

Opioid Epidemic Response Advisory Council (OERAC)

Meeting Minutes for June 16, 2023

Meeting Location: Hybrid meeting using WebEx and in-person at Minnesota Board of Pharmacy building in St. Paul, MN.

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

Remote: Nicole Anderson, Dr. Heather Bell, Sadie Broekemeier, Peter Carlson, Representative Erin Koegel, Toni Napier, and Dr. Darin Prescott

In person: Representative Dave Baker, Dr. Kathryn Nevins, Joe Clubb, Alicia House, Brock Reed, *Dana Farley, Eric Grumdahl and Jolene Rebertus*

Members not present:

Sarah Grosshuesch, Tiffany Irvin, Esther Muturi, and Judge Korey Wahwassuck

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

Nevins moved to approve the minutes as amended from the April 21, 2023, meeting. Seconded by House. Motion passed with roll call vote. See voting log for details.

Dr. Anne Pylkas, Addiction Psychiatrist representing Minnesota Society of Addiction Medicine, has resigned from the Advisory Council. Pylkas served as the council's first chair. Dr. Darin Prescott, representing Minnesota's Dakota Tribe, has resigned his position having taken a new job with the Minnesota Department of Health. Dave Baker shared a message of appreciation for both of their contributions on behalf of the whole council.

Remaining 2023 OERAC meeting dates:

- July – No meeting
- August 18, 2023
- September 22, 2023
- October 27, 2023
- December 1, 2023

DHS staffing update

Presenters: Jen Sather, SUD Director, DHS and Eric Grumdahl, Assistant Commissioner, DHS

DHS is close to posting the OERAC lead position and filling the permanent supervisor position. Sather also anticipates hiring an additional five support positions in the near future now that session has concluded.

Minnesota will be participating, by invitation, in a federally sponsored Naloxone Saturation Policy Academy. Dana Farley, Jeremy Drucker, Tara Holt, Kristine Preston, Mohamed Farah with Ka Joog, and a Minnesota Indian Affairs Council representative will be participating.

Follow up: (Baker) Suggested making sure Steve Rummler and Ka Joog can be connected to this initiative. House encouraged more involvement by state Naloxone distributors.

Current OERAC grant cycle update

Current year RFP timeline update. A \$20 million RFP opened on June 13, 2023. This is the biggest round of grant funding made available to date. RFP application window closes on August 4. The current timeline anticipates that contracts emerging from this round will be fully executed during the month of November. Contract length will be November 1, 2023, to June 30, 2026. See slides 12-15 for more details on OERAC 2023 grant RFP funding.

There will be a responders' conference on Wednesday, June 21, 2023, to answer questions about this grant opportunity.

Subcommittee volunteers from OERAC membership were requested. The subcommittee makes recommendations for the RFP awards at the September OERAC meeting. This is a separate volunteer role from the large groups of volunteers needed for the general application review process. The subcommittee will meet sometime during the week of September 11, 2023. The following people offered their assistance pending any conflicts of interest: Rep. Erin Koegel, Peter Carlson, Toni Napier, Rep. Dave Baker, and Dana Farley.

General reviewer recruitment stands at 52 interested reviewers as of June 13. It is estimated that 125 reviewers are necessary. See slide 21 for more information on volunteer reviewer recruitment. Targeted recruitment from the following groups is commencing:

- Counties
- Tribes
- OUD/SUD list serves
- Past/current grantees
- OERAC members and attendee list

Contract updates from 2021 release:

- 17 being extended
- 15 awarded additional funds, 2 awarded NCE
- 2 opted to not continue and end contract 6/30/23
- 10 fully executed, 7 in final stages of approval and signature

The Tribal Special Appropriation is going through final approvals with DHS and MDH.

External presentations

Drug checking technology and the Fourier-Transform Infrared Spectroscopy (FTIR) machines. Odie Spinelli, State Opioid Response Grant Manager. See slides 24-36 for more information.

Hennepin County opioid frameworks. Julie Bauch, Hennepin County Opioid Response Coordinator and Lolita Ulloa. See slides 37-51 for more information.

2023 Legislative session – initial reflections

Presenters: Jen Sather, Jenny Rennquist, and Dave Baker

Jen Sather and Jenny Rennquist reviewed the OERAC-related legislation that passed including bills, policies, workgroups/studies, and start-up/capacity funding. See slides 52-55. Dave Baker and others contributed their reflections of the session specific to these topics. Sadie Broeckemeier reported that several Minnesota facilities were forced to close due to lack of resources.

Office of Addiction and Recovery 2:11:34

Presenter: Jeremy Drucker, Director of the Governor's Office of Addiction and Recovery

Shared updates on the Governor's Subcabinet on Opioids, Substance Use, and Addiction and the Governor's Advisory Council on Opioids, Substance Use, and Addiction. See slides 57-67 for more information.

Teva opioid settlement presentation

Presenter: Evan Romanoff, MN Attorney General's Office. See slides 70-78 for more information.

Romanoff provided an update on the state's opioid settlement with Teva, asking for Council feedback on a Teva product option as part of the settlement. An opportunity was afforded for each member to weigh in on whether it makes more sense to accept a cash-only settlement from Teva (\$51 million over 13 years) or receive some or all of that settlement in the form of product – naloxone hydrochloride nasal spray – "Narcan".

All members had an opportunity to share their preference and reasoning. Feedback skewed toward the cash option.

Follow up: Staff will send members a survey allowing space for their written thoughts to share with Romanoff and the AG team.

OERAC legislative report

Presenter: Eric Grumdahl, Assistant Commissioner, DHS

Draft legislative report was shared with members in their meeting packet. OERAC is required to submit a report annual to the legislature, due in January. This report will be submitted late. Members voted by acclamation to give staff authority to finalize the report.

Follow up: Farley encouraged staff and chair to share this document with new members as a part of the onboarding process (particularly p. 28).

Public Comment

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

Mary McCarthy, Rural Aids Action Network

Adjourn

Next meeting: Friday, August 18, 10:00-2:00, Duluth, Government Services Center.

Nevins moved to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Clubb. Meeting was adjourned at 1:57 p.m.