

Opioid Epidemic Response Advisory Council (OERAC)

Meeting Minutes for October 24, 2025

Meeting Location: Hybrid meeting using WebEx and in-person at Minnesota Department of Transportation. Room Lake Superior A&B, 1123 Mesaba Avenue, Duluth, MN 55811.

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

Remote: Sarah Grosshuesch, Dr. Heather Bell, Rep. Robert Bierman, Dr. Ashwin George, Brock Reed, Dr. Charles Reznikoff, Dr. Antony Stately, Abdirahman Warsame, *Jolene Rebertus, Teresa Steinmetz*

In person: Joe Clubb, Rep. Dave Baker, Dave Matteson, Dr. Charles Reznikoff, *Deepa McGriff*

Members not present: Curtis Jackson, Jack Martin, Senator Zaynab Mohamed, Kristi Schoen, Judge Nicole Starr

State Staff Members Present: Laura Farlow, Stacy Sjogren, Jen Sather, Michaela Seiber

Call to order

Facilitator Stacy Sjogren and Chair Joe Clubb began the meeting at 10:00 am, reviewed the OERAC mission, the meeting ground rules and gave a guest welcome. The meeting agenda was confirmed, and a roll call followed. Quorum was secured. See voting log for details.

Business items

Minutes approval: Dave Baker moved to approve the minutes from the September 19, 2025 meeting. Seconded by Heather Bell. Motion passed with roll call vote. See voting log for details.

New council member welcome: Dave Matteson was welcomed to the council in the Minnesota Ambulance Association Representative.

Officer Election: There was a motion to approve Joe Clubb's election to OERAC Chair and Sarah Grosshuesch's election to OERAC Vice Chair. Motion passed with roll call vote. See voting log for details.

2026 Calendar: Council members confirmed the 2026 calendar.

Public Comment

OERAC Chair, Joe Clubb, welcomed public comment at 10:25AM.

- Margie Pierce, *Keep Coming Home*, provided updates on the current crisis in sober living, with a focus on women's sober living. She highlighted concerns about loss of sober living options in Minnesota and more potential closures in the spring. Keep Coming Home is willing to partner with organizations to address these challenges.
- Chris Edrington, *Minnesota Association of Sober Homes and board member of the National Alliance of Recovery Residence*. Chris discussed the importance of recovery housing and stressed the need for ongoing support to sustain these programs.

Update on the OERAC Special Allocation to Tribal Nations

Tonya Kjerland, Minnesota Department of Health, presented on the allocation of OERAC funds to Tribal Nations. She described the Department's process for distributing funds and maintaining relationships throughout the grant contract. All 11 Tribal Nations were offered funds and 10 accepted. Tonya highlighted grant allocations and programming aimed to prevent opioid overdose deaths and enhance recovery services.

- **Member comments: Baker, Clubb, Stately**
- Council noted that while overall overdose deaths have decreased, rates among Native women have not.
- The council would like information on:
 - Where are efforts effective and where are gaps in serving Tribal Nations? What are their needs, and what changes are necessary?
 - Program outcomes and progress indicators.
 - Resource limitations in remote Tribal Nations, affecting response capacity.
 - General information on how Tribal Nations are utilizing resources.
 - Identification of resource gaps that exist outside Tribal Nations' control but impact overdose rates within their communities.
 - Dr. Stately highlighted OERAC's need for an intentional conversation around equity and strategic investment of resources.

Recap of the SUD American Indian Summit

Michaela Seiber, DHS staff member, provided a recap of the topics covered at the 2025 American Indian SUD Summit that occurred at the Lower Sioux Indian Community in September.

Grantee Presentation: Minnesota North College – Mesabi Range Campus

Mary Kay Riendeau and Alie Staniger gave a presentation on their OERAC grant contract, Empowerment and Continued Empowerment of Recovery Individuals with Opioid Use Disorder. The grant provides AAS Addiction Studies and Addiction Studies Certificate, empowering individuals with opioid use disorder to obtain an education.

Legislative Report Discussion

Review of the purpose of the annual OERAC Legislative Report and the projected timeline.

Call for council members to submit their legislative recommendations to DHS staff. Legislative recommendations will be reviewed and approved at the December 5th meeting.

- **Member comments: Baker, Stately, Clubb**
- Council would like the OERAC recommendations to move to the front page of the report.
- Discussion on Sober Homes, need to review reimbursements, and need for restrictions on Kratom

Grantee Presentation: University of St Thomas

Melanie Farris, Tim Balke, and Ankita Deka gave a presentation on their OERAC grant contract and started a discussion on the workforce pipeline of co-occurring disorders. Their program focused on training students to be LADCs and training on best practices for Co-Occurring Disorders.

RFP Lessons Learned Discussion

Background on the OERS RFP was presented, including timeline options, feedback, and potential considerations for the 2026 RFP.

- **Member comments: Clubb, Baker, Stately, McGriff, Bell, Grosshuesch**
- Emphasis on sustainability of funded programs, recognizing funding is not permanent.
- Consideration of funding overlap with counties; need to understand county strategic plans and projected revenue over the next 10-15 years.
- Recognition of sober housing and community living as a priority area.
- Understanding impacts of federal grant reductions, specifically regarding harm reduction.
- Capacity building to support workforce development
- Consideration of other grants a project is receiving and the amounts of settlement funding it may have from counties.
- Noted that Tribal Nations require council resolutions to apply and therefore a longer RFP posting is needed.
- Need for a presentation on broader statewide progress and outcomes from MMB.
- General agreement on focusing the 2026 RFP on gaps, underfunded areas, and aligning grantmaking with community needs.

Adjourn

OERAC Chair Joe Clubb adjourned the October 2025 meeting.

Next meeting: December 5th, 10AM – 3:30PM in St. Paul, MN.

Roll Call and Voting Log

October 24, 2025

P = in person R = remote participant A = absent Y = yes (approve)

Member	Attendance status	Minutes approval	Officer election
Joe Clubb	P	Y	--
Sarah Grosshuesch	R	Y	--
Rep. Dave Baker	P	Y	Y
Dr. Heather Bell	R	Y	Y
Rep. Robert Bierman	R	Y	Y
Dr. Ashwin George	R	Y	Y
Curtis Jackson	A	--	--
Jack Martin	A	--	--
Dave Matteson	P	ABSTAIN	Y
Senator Zaynab Mohamed	A	--	--
Brock Reed	R	Y	Y
Dr. Charlie Reznikoff	R	Y	Y
Kristi Schoen	A	--	--
Judge Nicole Starr	A	--	--
Dr. Antony Stately	R	--	Y
Abdirahman Warsame	R	Y	Y
Deepa McGriff	P		
Jolene Rebertus	R		
Teresa Steinmetz	R		
Tally	voting members present= 11 absent= 5	Motion to approve: Baker Second: Bell Motion Passed	Motion: Baker Second: Bell Motion Passed