



CITY OF DOVER

DELAWARE

MAYOR'S **BLUE-RIBBON** OPIOID USE DISORDER TASFORCE

MEETING MINUTES

MAYOR'S OPIOID USE DISORDER TASFORCE MEETING

The Mayor's **Blue Ribbon** Opioid Use Disorder Taskforce Committee was held on **January 28, 2026**, at **6:00 p.m.** with Chairman Dr. Roy Sudler, Jr. presiding.

OUD Taskforce members present were Mr. Benard Pratt Mr. Joseph H. Bedford III, Mrs. Chelle Paul, absent was Mr. James Oxford Sr., Mrs. Toni Jordan and Honorable Eric L. Buckson,

COUNCIL MEMBERS' PRESENT

No additions or deletions were proposed for the meeting.

INVOCATION

The invocation was given by Mr. Benard Pratt

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Dr. Travis Mishoe Sudler I.

AGENDA ITEMS:

1. Approval of October and November's 2025 Meeting Minutes.
2. Discussion Regarding Recommendation number 1 to the Mayor for Abatement of Opioid Use Disorder Settlement Funds in the Capital of Delaware.

Proposed Recommendations for the Abatement of OUD in the Capital of Delaware:

1. Investment in Detox Treatment Center Infrastructure: Develop a state-of-the-art Detox Treatment Center that incorporates comprehensive wrap-around services. This facility should be staffed with specialized addiction therapists and social workers and utilize evidence-based therapeutic programs to address opioid use disorder (OUD) effectively.

Mr. Chris Devane - Detox Consultant

3. Discussion Regarding Recommendation number 6 to the Mayor for Abatement of Opioid Use Disorder Settlement Funds in the Capital of Delaware.



CITY OF DOVER

DELAWARE

AGENDA ADDITIONS/DELETIONS

Chairman Sudler reviewed the agenda items and asked for a motion to adopt the agenda. There were no additions or deletions to the agenda.

Mr. Bernard Pratt moved to adopt the meeting agenda for **January 28, 2026, at 6:00 p.m.** The motion was properly seconded by Mrs. Chelle Paul there was no discussion on the agenda item; hence, the motion was unanimously adopted.

CHAIRMAN SUDLER'S ANALYSIS:

Here is the matrix breakdown of the meeting text, categorized by objectives, care levels, challenges, solutions, and community action items.

Core Strategic Matrix

Category	Key Details & Focus Areas
Meeting Objectives	• Align Kent County detox infrastructure with National Exhibit E OUD guidelines. • Evaluate local service gaps and identify funding sources for remediation. • Foster cross-agency collaboration to mitigate the OUD crisis.
Care Levels & Gaps	• High-Level Needed: Hospital Level (4.0) and Medically Monitored (3.7) facilities are critically missing in Kent County. • Continuum Advocacy: Strong push to establish High-Intensity Inpatient (3.5) and Low-Intensity (3.1) facilities. • Lower-Level Present: Outpatient and prevention tiers (1.0 to 2.5) exist but lack integrated clinical treatment.
District & Youth Challenges	• Education: Urgent need for proactive drug awareness initiatives (e.g., DARE) in schools. • Vulnerable Groups: Severe service gaps for youth needing detox, and foster youth facing homelessness after aging out. • Engagement: Outdated youth engagement methods fail to address current modern realities.



CITY OF DOVER

DELAWARE

- Financial & Operational Hurdles**
- **Infrastructure Costs:** High capital considerations required to physically build and fill the care gaps.
 - **Insurance Red Tape:** Restrictive coverage limits the duration of detox (5–7 days) and inpatient care (28 days).
 - **Sustainability:** Lack of long-term funding for wraparound services and individuals without active insurance.

Proposed Solutions

Community & Next Steps

- **Braided Funding:** Combine National OUD settlement funds with various state agency resources.
- **Support Services:** Utilize stable housing initiatives to sustain crucial wraparound recovery services.
- **Modern Outreach:** Leverage social media platforms to effectively connect with students regarding drug dangers.
- **Framework Advancement:** Local calls to action to support the conceptual design of the Dover Detox Center.
- **Voluntary Engagement:** Maximize existing halfway houses, noting success relies heavily on individual willingness.
- **Active Partnerships:** Collaboration between the City of Dover, Capital School District, and Delaware State University programs.

Dover Task Force Resource Priority Breakdown

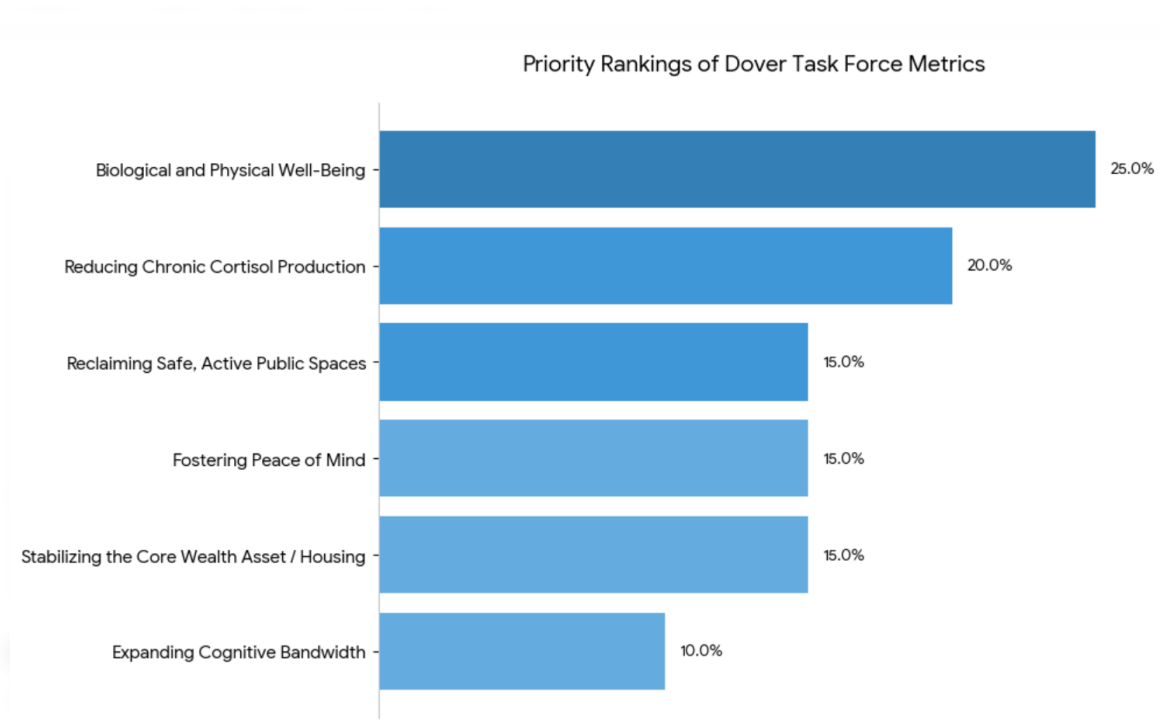
- **Biological and Physical Well-Being (25.0%):** Focuses on core medical care levels, establishing missing local detox facilities, and correcting clinical infrastructure gaps.
- **Reducing Chronic Cortisol Production (20.0%):** Targets trauma mitigation, preventative care, and baseline stress reduction among affected individuals.
- **Stabilizing the Core Wealth Asset / Housing (15.0%):** Secures stable housing as a framework to anchor community recovery and wraparound services.
- **Fostering Peace of Mind (15.0%):** Establishes multi-agency state funding stabilization and dedicated care for vulnerable family units.



CITY OF DOVER

DELAWARE

- **Reclaiming Safe, Active Public Spaces (15.0%):** Deploys youth prevention initiatives, juvenile delinquency reduction strategies, and school system partnerships.
- **Expanding Cognitive Bandwidth (10.0%):** Creates modern youth engagement channels, social media safety awareness, and active peer mentorship networks.



Here are three social media outreach templates designed for the **Expanding Cognitive Bandwidth (10.0%)** and **Reclaiming Safe, Active Public Spaces (15.0%)** metrics. They are optimized for different platforms to engage local youth, parents, and community stakeholders in Dover.

Template 1: Instagram / TikTok (Focus: Youth Engagement)

- **Visual Idea:** A short, high-energy video featuring student leaders from Delaware State University or local high schools sharing a quick "Did you know?" text overlay.
- **Caption Copy:**

Your mind is your most valuable asset—don't let illicit drugs take away your focus or your future. Whether you are balancing school, sports, or planning your next big move, your mental bandwidth matters. Real strength is knowing when to protect your peace and where to find support. Tap the link in our bio to check



CITY OF DOVER

DELAWARE

out active youth summer initiatives, peer mentorship programs, and safe spaces happening right here in Dover. Let's build together. #DoverYouth #MindsetMatters #DSU #CapitalSchoolDistrict #ProtectYourBandwidth #YouthRise

Template 2: Facebook / Community Group (Focus: Parents & Foster Advocates)

- **Visual Idea:** A clean, supportive infographic highlighting local resources, contact lines, and upcoming school district workshops.

- **Caption Copy:**

Building a safer Dover starts with empowering our youth before challenges arise. 🤝 We are working closely with the Capital School District and local community advocates to expand youth prevention initiatives, juvenile delinquency reduction strategies, and targeted support for youth aging out of foster care. Every young person deserves a safe, active space to grow, learn, and thrive. Want to get involved or know a student who could benefit from peer mentorship? Join our upcoming community workshop this Thursday at 6:00 PM at the Dover Public Library to learn about new youth programs and tools to discuss drug awareness safely at home Read the full youth outreach strategy here: [Insert Link] #DoverCommunity #CapitalSD #YouthPrevention #FosterSupport #DoverDE #ActiveSpaces

Template 3: X (Formerly Twitter) (Focus: Quick Awareness & Resource Link)

- **Visual Idea:** A bold graphic pairing a strong quote from the Superintendent with a direct link to the modern digital outreach toolkit.
 - **Post Copy:**

Real connection starts where our youth are. 🧩 Capital School District is teaming up with the City of Dover to use social media platforms for positive drug awareness and youth delinquency prevention. Let's claim safe spaces together. Check out the new toolkit: [Insert Link] Dover DE #YouthOutreach #PreventionFirst
-



CITY OF DOVER

DELAWARE

MEETING DIALOGUE:

Chairman Sudler commenced the meeting by articulating the objectives of the Detox infrastructure in alignment with the Opioid Use Disorder (OUD) guidelines and remediation practices as referenced in Exhibit E of the national standards. Upon conclusion of the standards review, he acknowledged Mr. Chris Devane, a Detox Center Specialist from Delaware. Mr. Devane delineated the distinctions in care levels authorized by hospitals and other healthcare systems for consumers seeking treatment. He highlighted the absence of higher-level care options, specifically medically monitored facilities (3.7) in Kent County, contrasted with lower-level medical services that don't provide clinical treatment. Patients need a medically safe environment during intake to determine appropriate treatment plans tailored to their individual circumstances.

The care levels discussed included:

(4.0) Medically Managed - Hospital Level Care

(3.7) Medically Monitored Facility

(3.5) Medically Monitored - High Intensity (In-patient treatment) that includes biopsychosocial assessments with clinically monitored treatment, typically covered by insurance for detoxification for 5 to 7 days, or 28 days for inpatient care.

(3.1) Low-Intensity Treatment, such as outpatient services which require 26 to 30 hours per week.

(2.5) Partial Hospitalization

(2.1) Intensive Outpatient

(1.5) Prevention Services

(1.0) Outpatient Services.



CITY OF DOVER

DELAWARE

Mr. Devane emphasized the necessity for a comprehensive continuum of care within Kent County, particularly advocating for the establishment of facilities at the 3.5 and 3.1 levels to better address patients' trauma. Chairman Sudler inquired about care level references, suggesting resources from the American Society of Addiction Medicine. He then introduced Dr. Chandra Jackson, President of the Capital School District, and Dr. Victor T. Cahoon, Superintendent, who shared insights into challenges faced by the district, particularly the need for DARE programs or similar initiatives to enhance students' awareness of illicit drug use and its impact on overall well-being. Committee member Joseph Bedford III raised questions about engaging youth in awareness initiatives and the unique challenges they face today compared to traditional methods. He expressed concern regarding service gaps for youth needing detox facilities and care levels. Mr. Devane acknowledged the existence of such gaps but noted that his expertise did not extend to a comprehensive analysis of them. Mrs. Chelle Paul questioned the complexities surrounding enforced treatment and the provision of wraparound services, particularly under restrictive insurance coverage. She raised concerns about the sustainability of detox treatment for individuals lacking ongoing coverage and its implications on their recovery journey.

Mr. Devane suggested that housing could serve as a sustainable solution to support wraparound services. At the same time, Mr. Doug Ferris, recognized by Chairman Sudler, elaborated on the infrastructure cost considerations necessary to fill the service gaps. Mrs. Paul asserted that adequate funding is crucial for the provision of comprehensive services. Dr. Travis Misoe Sudler, Chair of the Dover Human Relations Commission, expressed concern regarding foster youth dealing with homelessness and mental health issues upon aging out of the foster care system. He emphasized the need to address the OUD challenges faced by both family units and individuals.



CITY OF DOVER

DELAWARE

Dr. Sudler thanked Mr. Devane and Mr. Ferris for their efforts towards establishing a Detox Center in Kent County. Committee member Joseph Bedford III continued to advocate for youth intervention from both proactive and retrospective perspectives. Mrs. Chelle Paul further discussed funding challenges stemming from City Council's budgetary constraints regarding OUD crisis interventions in Delaware's capital. Chairman Sudler clarified that funding for these initiatives would not only originate from the OUD settlement but also from various state agencies addressing substance abuse. Mr. Devane concluded his presentation by underscoring the need for enhanced community support for healthcare delivery services to mitigate the social impacts of the OUD crisis.

Mrs. Belinda Main requested further information on how the community could advance the initiative to support the conceptual framework for a Detox Center in Delaware's capital. Mrs. Bonnie Pennington highlighted the existence of halfway houses in Kent County, noting that success relies on the individual's willingness to engage in the process. Chairman Sudler then recognized Chelle Paul who thanked Mr. Devane for his presentation and other agencies that are working with the youth primarily those who are aging out of the foster care.

Chairman Sudler recognized the crucial contributions of Mr. Bobby Wilson, who strongly advocated for programs like the youth summer initiative and the Upward Bound program through Delaware State University. These programs are vital in helping young people become productive citizens. Mr. Wilson also called on the Capital School District to seek out additional strategies to prevent juvenile delinquency. In reply, Dr. Victoir T. Cahoon, the Superintendent, acknowledged the significant impact of these programs and highlighted the potential of social media as an essential tool for connecting with students. He supported the idea of utilizing these platforms to raise awareness about the dangers of illicit drugs and expressed his commitment to collaborating with the City of Dover on this initiative. The meeting concluded with express gratitude and a commitment to continued discussions and community engagement efforts.



CITY OF DOVER

DELAWARE

SYNOPSIS:

Chairman Sudler convened a meeting to align Detox infrastructure with OUD remediation standards, with Specialist Chris Devane highlighting a critical shortage of high-level, medically monitored (3.7) treatment facilities in Kent County. Devane outlined the spectrum of care, advocating for the establishment of 3.5 and 3.1 level facilities to address patient trauma, while referencing guidelines from the American Society of Addiction Medicine. Following a discussion on these treatment gaps, school district officials discussed the need for prevention initiatives to address local challenges.

The meeting was adjourned at **7:13 p.m.**

Submitted By:

Roy Sudler, Jr. Ph.D.

Chairman of Mayor's

OUD Taskforce Committee