

Michigan Opioids Task Force Expectations & Standards of Conduct

Principles

The Michigan Opioids Task Force is committed to fostering **equity at the core** of all aspects of its work. We recognize the importance of addressing systemic inequities and ensuring that we prioritize equity throughout our strategic planning and decision-making process. Our goal is to address racial disparities in overdose deaths and access to services to achieve improved health outcomes for all individuals impacted by the opioid crisis.

By adhering to these expectations and standards, the Michigan Opioids Task Force aims to maintain efficient, focused, and productive meetings that advance our collective goals in addressing the opioid epidemic in Michigan while upholding our guiding principles.

Opioids Task Force Guiding Principles



What are we trying to do?

Over-arching goal: Reduce overdose deaths and eliminate racial disparities

How do we get there?

Equity at the core

- Prioritize equity in all aspects of programming and operations
- Address racial disparities in overdose deaths and access to services to achieve improved outcomes.

Maximize Impact

- Monitor and track program implementation and development
- Identify over-arching outcome/impact measures to show success

Data-Informed Decisions

- Utilize available data and leverage data sharing agreements to drive strategic decisions
- Ensure evidence-based practices guide our actions

Communicate to improve trust

- Communicate openly, timely, and consistently to enhance trust
- Ensure spending reports are clear and accessible; show where and how funds are being spent

In addition to the guiding principles established by the Opioids Task Force Work Plan Subcommittee, we will refer to the following spending principles, adapted from the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health, to inform our discussions and decision-making process.

Principle 1: **Spend money to save lives**

- Establish a dedicated fund
- Supplement rather than supplant existing funding
- Don't spend all the money at once
- Report to the public on where the money is going

Principle 2: **Use evidence to guide spending**

- Direct funds to programs supported by evidence
- Remove policies that may block adoption of programs that work
- Build data collection capacity

Principle 3: **Invest in youth prevention**

- Direct funds to evidence-based interventions

Principle 4: **Focus on racial equity**

- Invest in communities affected by discriminatory policies
- Support diversion from arrest and incarceration
- Fund anti-stigma campaigns
- Involve community members in solutions

Principle 5: **Develop a fair and transparent process for deciding where to spend the funding**

- Determine areas of need
- Receive input from groups that touch different parts of the epidemic to develop a plan
- Ensure that there is representation that reflects the diversity of affected communities when allocating funds

[The Principles - Opioid Principles \(jhsph.edu\)](https://www.jhsph.edu/centers-and-programs/center-for-community-based-prevention-and-control/the-principles-of-opioid-prevention/)

Standards of conduct

Meeting management

- Members are expected to utilize time efficiently by focusing on the relevant agenda items to optimize the meeting time. Members should adhere to the following guidelines during discussion:
 - Arrive to meetings on time and be prepared to discuss any materials that were distributed prior to the meeting.
 - Provide succinct input by offering comments in a clear, concise manner during discussions.
 - Offer constructive recommendations to problem-solve when raising concerns.

- Facilitate closure on agenda items by supporting prompt decision-making.
- After decisions are made, respect and endorse them; avoid revisiting previously addressed concerns.

Participation

- Members are expected to facilitate progress in between Task Force meetings by engaging with materials and providing responsive feedback when requested by co-chairs, participating in additional, ad hoc working meetings when appropriate, and otherwise providing input as requested.

Decision-making

- The group will strive for consensus on decisions including recommendations; when consensus is not achievable, the group will work toward consent (meaning, there may be differing perspectives, but all accept the outcome).
- When we find differing perspectives, we will clarify and document them.

Learn together

- In our work, we should clearly state our assumptions, articulate the logic guiding our decisions, test these assumptions, and revise as we learn.
- We define measurable criteria and metrics, and engage all relevant partner groups in gathering data, analyzing data, and evaluating outcomes.
- We commit to continuous, iterative quality improvement processes.

Center impacted parties in both design and decision-making

- Our processes and products should be people-centered, prioritizing the perspectives and prerogatives of those who have most at stake in this work – primarily people in need, community organizations, and diverse communities as a whole.
- Diverse perspectives should drive decisions, with an emphasis on the perspectives of people most impacted.
- We strive for consensus when possible, and consent always; we will invest in conflict resolution.

Build and maintain trust

- Treat all with dignity and respect.
- Avoid ascribing negative intent to others and actively work towards building trust.

Serve common interests

- Commitment from network partners to think beyond their individual programs and services.
- Willingness to re-engineer business processes in support of a shared vision for reducing overdose fatalities and racial disparities.
- Work across silos – break down barriers while maintaining important boundaries. Anticipate, mitigate, reduce, and redress any possible harms.