



Waukesha County Heroin Task Force (HTF) Community Partners Meeting Summary

March 24, 2026, 2:00-4:00 p.m. / Virtual Quarterly Meeting

Important links to reference.

RECORDING: Waukesha County Quarterly Community Partners Meeting: [Watch the entire HTF community partners meetings](#)

RECORDING: Waukesha County Environmental Scan Survey Results: [Miles Payne\(Elevate\) and John Kettler \(HHS\) present the Environmental Scan survey results.](#)

SLIDEDECK: [March 24th PowerPoint Presentation](#) (includes the Environmental Scan presentation and breakout room discussions)

PADLET: Coalition Partners shared information using a platform called Padlet. The March 24th Padlet has now been “locked down” (can’t add more), but you can access all the active links. We will use this platform again to share information with each other. [Click here to access the March 24th Information Padlet.](#) Or, you can click on this QR Code.



1. Purpose and Context

- a. The meeting convened community partners to strengthen relationships, share updates, and align current and emerging priorities related to substance use in Waukesha County. The HTF continues to serve as a community-driven, cross-sector collaborative focused on saving lives and strengthening community health through coordinated, data-informed action.

2. Welcome and Leadership Perspective

- a. HTF Co-Chairs Larry Nelson & Brenda Dunlap welcomed participants alongside remarks from County Executive Paul Farrow, reinforcing commitment to addressing substance use through collaboration. New partners were introduced, reflecting continued growth across sectors including education, healthcare, and behavioral health.

3. Coalition Direction

- a. The HTF reaffirmed its vision of a healthy, connected community, its purpose to save lives through collaboration and data-driven strategies, and its mission to mobilize partners to reduce harm, increase access to treatment, and support recovery.

4. Partner Engagement Insights- Data from the Coalition End of Year Survey

- a. Survey data shows strong engagement and value:



- i. 84% able to attend meetings
 - ii. 83% report benefiting from participation
 - iii. 71% find email communication useful
 - iv. 97% feel email frequency is appropriate
- b. Partners most value knowledgeable speakers, networking opportunities, and data-driven discussions.
- c. **Survey Key Themes**
 - i. Partners expressed a desire for clearer next steps, stronger strategic direction, more local data, and actionable opportunities. There is also interest in deeper peer learning and honest conversations about challenges.
- d. **Survey Impact and Progress**
 - i. 65% believe HTF is having a positive impact
 - ii. 76% agree the coalition is meeting its purpose
 - iii. 68% believe community response has strengthened
 - iv. Progress has been noted in awareness, collaboration, and harm reduction, with opportunities to further strengthen data use and community engagement.
- e. **Emerging Priorities**
 - i. Key areas for future workgroups include:
 - Changing drug trends and stimulant use
 - Polysubstance use and mental health needs
 - Alcohol use disorder
 - Harm reduction expansion
 - Diversion programs
 - Legislative advocacy and stigma reduction
 - Data-driven response and coordination

There were also comments recommending a coalition name change so it better reflects the spectrum of drugs and drug use.

5. Alliance for Wisconsin Youth (AWY) State Opioid Response Grant (SOR)

- a. The meeting also included an overview of the Alliance for Wisconsin Youth (AWY) grant recently awarded to the Waukesha County Heroin Task Force, with Elevate serving as the fiscal agent. This funding represents an important opportunity to strengthen substance use prevention efforts—particularly among youth—by supporting education, expanding evidence-based programming, and fostering stronger alignment between schools and community partners.
- b. Utilizing breakout rooms, participants began exploring how these resources could be leveraged to address gaps identified in the Environmental Scan and to advance coordinated, data-informed prevention strategies across Waukesha County.
- c. Please reference the slide deck for details on each breakout room discussion.

6. HTF Coalition Key Updates

- a. Updates included continued growth of the HTF LinkedIn presence, development of an 'About Us' document, expanded partner engagement tools, and exploration of a coalition name update to better reflect the evolving scope of work.

7. Data and Learning (Environmental Scan)

- a. Findings from the Waukesha County Environmental Scan highlighted opportunities to strengthen prevention and mental health education efforts across schools and community systems. Key insights included:
 - i. Strong participation across the county, with responses representing a large majority of identified schools (83% response rate)
 - ii. Prevention programming present across many grade levels, with over 100 grades reporting some level of implementation
 - iii. Variability in delivery of prevention programming, indicating opportunities for greater consistency and coordination
 - iv. Capacity challenges, particularly staff time and scheduling, remain barriers to expansion
 - v. Prevention efforts often led by school staff, highlighting need for additional external support and partnership
 - vi. Opportunities to strengthen alignment between schools and community-based organizations
 - vii. Provides a strong foundation for targeted, data-informed investment and partnership strategies

8. Looking Ahead

- a. The HTF will continue quarterly meetings, expand in-person engagement, strengthen action-oriented workgroups, and align efforts with data and emerging community needs.

9. Closing Reflection

- a. The meeting reinforced HTF's strong foundation and highlighted a clear path forward—deepening collaboration, strengthening strategy, and translating shared insight into meaningful action.