

# Opioid Epidemic Response Advisory Council (OERAC)

## Meeting Minutes for October 25, 2024

**Meeting Location:** Hybrid meeting using WebEx and in-person at 1123 Mesaba Avenue, Duluth, MN 55811

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

Remote: Sadie Broekemeier, Peter Carlson, Dr. Ashwin George, Katrina Howard (Proxy for Brock Reed), Dr. Charles Reznikoff, Kristi Schoen, Judge Nicole Starr, Dr. Antony Stately

In person: Dr. Kathy Nevins, Joe Clubb, Rep. Dave Baker, Rep. Robert Bierman, Sarah Grosshuesch, Jack Martin, Toni Napier, *Deepa McGriff, Jolene Rebertus, Teresa Steinmetz*

**Members not present:** Dr. Heather Bell, Senator Bill Lieske, Senator Zaynab Mohamed

**State Staff Members Present:** Jen Sather, Jenny Rennquist, Laura Farlow

### Call to order

Facilitator Stacy Sjogren 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:** Joe Clubb moved to approve the minutes from the September 20, 2024 meeting. Seconded by Toni Napier. Motion passed with roll call vote. See voting log for details.

**OERAC Officer Vote:** Kathy Nevins, introduced the two nominees for OERAC Chair and Vice Chair, Joe Clubb and Sarah Grosshuesch. Kathy Nevins moved to approve the slate of candidates in a group vote. Seconded by Dave Baker. Motion passed by a voice vote. New Chair and Vice Chair will begin duties at the December 2024 meeting.

**OERAC Special Allocation to Tribal Nations:** Joe Clubb provided background on the OERAC Special Allocation to Tribal Nations and introduced Deepa McGriff, Lead of the Substance Use Epidemiology Team at the Minnesota Department of Health. Presenting information on the behalf of the Tribal Relations Specialists, Deepa gave an update on the current standing of this allocation. In 2023, OERAC appropriated \$100,000 per Tribal Nation. The contract between DHS and MDH was executed in 2024. As of October 2024, 8 of the 11 Minnesota Tribal

Nations have signed Letters of Intent to accept the funds. The other 3 letters are expected to be signed shortly. A report of the initial funding activities should be available in January 2025.

*Member comments: Clubb, Grosshuesch, Baker, Bierman, Stately, Nevins*

- Communication with the remaining three Tribal Nations has happened and MDH anticipates the letters of intent will be signed soon.
- Every Tribal Nation that accepts this agreement receives \$100,000 to use as they see fit, in accordance with the Minnesota Opioid Memorandum of Agreement. The allocation was made with funds from Licensing and Registration Fees.
- OERAC can expect to receive a report of the funded activities in January 2025. These activities will not encompass all deliverables, as it will be the beginning stage of programming. Reports will be provided later as the activities continue.
- Clarification that this funding was intended to be delivered quickly to the Tribal Nations to use as they see fit. The Tribal Nations did not have to apply for this funding.

**Council Seat Update:** Curtis Jackson is the seat-elect for the Minnesota Ojibwe Tribe Representative. This is expected to be finalized by the December meeting.

There is an open OERAC seat for **Public Member in Opioid Addiction Recovery**.

- Council discussed the need to enhance advertising of open seats on OERAC to gain council members from communities that are deeply affected by SUD.

## Public Comment

Facilitator, Stacy Sjogren, welcomed public comment at 10:10AM.

- Ashley Wolf, Project Coordinator at Second Chance Project in St. Paul, MN
  - Ashley served as a community reviewer for the OERAC 2024 RFP and reviewed other RFPs with the State. They provided input on OERAC 2024 RFP and offered areas of improvement. There was appreciation for the grant management platform, as it easily organized the proposals for review and enforced character limit.
  - Identified areas for improvement in the OERAC 2024 process:
    - **Redundancy in applicant questions.** Multiple sections asked for the same general information. The Workplan and Staffing Timeline areas overlapped substantially when asking for project activities and roles of staff members.
    - **Staffing timeline section.** This section lacked a clear purpose and instructions. Many applicants and reviewers found this difficult to complete.
    - **Professional responsibility section.** Reviewers struggled to score questions on active litigation and data breaches on a 1-5 scale. This would be better if it was a yes/no question on if they provided information or not. Suggestion to move this to the "Required Documents" section and having DHS verify responses, as reviewers cannot look at outside information.
    - **Support for reviewers.** Recommendation to provide example responses and how they were scored to clarify what constitutes an exemplary versus subpar response.
- Jenny Swanson, Recovery Alliance Duluth. Thanked Ashley for the previous comments. Agrees that from a proposer point of view, those areas were also a concern.

## OERAC Vote on 2024 Grantees

DHS Staff, Laura Farlow, provided an overview of the timeline and response rate of the 2024 OERAC RFP.

- The RFP was published on June 11, 2024 and closed on August 6<sup>th</sup>, 2024. 105 proposals were submitted and then reviewed by 77 community members. Both the council and the community reviewers received Conflict of Interest training. A subcommittee of OERAC gathered on September 20<sup>th</sup> to review the proposals and make a recommendation for funding.
- There was clarification that applicants could apply in multiple categories, but the proposals had to be distinctly separate projects. Reminder to council that the funding amounts allotted to each category can be transferred between the categories.
- Council member recommendation to review the bylaws to allow for members with a conflict of interest to participate in the discussion of the categories. Council Chair, Kathy Nevins, referenced June Conflict of Interest training for this meeting.

*Grant award decisions were made in the following categories:*

**Category A: Primary prevention and education, 3 awards**

**Category B: Harm reduction services, 3 awards**

**Category C: Workforce development and training on treatment of opioid related SUD, 9 awards**

**Category D: Expansion and enhancement of continuum of care for opioid related SUD, 4 awards**

**Category E: Chronic pain and alternative treatments, 4 awards**

**Recommendations for grants within all categories were approved.** See voting log for details and conflicts of interest declarations for each category.

The final list of 2024 grantees will be provided once all contracts are signed.

## RFP Items to Address Next Round

Each council member provided feedback on areas they feel need to be addressed in next year's Request for Proposals. Topics included:

- Category Changes
  - Reevaluate the distribution of funding across categories. Consider funding ranges rather than fixed amounts for flexibility within buckets.
  - Enhance focus and broaden advertising for alternative pain management category.
  - Prioritize Medication Assisted Treatment (MAT) services.
  - Clarify where expenses, such as naloxone, fit within categories.
- Application Process and Accessibility
  - Introduce caps on award request amounts to allow for many organizations to be funded.
  - Remove redundancies in application and improve clarity.
  - Include questions that specify the minimum funding needed to make projects actionable. Ask about scalability and how reductions impact the work (75% of requested funds, 50% of requested funds, etc).

- Make applications more accessible to new and under-resourced grantees, especially those unfamiliar with the state granting system.
- Addressing Disparities
  - Ensure funding decisions explicitly address racial and socioeconomic disparities, potentially through structural weighting process.
  - Target funding opportunities for organizations that are using innovative, culturally specific methods.
  - Explore low-barrier funding opportunities to help under-resourced applicants.

## **Thank you to Kathy Nevins**

Council showed appreciation for Kathy Nevin's dedication to being OERAC Chair over the last year.

## **Adjourn**

OERAC Chair Dr. Kathy Nevins adjourned the October 2024 meeting.

Next meeting: December 6<sup>th</sup>, 10AM – 2PM in St. Paul, MN.

# Opioid Epidemic Response Advisory Council

## Roll Call and Voting Log: October 25, 2024

P = in person R = remote A = absent  
 Rec = recusal COI = Conflict of Interest  
 #18 voting members, 10 needed for quorum

Roll Call and September 20, 2024 minutes approval

Motion by Joe Clubb to approve September meeting minutes. Seconded by Toni Napier.

Member	Attendance status	Minutes approval
Dr. Kathy Nevins	P	Y
Joe Clubb	P	Y
Rep. Dave Baker	P	Y
Dr. Heather Bell	A	A
Rep. Robert Bierman	P	Y
Sadie Broekemeier	R	Y
Peter Carlson	R	Y
Dr. Ashwin George	R	Y
Sarah Grosshuesch	P	Y
Senator Bill Lieske	A	A
Jack Martin	P	Y
Senator Zaynab Mohamed	A	A
Toni Napier	P	Y
Katrina Howard, proxy for Brock Reed	R	Y
Dr. Charlie Reznikoff	R	Y
Kristi Schoen	R	Y
Judge Nicole Starr	R	Rec
Dr. Antony Stately	R	A
Deepa McGriff	P	
Jolene Rebertus	P	
Teresa Steinmetz	P	
	<b>15 participating, 3 absent</b>	15 eligible to vote/ 14 yes, 1 Rec
		Approved

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### Category A: Primary prevention and education

Conflicts prohibiting voting: Napier, Clubb, Bell, Starr, Martin, Stately

Motion by Dave Baker to approve category as recommended. Seconded by Robert Bierman.

Member	Vote
Dr. Kathy Nevins	Y
Joe Clubb	COI
Rep. Dave Baker	Y
Dr. Heather Bell	A
Rep. Robert Bierman	Y
Sadie Broekemeier	Y
Peter Carlson	Y
Dr. Ashwin George	Y
Sarah Grosshuesch	Y
Senator Bill Lieske	A
Jack Martin	COI
Senator Zaynab Mohamed	A
Toni Napier	COI
Katrina Howard, proxy for Brock Reed	Y
Dr. Charlie Reznikoff	Rec
Kristi Schoen	Rec
Judge Nicole Starr	COI
Dr. Antony Stately	COI
	9 eligible to vote/ 7 yes, 2 Rec
	Approved

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### Category B: Harm Reduction Services

Conflicts prohibiting voting: Reznikoff, Schoen, Broekemeier, Martin, Stately

Motion by Dave Baker to table category B to later in the meeting for more discussion. Seconded by Kathy Nevins. Approved by voice vote.

Motion by Dave Baker to take category B off table. Seconded by Kathy Nevins. Approved by voice vote.

Motion by Sarah Grosshuesch to fund Minnesota Indian Women’s Resource Center at a level to be determined. Seconded by Peter Carlson.

Member	Vote
Dr. Kathy Nevins	Y
Joe Clubb	Y
Rep. Dave Baker	Y
Dr. Heather Bell	A
Rep. Robert Bierman	Y
Sadie Broekemeier	COI
Peter Carlson	Y
Dr. Ashwin George	Y
Sarah Grosshuesch	Y
Senator Bill Lieske	A
Jack Martin	COI
Senator Zaynab Mohamed	A
Toni Napier	Y
Katrina Howard, proxy for Brock Reed	Y
Dr. Charlie Reznikoff	COI
Kristi Schoen	COI
Judge Nicole Starr	Y
Dr. Antony Stately	COI
	10 eligible to vote/ <b>10 yes</b>
	Approved

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Conflicts prohibiting voting (all council members with COIs in Category B and Category C): Clubb, Reznikoff, Schoen, Broekemeier, Martin, Stately

Motion by Dave Baker to fund Minnesota Indian Women’s Resource Center at 27.4% less than requested.  
Seconded by Kathy Nevins.

Member	Vote
Dr. Kathy Nevins	Y
Joe Clubb	COI
Rep. Dave Baker	Y
Dr. Heather Bell	A
Rep. Robert Bierman	Y
Sadie Broekemeier	COI
Peter Carlson	Y
Dr. Ashwin George	Y
Sarah Grosshuesch	Y
Senator Bill Lieske	A
Jack Martin	COI
Senator Zaynab Mohamed	A
Toni Napier	Y
Katrina Howard, proxy for Brock Reed	Y
Dr. Charlie Reznikoff	COI
Kristi Schoen	COI
Judge Nicole Starr	Y
Dr. Antony Stately	COI
	9 eligible to vote/ 9 yes
	Approved



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Conflicts prohibiting voting: Reznikoff, Schoen, Broekemeier, Martin, Stately

Motion by Sarah Grosshuesch to approve the three proposals in category B. Seconded by Robert Bierman.

Member	Vote
Dr. Kathy Nevins	Y
Joe Clubb	Y
Rep. Dave Baker	Y
Dr. Heather Bell	A
Rep. Robert Bierman	Y
Sadie Broekemeier	COI
Peter Carlson	Y
Dr. Ashwin George	Y
Sarah Grosshuesch	Y
Senator Bill Lieske	A
Jack Martin	COI
Senator Zaynab Mohamed	A
Toni Napier	Y
Katrina Howard, proxy for Brock Reed	Y
Dr. Charlie Reznikoff	COI
Kristi Schoen	COI
Judge Nicole Starr	Y
Dr. Antony Stately	COI
	<b>10 eligible to vote/ 10 yes</b>
	Approved

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### Category C: Workforce development and training on the treatment of opioid related SUDs

Conflicts prohibiting voting: Clubb, Reznikoff, Martin, Stately

Motion by Dave Baker to table category C to later in the meeting for more discussion. Seconded by Kathy Nevins. Approved by voice vote.

Motion by Dave Baker to take category C off table. Seconded by Kathy Nevins. Approved by voice vote.

Motion by Toni Napier to approve the nine proposals Category C as presented with a 12.5% decrease in the award offer for each. Second by Dave Baker

Member	Vote
Dr. Kathy Nevins	Y
Joe Clubb	COI
Rep. Dave Baker	Y
Dr. Heather Bell	A
Rep. Robert Bierman	Y
Sadie Broekemeier	Rec
Peter Carlson	Y
Dr. Ashwin George	Y
Sarah Grosshuesch	Y
Senator Bill Lieske	A
Jack Martin	COI
Senator Zaynab Mohamed	A
Toni Napier	Y
Katrina Howard, proxy for Brock Reed	Y
Dr. Charlie Reznikoff	COI
Kristi Schoen	Y
Judge Nicole Starr	Y
Dr. Antony Stately	COI
	11 eligible to vote/ 10 yes, 1 Rec
	Approved

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### Category D: Expansion and enhancement of continuum of care for opioid related SUDs

Conflicts prohibiting voting: Bell, George, Grosshuesch, Reznikoff, Martin, Stately

Motion by Dave Baker to approve category as recommended. Seconded by Toni Napier.

Member	Vote
Dr. Kathy Nevins	Y
Joe Clubb	Y
Rep. Dave Baker	Y
Dr. Heather Bell	A
Rep. Robert Bierman	Y
Sadie Broekemeier	Y
Peter Carlson	Rec
Dr. Ashwin George	COI
Sarah Grosshuesch	COI
Senator Bill Lieske	A
Jack Martin	COI
Senator Zaynab Mohamed	A
Toni Napier	Y
Katrina Howard, proxy for Brock Reed	Y
Dr. Charlie Reznikoff	COI
Kristi Schoen	Rec
Judge Nicole Starr	Y
Dr. Antony Stately	COI
	10 eligible to vote/ <b>8 yes</b> , 2 Rec
	Approved

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### Category E: Chronic pain and alternative treatments

Conflicts prohibiting voting: George, Martin, Stately

Motion by Joe Clubb to approve category as recommended. Seconded by Kristi Schoen.

Member	Vote
Dr. Kathy Nevins	Y
Joe Clubb	Y
Rep. Dave Baker	Y
Dr. Heather Bell	A
Rep. Robert Bierman	Y
Sadie Broekemeier	A
Peter Carlson	Y
Dr. Ashwin George	COI
Sarah Grosshuesch	Y
Senator Bill Lieske	A
Jack Martin	COI
Senator Zaynab Mohamed	A
Toni Napier	COI
Katrina Howard, proxy for Brock Reed	Y
Dr. Charlie Reznikoff	Y
Kristi Schoen	Y
Judge Nicole Starr	Y
Dr. Antony Stately	COI
	<b>11 eligible to vote/10 yes, 1 Absent</b>
	Approved