

Opioid Epidemic Response Advisory Council (OERAC)

Meeting Minutes for February 17, 2023

Meeting Location: Virtual via Webex link provided on invitation. In-person at Grand Event Center, Mora MN

Members present (Names in italics are non-voting OERAC members):

Remote (for convenience): Nicole Anderson, Heather Bell, Peter Carlson, Sarah Grosshuesch, Alicia House, Brock Reed, Erin Koegel, Toni Napier, Darin Prescott, Anne Pylkas, Korey Wahwassuck, *Eric Grumdahl, Dana Farley*

In person: Sadie Broekemeier, Dave Baker, Kathryn Nevins, *Jolene Rebertus*

Members not present:

Joe Clubb, Tiffany Irvin, Mark Koran, Mary Kunesh, Esther Muturi

DHS & MMB (MAD) staff and support present (guest presenters noted later):

Alexia Reed Holtum, Alicia Baker, Jeff Campe, and Stacy Sjogren

Call to order

After a guest welcome, review of ground rules, introductions, and roll call, Chair Baker called the meeting to order at 10:01.

Business items

- Dave Baker moved to approve the minutes from the January 20, 2022 meeting. Seconded by Darin Prescott. Minutes were accepted as submitted.
- By-laws change related to meeting attendance.
 - Issue: Edits necessary to better clarify Absenteeism and Removal section.
 - Suggested language change: “A member may be removed by the appointing authority at any time at the pleasure of the appointing authority (DHS) or other selecting organization. The chair of the Opioid Epidemic Response Advisory Council (Council) shall inform the appointing authority of a member missing two consecutive meetings during their first year of ~~the~~ council membership, or three absences during a two calendar year period ~~period~~ after their first year on the council.”
 - Moved as presented by Anne Pylkas. Seconded by Toni Napier. Motion passed by voice vote.
 - Follow-up action:
 - Council leadership will consider whether additional discussion/clarification is necessary regarding the use of a proxy to represent a member at a future. Particularly, how use of proxies relates to voting members as opposed to non-voting members.

- Update on Council reimbursement process.
 - Issue: Some confusion has been experienced by some members. Vendor’s document form shared and process for completing form and submitting explained by Alicia Baker.
 - All members should have SWIFT vendor numbers. Alicia walked through the digital form and reminded members they must submit claims digitally. Submissions must be turned in no later than June, 2023.
 - Follow-up action: Alicia will follow-up with a mailing to all members reiterating what was shared.

Update on MMB Licensing Fee “Sweep” Risk

- Presenter: Eric Grumdahl and Elyse Bailey, DHS
- Topic: Update on issue raised during January 20, 2023 meeting about MMB-identified risk for pharmaceutical licensing fees to be cancelled or “swept” at the end of the fiscal year. The issue has been resolved. Full \$6.1 million in licensing fees and \$18.875 million in settlement funds is now available. No legislative fix is necessary. The council thanks all involved for their diligent work resolving this issue.
- Follow-up action: The DHS team is developing an ongoing OERAC cash flow report and will share this with the Council as soon as possible so that the Council will be better able to track when funds are coming in and going out.

Local Welcome

- Member Sadie Broekemeier and Kennebec Commissioner Wendy Caswell welcomed the Council to Mora, Minnesota.

Public Comment – round 1

- Valerie Quintana, community resource

Data/Dashboard Updates

- Presenter: Weston Merrick, MMB
- Topic: Presented performance measures on a new “Use of Evidence in OERAC grants” page on MMB’s website: <https://mn.gov/mmb/impact-evaluation/projects/opioid-epidemic-response-advisory-council/evidence-in-oerac-grants/> Data visualization available on this page will allow the Council and Minnesotans to have a better sense of where funding is going and where funding is needed. Eventually, county and city information will be added.
- Follow-up actions:
 - Change category code from Naloxone to Narcan.
 - Weston and Lexi will connect to determine where online public comments/questions should be directed.
 - Chairperson requested MMB developers add visual information to tables to show where \$15 million of total award granted after legislative diversions and where that money is going.

Council Vote: Use of licensing fee money

Recusals due to conflicts of interest:

- Darin Prescott
- Nicole Anderson
- Alicia House
- Heather Bell
- Toni Napier

Issue: \$6.1 million available to grant in 2022 licensing fees. Council must decide how to move forward designating the use for those funds. There is no encumbrance deadline per the recent MMB decisions and no expenditure deadline. Four basic options for funding designations were presented by Contract Manager, Jeff Campe. Pros and cons of each option outlined on meeting slide deck slides 16-19.

Option #1: Extend 2021 OERAC RFP contracts

Option #2: Tribal contract carve out

Option #3: Combine all funds into RFP

Option #4: Do options 1 and 2

Vote on four options by roll call. See Voting Log for more detail.

Decision: 7 = option 4
 1 = option 1
 5 = recusal
 1 = left meeting

Public Comment – round 2

- Mark Wiger, concerned citizen
- Colleen Ronnei, requesting information about the timeline and dollar amount for grants that were renewed or extended. Staff will connect directly with the information.
- Cammie LaValle, concerned citizen
- Patty Miller, Kennebec Community Health, Regional Prevention Coordinator
- David McNamara, Oxford Health Incorporated
- Valarie Quintana, community resource (second round of comment)

Council Vote: 2023 RFP categories

Issue: Changes made on composition of five award categories from November 2022 Council discussion. Final vote on categories is required.

- Motion: Motion to approve categories after splitting prevention and harm reduction into two categories.
- Moved by: Sara Grosshuesch Seconded by: Anne Pylkas

Decision:

yes = 7

no = 5

2 = left meeting

See Voting Log for more information.

- Follow-up actions: Suggestion to further define withdrawal management and to adjust category percentages based on council's discussion. Jeff will present revised categories and percentages at Council's March meeting.

Legislative Updates

Presenters: Rep. Dave Baker and Lexi Reed Holtum

Topic: Council policy objectives and initiatives developed in 2022 are currently being shared with legislators to inform bills in a fast paced session.

Council Vote: Legislative Report

Issue: Is there anything the council wants removed from the list of policy objectives before staff finalized the legislative report? See meeting slide deck slides 35-37 for more information.

Follow-up notes: Decision to postpone this decision to the March meeting due to lack of time for proper discussion. Note to consider adding information about withdrawal management as an additional policy objective.

Next meeting

Friday, March 17, 2023

Elmer L. Andersen Human Services Building, St. Paul MN

Adjourn

The OERAC meeting was adjourned by Dave Baker at 1:58.