

Opioid Settlement Task Force

Town Hall #3

Historic Grove Theater
123 Randolph Road
Oak Ridge, TN
June 13, 2024
6 PM

Members in attendance: Commissioners Beauchamp, Isbel, Wells, Vandagriff

Others in attendance: Commissioners Palmer, Smallridge, Vowell, Yager, and Mayor Frank

Town Hall began with welcome and invocation by David Allred.

Floor was opened for comments, with Commissioner Wells noting “*we want to approach this [distribution of funds] the right way, in the way that it can be effective for the entire county.*”

Speakers/comments:

Billy Edmonds, Free Medical Clinic

Strong state application; going to apply in the fall; they are ready to hire navigational counselor; approximately 8,000 qualify for FMC in Anderson County; 4,000 active patients

Matt Holder, First Recovery at First UMC in Oak Ridge

He is in recovery himself so he is passionate; program started from tragedy in congregation; evidence based programming; he noted big need for sober living; also do peer support; offer help with families; there are not a lot of grants to hire people, but that is what they need; struggling with two staff members; certified peer recovery specialist average national salary is 75k; they are in third year of ministry; 50-60 people a week at their meetings; no charge for their programming; they also do veteran focus and family focus.

Andy O’Quinn, TORCH

Last year they were able to put 16 people into Recovery Housing; his dream is to have recovery housing for homeless with addiction issues (alcohol/drugs); they have approximately 6-7 places on call—Knox, Anderson, Roane

Kristi McCaleb, ASAP

Overdose Prevention Specialist with the State of TN; funded out of response grant; they want to work on leave behind kits; Shayla Wilson mentioned disposal/disposal bins; hot-spots

Nathan Sweet, Director Anderson County EMS

A possible solution community paramedicine; navigator in a smaller vehicle; he suggests whatever organization gets funded, ask them to have regular meetings (quarterly?) and report back to commission

Charlie Elliott, Oak Ridge Fire Department

OR Fire Dept. 9 OD fatalities so far this year; parent education; where to go; what to expect; use funding for education—more public education needed, more parental and schools drug awareness.

Several additional comments and questions were asked/made by Commissioners and Mayor.

