

Meeting Minutes: Opioid Epidemic Response Advisory Council (OERAC) Meeting

Date and time of meeting: 15-July-2022 from 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM

Meeting Location: In-person meeting location: Government Services Center, 320 West 2nd Street, Duluth

Online meeting location: Microsoft Teams

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

Representative Dave Baker – Chair, Kathryn Nevins - Vice Chair, Dr. Heather Bell, MD, Peter Carlson, Joe Clubb, Sarah Grosshuesch, Nicole Anderson, Alicia House, Brock Reed (*filling in for Katrina Howard*), Tiffany Irvin, Senator Mark Koran, Senator Mary Kunesch, Toni Napier, Darin Prescott, Dr. Anne Pylkas, Judge Korey Wahwassuck, Esther Muturi, *Jolene Robertus, Dana Farley*

Members not present:

Representative Erin Koegel, *Jennifer Yang*

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

Alexia Reed Holtum, Sam Nord, Stacy Sjogren, Alicia Baker, Jeffrey Campe, April Beachem, Dwayne Green, Tara Holt

Meeting Agenda

I.	Welcome, Reminders, & Roll Call	10 minutes	10:00 AM
II.	OERAC business	5 minutes	10:10 AM
	a. Approval of May Meeting Minutes		
III.	Welcome to Duluth	10 minutes	10:15 AM
IV.	Round 1 Public Comment	10 minutes	10:25 AM
V.	PRS evaluation presentation	45 minutes	10:35 AM
VI.	Break/Lunch	30 minutes	11:20 AM
VII.	Regional Grantee Presentations	30 minutes	11:50 AM
VIII.	Shelbi Giesel, MDH Epidemiologist	35 minutes	12:20 PM
IX.	Break	15 minutes	12:55 PM
X.	Vote on sub-committee recommendations	30 minutes	1:10 PM
XI.	Round 2 Public Comment	10 minutes	1:40 PM
XII.	Next Meeting	10 minutes	1:50 PM
XIII.	Adjourn		2:00 PM

Welcome

Representative Dave Baker, OERAC Chair, calls the meeting to order at 10:04. Dave welcomes all meeting attendees. Stacy goes over ground rules of the hybrid meeting for all members and guests.

Meeting Goals, Meeting Agenda, Roll Call for OERAC Members

Stacy Sjogren goes through the agenda: 10:12

Stacy goes through roll call: 10:14

OERAC Business Items

Dave asks to move to approve May minutes, 10:20

Judge Wahwassuck moves to approve minutes, Joe Clubb seconds, and minutes are moved as corrected, 10:22

Round 1 Public Comment

First Public Comment period from 10:25 AM to 10:29 AM

Guests: Jessie Saavedra, Michelle Hein

Jessie expresses appreciation for the addition of the two rounds of public comment. Jessie suggests that the first round of public comment is placed further into the meeting. Dave responds that this period is for general comments.

Michelle shares that she is organizing a fentanyl awareness rally on Monday, July 18th at the state capitol. Resource fair will be from 12:30 – 4:30 pm and speakers will be from 1:30pm-3:30pm.

Welcome to Duluth

Dave introduces Representative Liz Olson, Mayor Emily Larson, and St. Louis County Administrator Kevin Gray, 10:30. Representative Olson, Mayor Larson, and Administrator Gray welcome OERAC to Duluth. Mayor Larson shares that the dynamics for opioid overdose need to be physically interrupted.

PRS Evaluation Presentation

Weston Merrick, PhD and Cody Tuttle – Peer Recovery for Substance Use Disorder – evaluation findings (presentation) from 10:45am to 11:26am

Dave suggests that discussion surrounding peer recovery for SUDs should continue at the next OERAC meeting.

Weston and Cody reach the end of their presentation and welcomes questions from voting members. Stacy facilitates.

Darin raises a point that death certificates are not perfect data, mentions the presence of racial gaps. Mary confirms that it should always be assumed that numbers are undercounted.

Alicia House notes that success will be correlated to the quality of PRS and how we do data collection. Also mentions how LADCs are already overworked and behind on paperwork, perhaps expanding who can oversee PRS would be a good idea.

Weston reminds attendees that DHS only have data on participants of programs that are MA billable, not grant services.

Tiffany says that the MA billable piece can be a barrier due to comp assessments, employing peers is tough due to high turnover, and it's important to keep peers trained. She advocates for required training. Also mentions that peers are able to provide a person centered perspective versus the more clinical LADC perspective.

Weston adds to Tiffany's point that it is also hard to become a MA billable program, which is also a barrier.

Dana asks what the next steps are since this data is a snapshot with limitations. Evaluation and QA is not a one and done. Weston responds by saying he is working with DHS and OERAC on policy creation.

Break (Lunch)

From 11:27 AM to 11:55 AM

Stacy announces a break for lunch, 11:27

Regional Grantee Presentations

Jeff introduces each grantee.

Rural Action Aids Network (Marcia Gurno): **from 11:58 AM to 12:09 PM**

Dave asks if the supply line for needles has improved. Marcia responds saying that there was a period of time where they were extremely low on syringes, but that MDH had a surplus and was able to supply them with syringes, so this is no longer a significant problem.

Essentia (Pat Conway): **from 12:10 PM to 12:19PM.**

Recovery Alliance – Duluth (Julie Vena): **from 12:20 PM to 12:27PM.**

Trends in Nonfatal Drug Overdose among Minnesota Residents

Shelbi Giesel, MDH Epidemiologist, gives presentation from **12:28 PM to 12:56 PM.**

Sarah asks about county specific rates and differences in data between Twin Cities Metro vs. Greater MN. Shelbi says that if a county has more than 20 cases she can provide data, but less than 20 cases it cannot be analyzed due to statistical power. As for Metro vs. Greater MN data, it has not been looked at yet but can look into it later.

Joe talks about organizing EMS data collection in the future.

Break

From 12:57 PM to 1:10 PM

Vote on sub-committee recommendations for current RFP

From **1:10 PM to 2:10 PM**

Jeff gives OERAC EBORS Applicant Response Overview. For this application round, OERAC received 68 applications and proposal requests totaling \$46,002,872. With OERAC having \$5,700,00 available, \$5,670,988 were awarded. (*Note: Voting rolls are attached separately*)

Dwayne explains DHS policy on conflicts of interest.

Jeff introduces Category D. The subcommittee recommended that \$0 be awarded for this category and \$500,000 of Category D's funding be moved to Category A awards. The subcommittee's justification for the decision was that there were more program applications in Category A that allowed for broader community reach, particularly for East African populations in the state. Anne motions to vote on Category D. Nicole seconds. Jeff leads a roll call vote: 11 ayes, 0 nays, 5 abstaining, 2 absent. Category D passes.

Jeff introduces Category A: Primary Prevention and Opioid Overdose Prevention Training and Awareness of OUD. Total recommended for awards: \$1,500,000.

Jeff introduces Category B: Workforce Development and Training on the Treatment of Opioid Addiction. Four recipients, total recommended for awards: \$1,398,320. Dave asks if there are questions on Category B from councilmembers. There are none.

Jeff introduces Category C: Expansion and Enhancement of a Continuum of Care for Opioid Related Substance Use. Four recipients, total recommended for awards: \$1,398,230. Alicia House asks if RS Eden withdrawal management will be open to the general public or whether it will only be for their clients. Jeff answers that it is only for RS Eden clients.

Dave motions to vote on Category A. Joe Clubb seconds. Category A passes with 14 ayes, 0 nays, 2 abstaining, 2 absent.

Alicia motions to vote on Category B. Senator Kunesh seconds. Category B passes with 13 ayes, 0 nays, 3 abstaining, 2 absent.

Darin motions to vote on Category C. Tiffany seconds. Category C passes 15 ayes, 0 nays, 1 abstaining, 2 absent.

Lexi introduces the Substance Use Disorder Summit. September 27-28 from 9am-5pm each day. Hybrid. Lexi shares that the summit organizers have requested that OERAC provide funding to help with summit costs to ensure that participation is free for all who attend. Dave shares that this is a unique and one-time ask, would give OERAC an opportunity to be an active voice at the summit. Heather asks if there is an agenda, Lexi says that the steering committee is finalizing the agenda in the coming week. Kathy asks if this will become a yearly expectation since the summit is inaugural with the intention of becoming a yearly event, Lexi responds that asks will likely be made but the OERAC council will put the request to a vote every time. Some members express waiting to put this request to a vote, as they would like more time to see an agenda and to think about the future implications of such an ask.

Jolene asks for support letters from community members for releasing clients in recovery. DOC usually needs around 600 letters annually, which will go into med bags given at release with a Narcan kit, fentanyl strips, and education material.

Round 2 Public Comment

Second Public Comment period from **2:32 PM to 2:35 PM**

Guests: Jessie Saavedra (Ramsey County Public Health)

Jessie thanks OERAC again for their hard work. Shares that the numbers presented by MDH regarding overdoses doesn't come close to what he sees in his line of work. Jessie has worked in syringe exchange programs and believes MDH numbers are low. Regarding the SUD Summit request, Jessie says that OERAC would be setting precedent for organizations to request funding from OERAC in the future and to be prepared if that's a road that the group goes down. Regarding the decision on Category D funding, innovations are what help us move forward. For example, other drugs are coming into the picture aside from fentanyl that need to be addressed and these are topics that won't go away. Sarah adds to the final comment that the decision regarding Category D wasn't about innovation itself not being a priority, but that it was about what was submitted as a global application pool. She agrees that we as a field do need to be innovative.

Next Meeting and Next Steps

Stacy Sjogren: **from 2:35 PM to 2:36 PM**

There will be no August meeting. Next meeting will be Friday, September 16th from 10:00 am – 2:00 pm. Hybrid meeting will occur, in-person meeting location TBD.

Adjourn

The OERAC meeting adjourns at **2:37 PM**