

Beltrami County Local Advisory Council

Meeting Minutes for May 9, 2025.

Meeting called to order at 12:30 pm.

Present: John, Kelsey, Dan, Dylan, Myron, George, Amara, Amy (guest)

Reviewed Minutes from April 9, 2025.

Discussion for this meeting included the following:

Hope House has an open house May 21, 2025, celebrating 45^{-year} anniversary and remodel.

Dan indicated Beltrami County Health and Human Services has hired a sixth mental health case manager, Katie Farrell. Katie brings mental health case manager experience from the state of Florida to her new position and starts May 29, 2025.

Amy Bowles, Beltrami County Public Health Director was the guest speaker for the LAC meeting. Amy provided a general overview of the function of Public Health in the Bemidji community and reviewed the Opioid settlement of which Beltrami was awarded 2.8 million dollars for a period of 18 years.

Beltrami County formed an Opioid Steering Committee to advise the County Commissioners on addressing the opioid crisis. The steering committee is comprised of seven county members and nine community members while holding listening sessions for one year. The intent of the committee included the launch of "Funding Hope" website to strengthen the County and Committee's outreach and improved communication. Included on the website are meeting minutes, presentations, annual updates and reference and links to local and state resources.

Funding opportunities through the Funding Hope for 2025 include the following:

- Ours to Serve House of Hospitality awarded \$36,500.
- Stellher Services was awarded \$50,000.
- North Homes was awarded \$33,049.
- Drug Court was awarded \$10,000.
- Nameless Coalition was awarded \$1,079.
- RESET (Beltrami County Jail) was awarded \$15,000.
- Children and Family Services was awarded \$34,000.
- Administration, salary, supplies, meetings, and marketing was awarded \$112,023.

Outreach through this group includes educating educators, Public Health on-line library, County Board support and community engagement, art therapy and additional non-traditional methods of supporting wellness.

Additional discussion included the location of Beltrami County as a high drug traffic area in the state of Minnesota.