Chippewa County Opioid Settlement Funds Steering Committee
Meeting Minutes
October 12, 2026

A regular meeting of the Chippewa County Opioid Settlement Funds Steering Committee was held on Monday, October 12, 2026, at the Chippewa County Health Department in Sault Ste. Marie, MI with a virtual option. In the absence of Committee Chair Justin Knepper, Karen Senkus called the meeting to order at 3:35 pm with a quorum present.

Members present: Shawn Baker, Melissa Colby, Kelly Freeman, Natasha Halonen, Trista LeBlanc, Maggie Merchberger, Mary Michaels, Sabrina Neveu, Patrick Shannon, Karen Senkus

Members absent: Michelle Benson (prior notice given), Derek Causley, Lucas Gardiner, Justin Knepper (prior notice given), Jodi Bosbous-Rath

Others present: Lynn Farnquist, Joyce Fetrow

Approval of the Agenda:
It was moved to approve the agenda as presented by Shawn; supported by Patrick; on a voice vote the motion carried.

Approval of September 14, 2026, Meeting Minutes:
It was moved by Mary and supported by Trista to approve the September 14,2026, meeting minutes; on a voice vote the motion carried.

Public Comment: There was no public comment.

Agenda Items:
Recovery Housing: Joyce Fetrow, Project Director of Northern Michigan Opioid Response Consortium (NMORC) presented information on how to implement supportive housing for those in recovery and noted that technical assistance is available through NMORC. Information was provided on funding, policies, certification, safety and more. PowerPoint is attached for reference.

Prevention Services Committee Report
Sabrina presented the committee with a flyer designed to outreach to schools and organizations that provide SUD prevention services in the hope that more entities will apply for funds through the 2027 RFP process. The committee reviewed the flyer and made some suggestions for edits.
It was moved by Kelly; supported by Shawn to approve the flyer for distribution; on a voice vote the motion carried.

2027 RFP application process: Scoring Committee
Karen presented the committee with a flyer designed to recruit three community members to assist with the review and scoring of the 2027 RFPs. The committee reviewed the flyer and made suggestions for edits. Clarification was sought regarding committee members who apply for funds and whether they can score other applications. At the August 10, 2026, meeting it was agreed by committee members that those applying for funds would not score any of the applications, rather outside community members would be invited to assist with scoring.
It was moved by Kelly; supported by Sabrina to approve the flyer for distribution; on a voice vote the motion carried.

Committee Comments
Karen announced that terms of seven committee members would expire on 12/31/26. If members want to remain on the committee, a new application needs to be submitted to Kelly Church by November 6, 2026. Karen will email the application to members.

Sabrina announced that FAN is hosting an educational event on kratom on 10.13.26; flyer is attached.

Adjournment

Upcoming Meetings:
November 23, 2026, at 3:30 pm – RFP presentations, reviews and scoring
November 30, 2026, at 3:30 pm – RFP reviews and scoring