourn 11:03 am

Patti Constant
Senior Program Specialist

Randi Prebil
Health Promotion and Planning Manager
PHES

Peggy McNabb
Administrative Services Supervisor

Approved: 3-14-2025





The Role of Corrections

Anoka County Opioid Solutions Initiative
Advisory Council
February 14, 2025


1



Key System Roles and Functions

- Primary responsibilities defined in MN Statutes Chapter 244 – Criminal Sentences, Release
- Executive Branch functions
- Authority from Legislature, District Court, MN Commissioner of Corrections, and County Board of Commissioners
- Collaborate with Courts, Prosecution, and Defense
- Court Services
- Community Supervision
- Some departments operate correctional facilities

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Probation Officers Wear Many Hats...

- Officer of the Court – enforce orders, prepare reports, court appearances
- Case management functions – pretrial, probation, and supervised release cases
- Promote and help facilitate positive behavior change
- Provide accountability and support
- Transitional planning
- Offer incentives and impose sanctions
- Complete client contacts – office and community
- Documentation

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Predicting Future Criminal Behavior

- Prior criminal behavior
- Antisocial attitudes, values, beliefs
- Antisocial personality, temperament
- Negative/antisocial peers

- Family relationships
- Substance abuse
- Education/employment
- Leisure/recreation
- Community supports, strengths, trauma

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Four Core Competencies/Skill Sets that Facilitate Offender Behavior Change

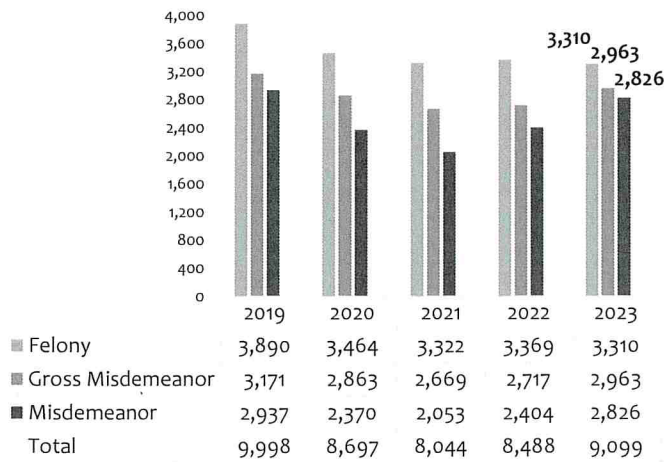


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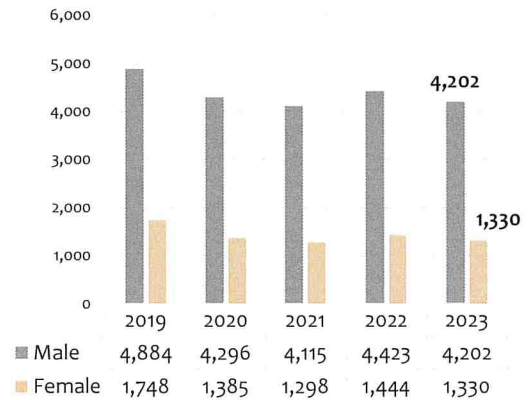
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Adult Probationers Total in 2023



Source: Minnesota Department of Corrections Probation Survey

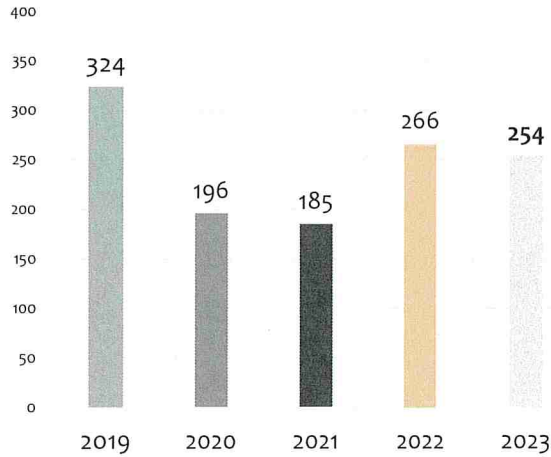
Gender Trend 12/31/2023 Snapshot



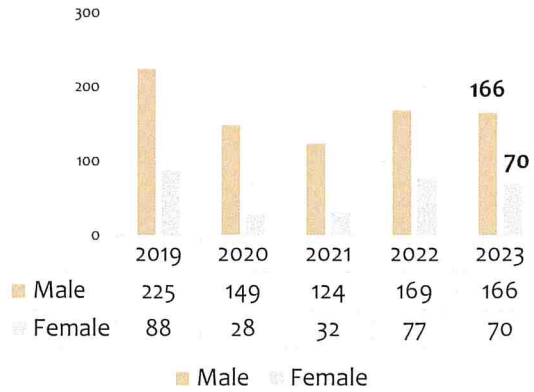
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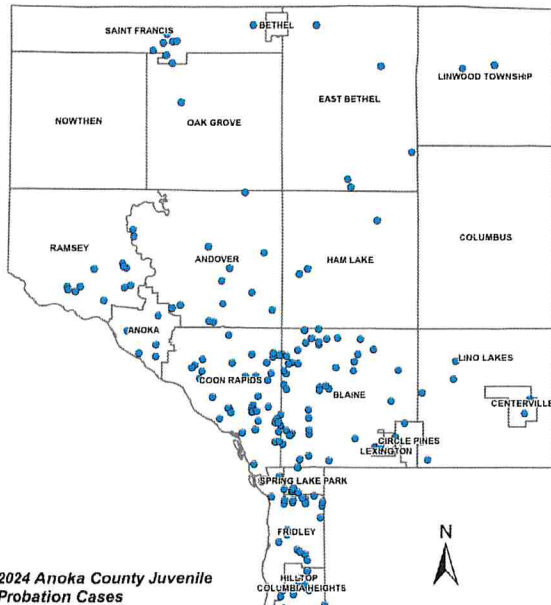
Juvenile Probationers 12/31/2023 Snapshot



Gender Trend 12/31/2023 Snapshot



Source: Minnesota Department of Corrections Probation Survey



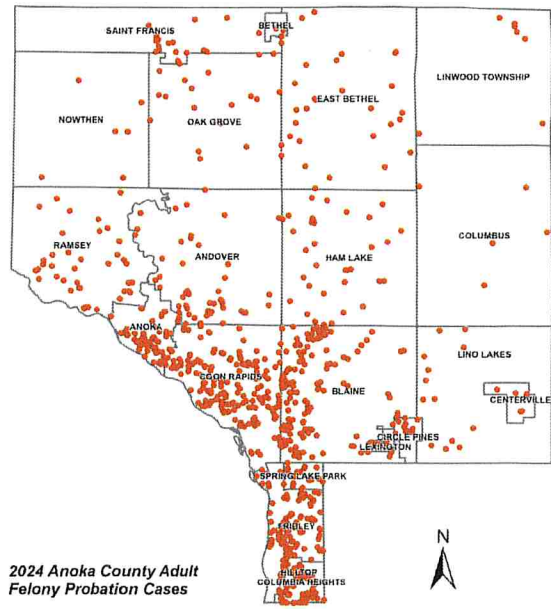
2024 Anoka County Juvenile Probation Cases

Data Source: Anoka County Community Corrections Department
Data Currentness: April 2024

Municipal Boundaries
● Juvenile Probation Case Locations



*201 Records



2024 Anoka County Adult Felony Probation Cases

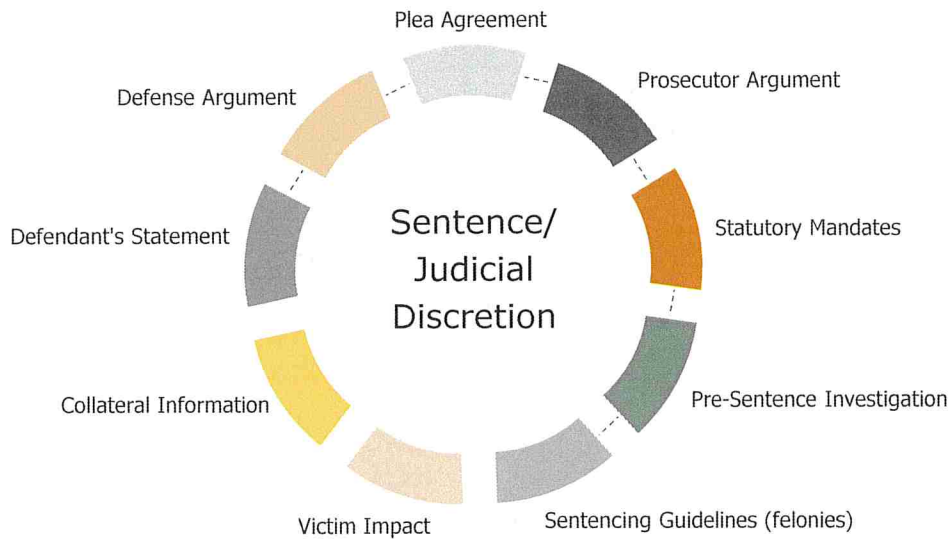
Data Source: Anoka County Community Corrections Department
Data Currentness: April 2024

Municipal Boundaries
● Adult Probation Case Locations



*911 records plotted on the map -- 45 records did not plot

Determining a Sentence



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"Smarter Sentencing"

- Probation conditions should be tailored to individual client risks, needs, and community safety factors
- "Responsivity" – matching interventions and approach to clients' unique characteristics
- Sanctioning proportionate, consider risk/needs
- Incarceration with correctional interventions more effective
- Low risk offenders – Less restrictive system interventions
- Moderate/high risk – Risk reduction through targeted interventions and change-focused supervision efforts
- Extreme high risk – Risk control with intensive supervision

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Typical Probation Conditions

Felonies: Year or longer prison term stayed, local jail sanction or electronic monitoring. Typically, 3-5 years probation.

Fines and court fees.

Gross Misdemeanors: 365 days local jail, some stayed. Typically, 2 years probation.

Remain law abiding.

Misdemeanors: 90 days local jail, some stayed. One year probation.

Complete programming targeting clients' risk and needs
substance abuse assessment/treatment, DV/SO treatment, counseling, cognitive-behavioral programming

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Typical Probation Conditions

No use of mood-altering chemicals or alcohol (case specific)

Chemical use testing as directed

Financial restitution to victim(s) (case specific)

No contact with victim(s)


Sign releases of information

Permit probation searches of person or residence (case specific)

No possession of firearms

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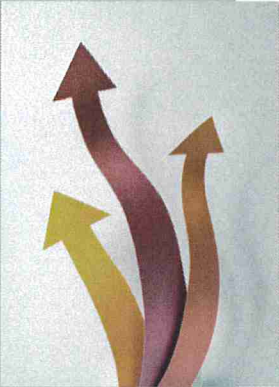
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Community Supervision

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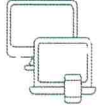
Determining Level of Supervision

- Risk level for reoffending based on assessment – Low, Medium, High
- Circumstances of offense, prior history
- Client's individual programming needs and motivation
- Victim and community safety factors
- Specialized supervision needs – domestic violence, sexual offending, gender-responsive, significant substance abuse, etc.
- Target supervision resources to higher risk clients – individual probation officer case management
- Lower risk offenders require fewer services and less monitoring

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Supervision Tools and Interventions




Client Contacts

office, community, phone, web portal




Case Plans

SMART goals




Testing

urinalysis and breath




Monitoring

Electronic home monitoring, GPS, remote-alcohol testing



Programming

community-based assessment/programs
substance use, mental health, sexual and domestic violence, education/vocational



Probation Officer

directed skill practice and homework

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Urinalysis (UA) Specimens Collected

	2020		2021		2022		2023		2024	
	UA's	% positive	UA's	% positive	UA's	% positive	UA's	% positive	UA's	% positive
Adult Corrections	5,521	38%	5,579	40%	7,899	42%	9,109	39%	9,707	34%
Juvenile Corrections	344	59%	435	58%	535	64%	437	67%	498	70%
Pretrial	750	51%	157	59%	312	63%	1,377	47%	2,885	35%
Social Services	1,021	40%	1,185	52%	799	56%	818	41%	1,083	40%
Enhanced Treatment Program	577	6%	547	8%	287	22%	326	30%	344	26%
Total	8,213		7,903		9,832		12,067		14,517	

Source: RSI Labs – Paracelsus

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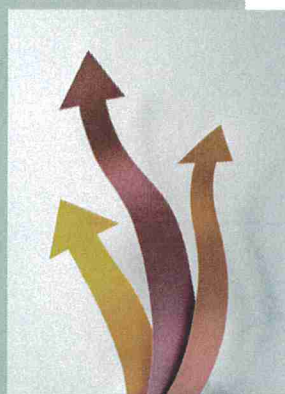
Drug Screens

	2020		2021		2022		2023		2024	
	UA's	% positive	UA's	% positive	UA's	% positive	UA's	% positive	UA's	% positive
Heroin	174	7%	197	9%	165	8%	325	2%	422	.02%
Fentanyl	12	50%	69	61%	232	50%	1,536	25%	3,149	17%
Opiates	7,575	3%	7,203	3%	9,185	2%	10,908	1%	13,376	2%
Total	7,761		7,469		9,582		12,769		16,947	

Source: RSI Labs – Paracelsus

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Collaboration with Community Providers

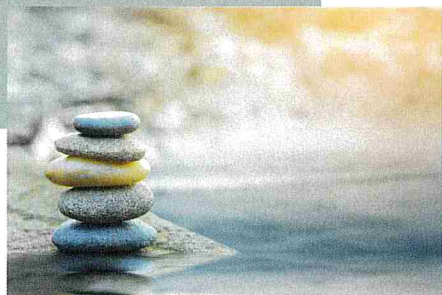


- Different roles but “on the same team.” Seek successful outcomes
- Working with involuntary versus voluntary clients
- Knowledge is power – respect client data privacy
- Releases of information versus public information
- Collateral information assists with assessments
- Importance of program progress reports and discharge summaries
- Collaborate on discharge/transitional planning
- Philosophical differences in approach or response to behaviors

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Accountability and Sanctions



- Accountability is critical part of the change process.
- Accountability and sanctions take many forms.
- Positive reinforcement and incentives at 4:1 ratio.
- Sanctions must be proportionate, reasonable, and with the goal of changing negative behaviors. Consider community safety, client risk, and needs.
- Corrections authority and discretion.
- Probation revocation, defendants' rights, and due process.
- Incarceration with correctional interventions.

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THANKS!

Corey Kohan
Anoka County Community Corrections

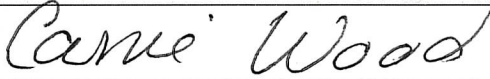
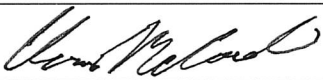
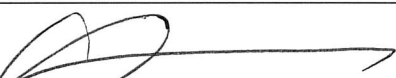
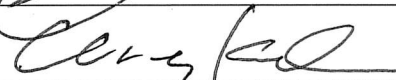
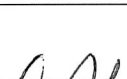

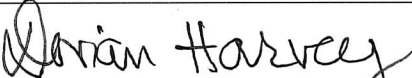
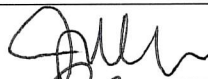

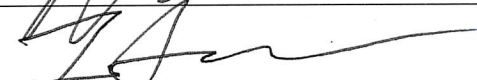
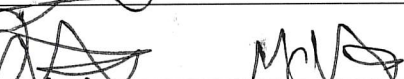
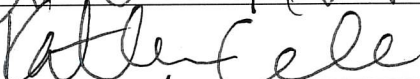
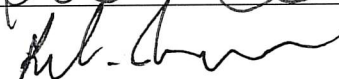
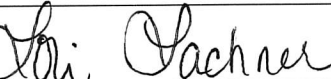

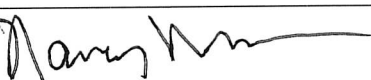

Corey.Kohan@anokacountymn.gov
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Anoka County Opioid Advisory Council Meeting Sign-In / February 14, 2025

Name	Signature	Representing
Carrie Wood		Operations Lieutenant, Anoka County Jail / Sheriff's Office
Chris McCook		Associate Health Education Specialist / Anoka County Public Health & AmeriCorps
Christina Lefkowich		Director of Treatment Service, Riverplace Counseling Center
Corey Kohan		Senior Manager, Rum River Campus Anoka County Community Corrections
Derek Schuldt		Narcotics and Violent Crime Lieutenant, Anoka County Sheriff's Office
Diana Hoffman		Senior Social Worker, Anoka County Social Services and Behavioral Health
Dorian Harvey		Community Member
George Borrell		Director, Anoka County Social Services and Behavioral Health
Jess VanKuyk		Senior Manager, Anoka County Children and Family Services
Joshua VanHeuveln		Chemical Health Professional, Anoka-Hennepin Schools
Joe Amerman		Cannabis Planner / Anoka County Public Health
Justin McNeal		Executive Director, Begin Anew Recovery
Katherine Cole		Supervisor, Anoka County Public Health Budget and Technology
Krista Johnson		Owner/Operator, Meraki Recovery Housing
Lacey Towe		Forensic Technician, Midwest Medical Examiner's Office
Lori Lachner		Community Member
Megan Schueller		Supervisor, Anoka County Behavioral Health and Substance Use Disorder
Melissa Olsen		Treatment Director Specialized Treatment Services, Inc.
Molly Nee		Senior Communications Specialist, Anoka County
Musab Adam		Director of Community Relations, Access Healing Center
Nancy Norman		Anoka County Attorney's Office
Nicholas Warnke		Community Member
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ANOKA COUNTY OPIOID SOLUTIONS INITIATIVE

Opioid Advisory Council Agenda

Friday, February 14, 2025
9:00-11:00 am

Blaine Human Service Center, Room 2402

***Mission:** To improve health, save lives, and reduce the impact caused by opioids and other substances in Anoka County by managing opioid settlement funding and supporting strategic partnerships.*

***Vision:** All Anoka County residents and partners are supported, engaged, and prepared to overcome the opioid crisis and meet the challenges related to substance use in the community.*

Call to Order

1. **Welcome, Moment of Grounding, Introductions, and Approvals (9 to 9:15)**
 - 1-10-2025 Meeting Minutes
 - 2-14-2025 Meeting Agenda

2. **Assorted Community Updates (9:15 to 9:30)**
 - RFP
 - Naloxone efforts
 - Events, News, Other?

3. **Advisory Council Goals and Opioid Related Projects/Statistics for 2025 (9:30 to 9:55)**
 - What would you like the goals of this group to be for 2025 and where do you see us going?
 - What activities or projects would you like to see this group take on this year?

4. **Member Presentation (10:00 to 10:30)**
 - Corey Kohan, Anoka County Community Corrections

5. **Member Presentation (10:30 to 10:55)**
 - Lori Lachner, Lived Experience

6. **Closing**

Next Meeting: Fri March 14, 9-11 (Alicia House, Steve Rummler – Stigma/Harm Reduction)



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