# Community Forum Series

In 2019, the Community Forum series provided an opportunity to bring together community members in collaboration with healthcare professionals, law enforcement, social services, and individuals in recovery to raise awareness for substance use disorders, provide education, dispel stigma, and share a message of hope.

Expand all

**+**

## Deer River



**Who:** University of Minnesota Extension; University of Minnesota College of Pharmacy, Duluth; Itasca County Public Health; Deer River community members.  A meal was provided and catered by Aitkin Public Schools.

**Where:** Deer River School

**Key takeaway:** Participants shared that **learning** about opioid use as a **disease** helped them understand how to **break the stigma of recovery**.

- **Strengths** in the community include the **sobriety court** and **sober community meetings** as well as the **strong relationships** between healthcare and mental health providers.
- Community members asked for more education efforts of substance use disorders, particularly programs that explored the **effects and signs of addiction** and the role of **community in sobriety.**
- A few community members wanted to see a greater connection between **addiction** and **mental health**.
- Most people said they had heard of the forum through **word-of-mouth**.

Read the full report from Deer River.

**+**

## Aitkin



**Who:** University of Minnesota Extension; University of Minnesota College of Pharmacy, Duluth; Aitkin County Public Health; Aitkin community members.

**Where:** Aitkin High School.

**When:** May 2019

**Key takeaway:** Participants shared that **learning** about opioid use as a **disease** helped them understand how to **break the stigma of recovery**.

- **Strengths** in the community include the **sobriety court** and **sober community meetings** as well as the **strong relationships** between healthcare and mental health providers.
- Community members asked for more education efforts of substance use disorders, particularly programs that explored the **effects and signs of addiction** and the role of **community in sobriety.**
- A few community members wanted to see a greater connection between **addiction** and **mental health**.
- Most people said they had heard of the forum through **word-of-mouth**.

Read the full report from Aitkin.

+

## Grand Rapids



**Who:** University of Minnesota Extension; University of Minnesota College of Pharmacy, Duluth; Itasca County Public Health; Grand Rapids community members.

**Where:** The Blandin Foundation

**When:** April 2019

**Key takeaway:** Participants shared that the **stories** from those in recovery and those working with opioid abuse prevention were the **most important**.

- **Strengths** in the community include the **sobriety court** and **sober community meetings** as well as the **strong relationships** between healthcare and mental health providers.
- Community members asked for more education efforts of substance use disorders, particularly programs that explored the **effects and signs of**

**addiction** and the role of **community in sobriety.**

- A few community members wanted to see a greater connection between **addiction** and **mental health**.
- Most people said they had heard of the forum through **word-of-mouth**.

Read the full report from Grand Rapids.

+

## Keewatin



**Who:** University of Minnesota Extension; University of Minnesota College of Pharmacy, Duluth; Itasca County Public Health; Keewatin community members.

**Where:** Keewatin Community Center

**When:** April 2019

**Key takeaway:** Participants shared that the **stories** from those in recovery and those working with opioid abuse prevention were the **most important**.

- **Strengths** in the community include the **sobriety court** and **sober community meetings** as well as the **strong relationships** between healthcare and mental health providers.
- Community members asked for more education efforts of substance use disorders, particularly programs that explored the **effects and signs of addiction** and the role of **community in sobriety.**
- A few community members wanted to see a greater connection between **addiction** and **mental health**.
- Most people said they had heard of the forum through **word-of-mouth**.

Read the full report from Keewatin.

+

## Malmo



**Who:** University of Minnesota Extension; University of Minnesota College of Pharmacy, Duluth; Aitkin County Public Health; Malmo community members.

**Where:** Malmo Community Center

**When:** May 2019

**Key takeaway:** Participants shared that the **stories** from those in recovery and those working with opioid abuse prevention were the **most important**.

- **Strengths** in the community include the **sobriety court** and **sober community meetings** as well as the **strong relationships** between healthcare and mental health providers.
- Community members asked for more education efforts of substance use disorders, particularly programs that explored the **effects and signs of addiction** and the role of **community in sobriety.**
- A few community members wanted to see a greater connection between **addiction** and **mental health**.
- Most people said they had heard of the forum through **word-of-mouth**.

Read the full report from Malmo.

+

## McGregor



**Who:** University of Minnesota Extension; University of Minnesota College of Pharmacy, Duluth; Aitkin County Public Health; McGregor community members.

**Where:** McGregor School

**When:** April 2019

**Key takeaway:** Participants shared that the **stories** from those in recovery and those working with opioid abuse prevention were the **most important**.

- **Strengths** in the community include the **sobriety court** and **sober community meetings** as well as the **strong relationships** between healthcare and mental health providers.
- Community members asked for more education efforts of substance use disorders, particularly programs that explored the **effects and signs of addiction** and the role of **community in sobriety.**
- A few community members wanted to see a greater connection between **addiction** and **mental health**.
- Most people said they had heard of the forum through **word-of-mouth**.

Read the full report from McGregor.