

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

Date and time of meeting: April 16, 2021 from 8:30am to 10:30am

Meeting Location: Microsoft Teams meeting

Participants: Nicole Anderson; Representative Dave Baker, Vice Chair; Heather Bell; Boyd Brown; Wendy Burt; Peter Carlson; Senator Chris Eaton; Dana Farley; Sarah Grosshuesch; Alicia House; Katrina Howard; Tiffany Irvin; Toni Napier; Kathy Nevins; Anne Pylkas, Chair; Jolene Rebertus; Kristin van Amber; Judge DI. Korey Wahwassuck.

Speakers: Eric Maloney, AG; Kristy Graume, DHS; Tara Holt, DHS

Meeting Goals

Opioid Legislation Update; Health Equity Committee Update; Conflict of Interest and Council Bylaws Review; OERAC survey results review

Welcome – Kris Van Amber

- Review of ground rules, chat option, and opportunity for public comment at the end of the meeting.
- Review of agenda items
- Review meeting minutes (draft), February-2021. Changed meeting end time to 11am; Motion to Approve – Baker; Nevins second; Approved by Council
- Introduction of new Council member – Tiffany Irvin – public member with opioid use disorder lived experience.
- Council Introductions

Eric Maloney - AG Update

- Discussed account set up by Minnesota Management and Budget for Opioid manufacturer settlement funds
- Provided link to public Opioid Repository of industry related opioid documents – similar to tobacco repository
- Discussed Purdue bankruptcy including the Sattler family (Purdue owners) bankruptcy plan on file. Believes significant funds will come to MN with this settlement.

OERAC Legislative Report – Kristy Graume, DHS

DHS Legislative Team

PPT Presentation - 2021 Session Status; House \$300mil increase for HHS and Senate \$100mil decrease for HHS

Policy bills

- State Council of mental health membership updates
- OERAC modifications - all met deadlines - on House floor. Senate moving through Opioid bill. Key provisions include:
 - Membership seats terms clarification
 - Roles and Responsibilities of DHS and Council clarification.
 - Move legislative report due date from March to December
 - Allow telemedicine changes from pandemic to be permanent
 - SUD reform
 - Change from fiscal year to calendar year to grant OERAC funds
 - Change Council representation to include a council member from each tribal nation on the Council
 - 10% for admin instead of 3% admin for grant awards
 - Staggering Council member terms
 - Settlement provision - changes to fees collected

Paraphernalia Bill

- Perspectives on the two bills
- Exclude fentanyl strips from list of paraphernalia. CDC allowing funds to be used by grantees to purchase fentanyl strips.

Conflict of Interest and Bylaws Reminder

Tara Holt, DHS

Survey Results

- 74% response rate.
- Kris went through the results with the Council members
- Council Response to survey findings
 - Uniqueness of the last year - create action items around the changes needed, not wait until next year to do this again
 - Surprise - the outliers - strongly disagree (same or different person); If strong opinions should be open to what we can do different;
 - What is missing is not hearing from our communities (BIPOC) - no way to provide input to the Council
 - Need more input from indigenous communities

- Meeting efficiency - think digital, we are a public entity, challenge ourselves - data available to public; asynchronous meetings.
- Invitation to follow-up - provide insight to Anne, Dave and/or Kris

Public Comment

- **David Glanzer:** David is a nurse that works with the homeless encampments and works alongside Southside harm reduction. He encourages the Council and legislators to hear the voices of those being served between sessions.
- **Southside Harm Reductions - Board Chair:** Harm reduction is rooted in trust. Distributing materials for safer drug use, naloxone - not enough attention paid to those that choose to continue to use. Key takeaways:
 - Give naloxone to those that use drugs
 - Fund Syringe programs
 - Pay attention to the stark Disparities - Black/Native American
 - SSPs protect the public safety
 - No difference in crime rates in communities that allow safe drug use.
- **Harm Reduction Sisters/ Lucia and Madeleine Possehl:** Founded in May 2019 serving 10 counties in northern MN where there is extreme needs for these services. In last few months they have given 130,000 syringes. What are we asking for? - Need to be involved in the development of RFPs to support essential harm reduction services. Distribution of funding - \$370K went to two organizations. We want safe use supplies as part of these RFPs. The Council needs to be more transparent about how funding was distributed. Funding for those that provide community services. We see this Council as a “White council of Doctors”. There is a need to include BIPOC individuals as part of the Council and opening up the Council to those affected by the epidemic. Harm reduction needs to be included in the Council’s planning. We see a gap based on what we are seeing in this meeting.
- **Southside Harm Reduction - Jack M – Executive Director:** Our organization builds relationships with participants over a long period of time. Our organization was formed in 2017 and was volunteer run into last year. We have a mobile delivery model with mobile outreach to homeless camps and those unstably housed. An example is our work at the Wall of Forgotten Natives homeless encampment and where the Navigation Center was created with the goal of housing individuals from these homeless encampment. We continued to serve these individuals once housed in apartments throughout the Twin Cities. We always “meet people where they are at.” The doctors and “brick and mortar” services represented by this Council do not represent the individuals we service who don't feel comfortable coming to these services. Our organization partners with many other organizations assisting with street clean up - pick up syringes, reducing stigma, encouraging carrying Narcan and pursuing access to care.

Next Meeting

May 21, 2022; Time TBD