

# Opioid Epidemic Response Advisory Council (OERAC)

## Meeting Minutes for August 18, 2023

**Meeting Location:** Hybrid meeting using WebEx and in-person at the Government Services Building, Duluth MN.

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

Remote: Dr. Heather Bell, Sadie Broekemeier, Alicia House, Dr. Ashwin George, Senator Kelly Morrison, Senator Bill Lieske, Rep. Erin Koegel, Brock Reed, Judge Korey Wahwassuck, and *Marina Fuhrman (proxy for Jolene Rebertus DOC)*

In person: Representative Dave Baker, Joe Clubb, Sarah Grosshuesch, Dr. Kathryn Nevins, Toni Napier, and *DHS Assistant Commissioner Eric Grumdahl*

**Members not present:**

Nicole Anderson, Peter Carlson, Tiffany Irvin, and *Dana Farley*

### Call to order

Facilitator Stacy Sjogren began the meeting at 10:00 and a guest welcome, review of ground rules, and roll call followed. Quorum was secured. See voting log for details.

### Business items

#### ***Meeting Minutes***

Clubb moved to approve the minutes from the June 16, 2023 meeting. Seconded by Bell. Motion passed with roll call vote. See voting log for details.

#### ***New Member Onboarding***

The following new members formally welcomed to OERAC by Chair Baker:

- Senator Kelly Morrison (MN Senate DFL representative)
- Senator Bill Lieske (MN Senate GOP representative)
- Dr. Ashwin George (MN Society of Addiction Medicine representative)

Chair Baker also announced the resignation of Esther Muturi (Mental Health Advocate Representative) due to a job change. Effective immediately.

Alicia Baker, OERAC staff, shared an update on the formal onboarding process which will begin after September 30 along with details about the panel of member application reviewers.

### ***Tribal Consult meetings***

Chair Baker shared details of the tribal meeting schedule, a new legislative requirement intended to allow OERAC to hear more about tribal needs related to the opioid crisis and for tribal representatives to learn more about OERAC funding opportunities. See slide 11 for details. Baker and Nevins will share responsibility for attending these meetings in the company of DHS representatives.

Special note: Alicia Baker noted that OERAC is still accepting member seat applications from Ojibwe, Dakota and Urban area tribes.

### ***Local Public Health settlement update***

Grosshuesch shared an impromptu update from the Local Public Health Association – an arm of the Association of MN Counties. Their monthly meetings have been a useful way to connect with DHS about settlement dollar funding and seeking grant application review volunteers. This has also been a useful body to share ideas about how best to locally respond to the crisis. Grosshuesch noted that counties will be added to the MMB settlement money dashboard: <https://mn.gov/mmb/impact-evaluation/projects/opioid-epidemic-response-advisory-council/evidence-in-oerac-grants/>

### ***Proposed bylaws updates***

Nevins reviewed a series of proposed OERAC bylaws updates. Grumdahl suggested the redlined version be reviewed by DHS general counsel to make sure changes don't cause unintended negative consequences.

Council members raised the following concerns that may require additional adjustment:

- Officer term end conflicting with possible member's term end
- Past chairperson – lack of language clarity (“invited”)
- Secret ballot votes – not compliant with Open Meeting Law
- New member term start alignment with calendar year – October elections
- Removal of sitting officer would require a simple majority vote
- Make sure language is clear that elected official members are voting members

Sincere thanks was expressed for Nevins and staff members Alicia Baker and Jenny Rennquist for the significant time and effort they put into a detailed review of this official document.

Bell moved that Nevins and Alicia Baker do a final cleanup based on today's council conversation then Grumdahl would expedite a legal review of the bylaws. Seconded by Morrison. Motion carried by voice vote. Grumdahl will do what he is able to return a reviewed set of bylaws at the September meeting for a final review by the Council but could make no guarantee.

## ***OERAC meeting cadence and locations for 2024***

*Alicia Baker* reviewed the thinking behind the proposed meeting schedule and locations. See slide “Fall 2023” and following slide for details. The new schedule was superimposed over the grant process flow of decisions so that longer meetings are when major council decisions are likely required. One hour check-in monthly meetings are meant to provide brief updates (remote only) in-between major meetings but still require compliance with open meeting laws.

Clubb moved to accept new cadence and schedule. Grosshuesch seconded. Motion carried. See voting log for details.

## **DHS implementations updates**

Presented by Jen Sather, DHS SUD Director.

### ***OERAC-specific staffing***

DHS is close to appointing an OERAC Lead whose role is to support the OERAC team. OERAC Lead position has now closed and interview process is under way. Jenny Rennquist formally accepted the State Opioid Response Director position.

### ***Legislative Report***

The 2023 legislative report is working its way through internal DHS review.

## **Yellow Line Project**

Presented by Weston Merrick and Dr. Sean Barton, MMB.

The Yellow Line project is a recidivism diversion program for people with Behavioral Health needs in Blue Earth County. See slides 15-23. The council shared thoughts on scaling this effective intervention and the groups that would appreciate knowing about this program. Note: Blue Earth County has provided an impressive body of information and tools for other counties interested in this program. A presentation is planned for AMC and MACCAC. The Blue Earth County Sheriff is leading outreach to MSA.

## **Current OERAC grant cycle update**

Presented by Jeff Campe.

See slides 42-45 and slide titled “Future OERAC Grant RFP - Timeline for details.

Note: Sarah Grosshuesch volunteered to be on the Sub-Advisory Council. This is the body that makes the final recommendations for grant funding to the Advisory Council. Dr. George indicated he may be interested in participating once he has been formally oriented to the Advisory Council.

## **Conference and Academy presentations**

Presented by Jeremy Drucker and Chair Baker.

**Jeremy Drucker, Governor’s Addiction and Recovery Director, attended the Naloxone Saturation Academy** hosted by SAMSA. This was an opportunity to share various state approaches. The takeaway was the need in MN to start systematically tracking Naloxone resources and related data in the state as well as related funding streams and partners. Once in place, the state can bring stakeholders together to explore the data more carefully and determine next steps to better optimize the resources.

**Baker attended the National Academy for State Health Policy** in Boston in mid-August along with representatives from DHS. This opportunity allowed MN representatives to hear what other states are doing to mitigate the epidemic and how states are spending their settlement money. Baker participated on a panel during which he shared the bipartisan work happening around the issue in MN. Baker feels MN is 2-3 years ahead of many other states in setting up their settlement money distribution systems.

## **Public Comment**

The following member of the public shared comments with the Council:

- Mary McCarthy, RAAN

## **Adjourn**

Next meeting: Friday, September 22, 10:00-2:00, Cambridge Medical Center, Cambridge, MN.

Grosshuesch moved to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Clubb. Meeting was adjourned at 1:50 p.m.

# Opioid Epidemic Response Advisory Council

## Voting Log: August 18, 2023

P = in person R = remote A = absent Rec = recusal  
 #17 voting members, 9 needed for quorum

	Attendance	Approval of 6/17/2023 minutes	Bylaws updates	New Meeting Cadence	Name	Representing
1	A	A		A	Nicole Anderson	Minnesota Ojibwe Tribe Representative
2	P	Y		Y	Rep. Dave Baker	Minnesota House of Representatives
3	P	Y		Y	Dr. Heather Bell	Physician representing Minnesota Medical Association
4	P	Y		Y	Sadie Broekemeier	Licensed Opioid Treatment Program, Sober Living Program, or Substance Use Disorder Program Representative
5	A	A		A	Peter Carlson	Ambulance Association Rep - EMT, Advanced EMT, or Paramedic
6	P	Y		Y	Joe Clubb	Minnesota Hospital Association Representative
7	P	Y		Y	Sarah Grosshuesch	Local Department of Health Representative

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8	R	Y		Y	<b>Alicia House</b>	Nonprofit Representative - Steve Rummler, Hope Network E.D.
	R	Y		Y	<b>Dr. Ashwin George</b>	MN Society of Addiction Medicine
9	A	A		A	<b>Tiffany Irvin</b>	Public Member in Opioid Recovery
10	R	Y		Y	<b>Kelly Morrison</b>	MN Senate (majority/DFL)
11	R				<b>Bill Lieske</b>	MN Senate (minority/GOP)
12	R (missing middle of mtg)	Y		Y	<b>Rep. Erin Koegel</b>	Minnesota House of Representatives
13						Mental Health Advocate Representative
14	P	Y		Y	<b>Toni Napier</b>	Alternative Pain Management Therapies Representative
15	P	Y		Y	<b>Dr. Kathy (Kathryn) L. Nevins</b>	Public Member (with chronic pain, intractable pain, or a rare disease or condition)

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16						Minnesota Dakota Tribe Representative
17	R	Y		Y	<b>Brock Reed</b>	Board of Pharmacy Representative
18	R	Y		Absent	<b>Korey Wahwassuck</b>	Minnesota Courts Representative
19	A				Dana Farley	Commissioner of Department of Health Delegate
20	P				Eric Grumdahl	Department of Human Services Acting Asst. Commissioner
21	R				Marina Fuhrman (proxy for Jolene Rebertus)	Department of Corrections Delegate (Sub. Katherine Myers)
	<b>Present = 16</b> (including non-voting) <b>Absent = 4</b>	<b>Y = 13</b> <b>N = 0</b>	<b>Approved by voice vote.</b>	<b>Y = 12</b> <b>N = 0</b>		