



**CHAMPAIGN COUNTY BOARD**  
**OPIOID SETTLEMENT TASK FORCE**  
County of Champaign, Urbana, Illinois

**MINUTES** – Approved as Distributed on November 13, 2024

---

DATE: Wednesday, August 7, 2024  
TIME: 6:30 p.m.  
PLACE: Shields-Carter Meeting Room  
Brookens Administrative Center  
1776 E. Washington St., Urbana, IL 61802

---

**Committee Members:**

<b>Present</b>	<b>Absent</b>
Aaron Esry	
Jennifer Locke (Chair)	
Diane Michaels (Vice-Chair)	
Emily Rodriguez	
Ed Sexton	
Chris Stohr	
Jennifer Straub	

**Others Present:** Michelle Jett (Director of Administration), Kait Kuzio (Grant Coordinator), and Megan Robison (Recording Secretary)

---

**Agenda Items**

**I. Call to Order**

Chair Locke called the meeting to order at 6:32 p.m.

**II. Roll Call**

A verbal roll call was taken, and a quorum was declared present.

**III. Approval of Agenda/Addendum**

**MOTION** by Mr. Sexton to approve the agenda; seconded by Ms. Straub. Upon vote, the **MOTION CARRIED** unanimously.

**IV. Approval of Minutes**

A. February 20, 2024

**MOTION** by Mr. Stohr to approve the minutes of February 20, 2024; seconded by Mr. Sexton. Upon vote, the **MOTION CARRIED** unanimously.

Mr. Esry entered the meeting.

**V. Public Participation**

None

**VI. Communications**

Mr. Stohr mentioned there is still time to sign up for the upcoming Household Hazardous Waste event.

Ms. Locke referred to a report provided by the Director of the Mental Health Board that shows Illinois ranks dead last for adults with substance abuse disorder needing but not receiving treatment. This report is from Mental Health America and she will forward it to all of the Task Force members.

**VII. New Business**

**A. CU at Home**

Melissa Courtright, Executive Director; Tami Lemke, Consultant; Cedar King, Project Manager; and Mike Royce, Board Chair all presented information about CU at Home. They gave a brief history of the CU at Home program and then went into great detail about the four phases of the Pathways to Progress program that serves the mid-barrier population.

Currently, they serve up to 16 mid-barrier clients in two residential homes and need to expand to a location that can serve up to 25 clients. They also need space for support groups and meetings. They have located an ideal property for this program and partnered with other groups for funding but still have a financial need of \$830,000 to complete the purchase, renovations and to cover annual operating costs.

CU at Home would like to partner with the County to use some of the Opioid Settlement funds to expand the Pathways to Progress program. They are requesting \$580,000 for the purchase/renovations and a commitment to provide ongoing operating subsidies of \$100,000.

Ms. Straub asked about diversity within their programs; they are currently being very intentional to ensure there is diversity in all areas and they are open to learning and growing in areas that they do not have expertise.

Ms. Michaels asked about transportation from rural areas. They have a staff member that is dedicated to transportation, this location is within walking distance to Carle's Addiction and Recovery Center and some insurance companies may provide transportation costs.

Mr. Esry asked what the plans were for the current housing. The plan is to transform the current residential homes into housing for those that have completed phases 1-3 and are moving to phase 4. Mr. Esry also stated that ongoing costs are difficult for the County to cover and wondered if they would be able to secure enough funding for their annual operating costs. Mr. Royce explained that the homeless system has improved in the last decade and there are more long-term funding options available.

Ms. Rodriguez asked if they are seeking additional partnerships. For the capital portion, their primary partnership is with the Housing Authority, and they are currently asking HUD if there is any additional funding available.

Task Force members continued to discuss details of their program, the timeline for this purchase and the requirement of a Special Use Permit from the City.

**CHAMPAIGN COUNTY BOARD**  
**Opioid Settlement Task Force**  
**August 7, 2024 Minutes**

B. Next steps discussion

The Task Force members would like to recommend to the County Board the use of \$580,000 of Opioid Settlement Funds for the purchase and renovations of this building for the CU at Home Pathways to Progress program.

**VIII. Other Business**

A. Date of next meeting

They would like to plan to meet again around October.

**IX. Chair's Report**

None

**X. Adjournment**

Chair Locke adjourned the meeting at 7:50 p.m.