

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

Date and time of meeting: 07-January-2022 from 8:30 AM to 12:30 PM

Meeting Location: Microsoft Teams meeting

Participants:

Nicole Anderson; Dave Baker, Representative – Acting Chair; Dr. Heather Bell, MD; Peter Carlson; Joe Clubb; Mary Kunesh, Senator; Dana Farley; Sarah Grosshuesch; Alicia House; Katrina Howard; Tiffany Irvin; Erin Koegel, Representative; Mark Koran, Senator; Gertrude Matemba-Mutasa; Esther Muturi; Toni Napier; Kathryn Nevins; Darin Prescott; Dr. Anne Pylkas, MD – Chair; Jolene Robertus; Judge D. Corey Wahwassuck

Minnesota Management and Budget (MMB): Kristin van Amber; Weston Merrick

Minnesota Department of Human Services (DHS): Boyd Brown; Tara Holt; Sam Nord; Johanna Schels

Meeting Goals

Meeting goals per the OERAC meeting agenda emailed to OERAC members on 07-January-2022 by Tara Holt of Behavioral Health Division:

1. Address OERAC business items
2. Review and vote on Request for Proposal (RFP) award recommendations
3. Receive an opioid settlement update from the Attorney General's Office
4. Receive an overview on future federal grant funding
5. Review the annual report performance measures

Ground Rules, Welcome, Meeting Goals and Agenda, OERAC Introductions

Kristin van Amber of Minnesota Management and Budget: 8:30 AM to 8:45 AM

Kristin van Amber reviews the ground rules and welcomes guests. She explains the procedure for the public comment period. She also explains the meeting goals, emphasizing the importance of the meeting, and reviews the agenda.

OERAC members introduce themselves.

OERAC business items

Tara Holt of Behavioral Health Division: 8:45 AM to 9:15 AM

a. Approval of December meeting minutes

Motion to approve the meeting minutes for the OERAC meeting on 16-December-2021: **Approved**

b. Chair position update

The “OERAC Chair” position is available and will be voted on in February 2022. The deadline for nominations is: 15-January-2022

If you have questions, please contact Tara Holt of Behavioral Health Division: tara.holt@state.mn.us

c. Opioid Response Program Director interviews scheduled

The interviews for the “Opioid Response Program Director” will start in approx. two weeks. Representative Baker of OERAC will be a member of the interview panel.

d. Bylaw change

Please refer to the PowerPoint presentation:

Opioid Epidemic Response Advisory Council, dated 07-January-2022, and emailed to OERAC members on 07-January-2022 by Tara Holt.

Boyd Brown of Behavioral Health Division explains the Bylaw change (on page 11 of 13) highlighted below:

B. Decision-making Framework

- (1) The Council seeks consensus in its decisions.
- (2) In seeking consensus, the exploration of the issues through dialogue is fostered.
- (3) If any persons are not fully in agreement, they will be asked to express their concerns. After discussion, those members will be asked if they can live with the majority’s decision, and what it would take to do so.
- (4) If consensus cannot be obtained, a simple majority of voting Members must be obtained for a decision to be approved.
- (5) Members may vote in person or when participating in a meeting telephonically.
- (6) A quorum must be present for decisions. A simple majority of the Council constitutes a quorum.
- (7) If the number of Members abstaining from a Council vote due to a known or potential conflict of interest reaches a number that quorum cannot be met, for the purposes of that vote, the remaining Members present who do not have a conflict of interest may approve decisions.

Motion to approve the Bylaw change: **Approved**

Boyd Brown of Behavioral Health Division recommends OERAC members review all bylaws, which will be discussed in a future meeting.

If you have questions, please contact Boyd Brown of Behavioral Health Division: boyd.brown@state.mn.us

Opioid Settlement Update

Assistant Attorney General Evan Romanoff: 9:15 AM to 9:30 AM

In order to receive payments from the opioid settlements, cities and counties must sign the [Minnesota Opioids State-Subdivision Memorandum of Agreement \(MN MOA\)](#), and separately sign on to both settlement agreements with [Distributors](#) and [Johnson & Johnson](#). Cities and counties must sign on to the opioid settlements by 26-January-2022. To join the opioid settlements, cities and counties must visit www.nationalopioidsettlement.com and register their subdivision. Registering is a necessary step toward participation in the settlements. The notice each subdivision received by mail and email provides its unique subdivision registration code, which must be used to register.

Go to: <https://www.ag.state.mn.us/Opioids/default.asp>

OERAC grant recommendation approval

Boyd Brown of Behavioral Health Division: 9:30 AM to 10:30 AM

The following OERAC members participated in the process to determine OERAC grant recommendations: Nicole Anderson; Representative Dave Baker; Dana Farley; Sarah Grosshuesch; Senator Mary Kunesh; Jolene Robertus.

The approval process consists of:

- High level view of all awarded recommendations;
- Review and vote on each category.

The work group considered: funding amount; geographical split of recommended funding; populations.

It is decided that Boyd Brown and Tara Holt of Behavioral Health Division guide OERAC members with voting rights through the review of every recommended award; OERAC members with voting rights will then vote on every recommended award. Tara Holt will let individual OERAC members know if they cannot vote because of a conflict of interest. OERAC members with voting rights will enter their vote – Aye or Nay – into Chat (of Microsoft Teams). Kristin van Amber will compile the result(s) of the vote(s).

Overview of all seven (recommended award) categories:

Total Funding Available - \$4,866,630.00

Total Amount of Funding Requested of \$26,644,116.50, Total Number of proposals - 71

Category A – 11 proposals, total ask of \$5,499,015.21

Category B – 10 proposals, total ask of \$3,067,004.31

Category C – 2 proposals, total ask of \$624,452.00

Category D – 11 proposals, total ask of \$3,194,278.40

Category E – 14 proposals, total ask of \$3,737,863.66

Category F – 2 proposals, total ask of \$562,139.56

Category G – 21 proposals, total ask of \$9,953,824.83

Geographical Split of Recommended Funding

37% outstate
21% statewide
42% metro

Reported populations served (some report multiple populations) of Recommended Funding

- 42% reported serving American Indians
- 26% reported serving African Americans
- 21% reported serving justice involved
- 15% reported serving homeless
- 10% reported serving Youth
- 10% reported serving chronic pain

Dollars awarded to Cities and Counties

- 21% of the funding awarded to a city or county entity

Category A – Preventing Opioid Use Disorder

Total recommended for awards: \$762,960.65

Member who has a conflict of interest will abstain from comment and voting: Alicia House

Grantee	Amount requested:	Amount recommended for funding:
Change of Outcome	\$554,354.92	\$345,069.08
Red Lake Band of Chippewa Indians	\$699,999.84	\$417,891.57

Category B – Harm Reduction and Education on Opioid Overdose Category

Total recommended awards: \$734,078.50

Member who has a conflict of interest will abstain from comment and voting: Alicia House; Tiffany Irvin

Grantee	Amount requested:	Amount recommended for funding:
Southside Harm Reduction	\$156,227.00	\$156,227.00
Steve Rummier	\$225,000.00	\$180,000.00
Minnesota Recovery Connection	\$77,863.50	\$77,863.50
City of Minneapolis	\$399,985.00	\$319,988.00

Category C – Training on the Treatment of Opioid Addiction

Total recommended awards: \$537,480.80

Member who has a conflict of interest will abstain from comment and voting: Heather Bell; Joe Clubb

Grantee	Amount requested:	Amount recommended for funding:
Allina Health	\$189,596.00	\$189,596.00
Stratis Health with Native American Community Clinic	\$434,856.00	\$347,884.80

Category D – Workforce Development

Total recommended awards: \$534,480.80

Member who has a conflict of interest will abstain from comment and voting: Joe Clubb; Alicia House; Anne Pylkas

Grantee	Amount requested:	Amount recommended for funding:
Allina Health Bipoc	\$214,107.00	\$171,285.60
Bold North Recovery	\$70,600.00	\$70,600.00
Wayside	\$394,788.00	\$315,830.40

Category E – Expansion and Enhancement of a Continuum of Care for Opioid-related Substance Use Disorders

Total recommended awards: \$801,672.00

Member who has a conflict of interest will abstain from comment and voting: Joe Clubb; Kathy Nevins

Grantee	Amount requested:	Amount recommended for funding:
Anishinaabe Endaad	\$99,988.00	\$99,988.00
Encouraging Leaders	\$240,000.00	\$192,000.00
Ramsey County	\$637,105.00	\$509,684.00

Category F – Chronic Pain

Total recommended for awards: \$449,711.65

Member who has a conflict of interest will abstain from comment and voting: Toni Napier

Grantee	Amount requested:	Amount recommended for funding:
Hennepin Healthcare System	\$321,525.00	\$257,220.00
White Earth Reservation	\$240,614.56	\$192,491.65

Category G – Innovative Response to Minnesota’s Opioid Epidemic

Total recommended for awards: \$ 1,023,010.40

Member who has a conflict of interest will abstain from comment and voting: Alicia House

Grantee	Amount requested:	Amount recommended for funding:
Hennepin Healthcare Systems	\$388,293.00	\$310,634.40
Mesabi Range	\$679,054.00	\$543,243.20
Recovery Alliance Duluth	\$211,416.00	\$169,132.80

Note: If grantees do not accept their funding awards, the Behavioral Health Division and OERAC members who are on the panel that selects the grantees and recommends the funding awards have two options:

- a) Consider other submitted responses to the respective RFP
- b) Give the funds to the other already selected grantees

OERAC needs to approve all recommended funding awards. It is rare that grantees will not accept funding awards.

Break

10:30 AM to 10:45 AM

Federal grant funding category review

Tara Holt and Boyd Brown of Behavioral Health Division: 10:45 AM to 11:15 AM

Supplemental block grants – funding dedicated to OERAC

This involves additional funding to enhance the implementation of the comprehensive, statewide effort to address the opioid addiction and overdose epidemic in Minnesota.

The federal block grant allocation for Minnesota is: \$5,400,000 for state fiscal year 2022 and state fiscal year 2023. Pursuant to Minnesota Laws 2021, First Special Session, Chapter 7, Article 11, Section 46, our state has allocated a total of \$5,400,000 (\$2,700,000 in state fiscal year 2022 and \$2,700,000 in state fiscal year 2023) from the substance abuse prevention and treatment block grant amount in the federal fund for grants to be awarded according to the recommendations of the Opiate Epidemic Response Advisory Council (OERAC) under Minnesota Statutes, Section 256.042.

Substance Abuse Block Grant (SABG) American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA): **\$4,285,264** through 30-September-2023 with the possibility to extend through 30-September-2025.

\$500,000 for East African Culturally Appropriate Opioid Services to increase services and outreach to increase participation in treatment

- East African culturally appropriate prevention, treatment, and recovery services - increase access to culturally appropriate prevention, treatment, and recovery services. These services must align with

federal CLAS (Culturally and Linguistically Appropriate Health Services) standards for East Africans with opioid use disorder.

- East African culturally appropriate outreach and access services – provide culturally appropriate outreach and access services in the East African community through outreach navigators and peer recovery specialists. These services will increase understanding, acceptance, and access to culturally appropriate opioid use disorder treatment and recovery services.

\$400,000 (approx.) for Leech Lake Tribe to provide services and supports to tribal members to keep children of parents with opioid use disorder (OUD) out of foster care. Culturally responsive drug addiction therapy for individuals with OUD and their families.

\$3,385,264 (approx.) remains for award.

\$1,114,736 through 14-March-2023 originally dedicated for the Opioid Warmline but no longer restricted to the Warmline. OERAC will need to make that decision.

Note: The Grants Management and Contracts Section of the Behavioral Health Division, Minnesota Department of Human Services, will write the required request for proposals (RFPs). Representative Baker of OERAC suggests these RFPs be published within 60 days.

Performance measures

Weston Merrick of Minnesota Management and Budget: 11:15 AM to 11:45 AM

Weston Merrick is a member of the Impact Evaluation Unit of Minnesota Management and Budget and presents on the 2020 OERAC performance measures.

OERAC is required to provide an annual report to the Minnesota Legislature. This report includes: Performance measures; program outcome measures; impact evaluations.

The Department of Human Services, the Minnesota Department of Health, and Minnesota Management and Budget work with OERAC to track progress toward: prevention, intervention, treatment, and recovery (of opioid use disorder).

Performance measures include:

Overdose

Fatal overdoses; disparities in fatal overdoses; nonfatal overdoses.

Prescribing

Number of opioid prescriptions; rate of prescriptions; PMP utilization.

Treatment

OUD treatment admissions; **opioid and methamphetamine admissions**; number of OUD discharges; **number of people receiving MOUD**; number of prescribers waived for buprenorphine.

Youth

Neonatal Abstinence Syndrome; number of children entering care because of parental drug use; disparities in out-of-home placements; youth using opioids.

At-risk populations

Drug abuse among homeless population; criminal justice overdose deaths within one year of release.

Note: New performance measures added in 2020 are **highlighted**.

The data show that the numbers of fatal overdoses and non-fatal overdoses increased in 2020 compared to 2019. Preliminary data show that the numbers continued to increase in 2021. The data also show that significant disparities remain. There is improvement of some mitigation and treatment measures; more patients are receiving MOUD.

Please refer to the PowerPoint presentation, *2020 OERAC Performance Measures – DRAFT, Weston Merrick, Impact Evaluation Unit, MMB, 07-January-2022*

Slide 6: Overdose Deaths by Opioid Type

Slide 7: Nonfatal Opioid-involved Overdoses by Drug Type

Slide 8: Disparities in Overdose Deaths

Slide 9: Number of Substance Use Disorder Treatment Admissions for OUD

Slide 10: Treatment Admissions for Combination of Opioids and Methamphetamine

Slide 11: Opioid Prescriptions and Prescription Rate per 1,000 Minnesota Residents

Slide 12: Number of People who Received Medications for Opioid Use Disorder (MOUD)

Slide 13: Number of Prescribers Waivered to Provide Buprenorphine

Slide 14: Deaths among Criminal Justice-involved Individuals within one year of release

Note: All charts are available online: <https://mn.gov/mmb/impact-evaluation/projects/opioid-epidemic-response-advisory-council/oerac-performance>

DHS, MDH, and MMB will:

- Finalize data for the 2021 annual report
- Consider potential measures in future years
- Continue integration of measures across opioid-related initiatives
- Place commonly accessed data in a single repository

Public comment

11:45 AM to 12:30 PM

A community member speaks about harm reduction and the need for Fentanyl (drug test) strips to detect the presence of Fentanyl, which is an opioid that is added to other drugs and can cause a deadly overdose.

Adjourn

12:30 PM

The next OERAC meeting will take place on 18-February-2022.