

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

Date and time of meeting: January 20, 2023 from 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM

Meeting Location: In-person meeting location: Mercy Hospital – Unity Campus, Fridley, MN

Online meeting location: Webex

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

Representative Dave Baker – Chair, Kathryn Nevins - Vice Chair, Dr. Heather Bell, Sarah Grosshuesch, Joe Clubb, Alicia House, Brock Reed, Peter Carlson, Dr. Anne Pylkas, Toni Napier, Darin Prescott, Sadie Broekemeier, Representative Erin Koegel, Judge Korey Wahwassuck, Nicole Anderson, *Jolene Robertus, Dana Farley, Eric Grumdahl*

Members not present:

Senator Mark Koran, Esther Muturi, Senator Mary Kunesch, Tiffany Irvin

DHS & MMB (MAD) staff and support present (guest presenters noted later):

Alexia Reed Holtum, Sam Nord, Stacy Sjogren, Alicia Baker, Jeffrey Campe, April Beachem, Tara Holt, Jennifer Sather

Meeting Agenda

I.	Welcome, Reminders, & Roll Call	5 minutes	10:00 AM
II.	Round 1 Public Comment	10 minutes	10:05 AM
III.	OERAC Business	15 minutes	10:15 AM
IV.	Remarks from Addiction & Recovery Director	5 minutes	10:30 AM
V.	RFP Discussion	80 minutes	10:35 AM
VI.	County and city opioid settlement funds	10 minutes	11:55 AM
VII.	DHS legislative update	20 minutes	12:05 PM
VIII.	Lunch	30 minutes	12:25 PM
IX.	SUD Summit Summary	10 minutes	12:55 PM
X.	State Opioid Response (SAMHSA)	10 minutes	1:05 PM
XI.	SUDORS Presentation	35 minutes	1:15 PM
XII.	Round 2 Public Comment	10 minutes	1:50 PM
XIII.	Next Meeting	10 minutes	2:00 PM
XIV.	Adjourn		2:00 PM

Welcome

Representative Dave Baker, OERAC Chair, calls the meeting to order at 10:00 am. Dave welcomes all meeting attendees. Joe Clubb and Jill Ostrom from Allina Health, hosts of the meeting, welcome attendees and gives an overview of the substance use related projects in Allina Health. Stacy goes over ground rules of the hybrid meeting for all members and guests.

Meeting Goals, Meeting Agenda, New Member Welcome, Roll Call for OERAC Members

Stacy Sjogren and Rep. Baker go through the agenda: 10:08 am

Sjogren goes through roll call: 10:10 am

Round 1 Public Comment

From **10:15 AM to 10:22 AM**

William (Bill) Messinger submitting public comments in writing; attached separately with the meeting minutes.

Valerie Quintana, Real Minneapolis. Mentions there is a shortage of narcan. Also shares a barriers in getting Suboxone medicine to those while trying to get into detox and there are not enough prescribers for Suboxone.

Amanda Lick: Manufacturer of narcan. Regarding the shortage of narcan mentioned by the previous public comment, there may be shortage of other products, but not narcan.

Jolene Robertus asks to clarify Valerie's public comment. Is it an access issue or product availability? Council members seem to lean toward Narcan not being accessible, not that there is a product shortage.

OERAC Business Items

Rep. Baker asks to move to approve November minutes, 10:22 am

Erin Koegel, moves to approve minutes, Toni Napier seconds, and minutes are moved, 10:23 am

Alexia Reed Holtum reviews election process at 10:23 am. Reminds members about timeline for nominations. Members in person given slip of paper for their votes, online votes go to Alicia Baker by email. Over lunch, votes will be tallied and results will be read after lunch. Rep. Baker clarifies that a timeline was set, but is open to changes based on the wishes of the council. Anne Pylkas supports allowing nominations today. Kathy Nevins supports Rep. Baker's position, however believes the chair vote should happen first, then vice chair once chair results are released. Nevins also emphasizes that the new chair/vice chair need to be actively involved in the RFP discussion that will occur later in the meeting. Rep. Baker responds that he is willing to take on chair responsibilities for today's meeting and then relinquish role if new chair is elected. Pylkas asks if a motion can be carried; she would like to nominate another person since her original nominee declined to be considered. Motion is carried to allow nominations. Dana Farley: How much time is spent as chair? What is the time

commitment? Baker: roughly 1-2 hours per week. Kathy Nevins strongly encourages those newly elected should be in a vice chair role due to the complexity of the chair role and the current work of Rep. Baker.

Nominations for chair include Rep. Baker and Heather Bell (nominated by Pylkas).

Nevins gives workgroup updates at 10:46 am. Workgroup was originally formed to address simplifying RFP and how it's laid out.

Remarks from New Addiction & Recovery Director

From **10:47 AM – 10:52 PM**

Jeremy Drucker introduces himself as the newly appointed Director in the Governor's Office of Addiction and Recovery. Drucker explains his role, the role of his office, and his goals for working in conjunction with OERAC and other standing committees and work groups related to substance use in Minnesota.

RFP Discussion

From **10:53 AM – 11:53 PM**

Opening remarks from Eric Grumdahl regarding the current status of RFP funding. Grumdahl explains that it has been brought to his team's attention that licensing fee dollars that are currently available have to be encumbered by the end of June 2023 or the funds revert back to the opioid fund. Due to the time it takes to put out an RFP vs. the deadline to spend the funds, OERAC members need to decide how to proceed with using the money before it reverts back to the opioid fund. DHS is already working with their legislative team to make legislative fixes to prevent this from happening in the future. Until then, DHS staff would like to work with OERAC to decide how to spend down the funds. Ideas are given such as extending current contracts or providing funding for naloxone saturation. DHS will bring ideas to the February 2023 meeting for OERAC members to review and decide.

Pylkas: why did we not know this until now? Grumdahl: As it pertains to the licensing fee, it has only been identified as an issue in the past few days. Grumdahl's team is working with MMB and DHS budget teams to get a clear set of facts. We don't have all the analysis and administrative options to share today because it's so late breaking. Rep. Baker steps in to say typically OERAC would have the funding already. This year, Board of Pharmacy didn't provide information until 3 months later than usual which delayed the distribution math from MMB. Robertus: Do we have a number? Grumdahl: That will be part of the ongoing analysis, an estimate will be in the coming days. Rep. Baker provides a ballpark estimate of \$5-6 million.

Dave makes the motion to table the conversation; Joe Clubb seconds

During this time, it is announced that votes for OERAC Chair are closed and Dave Baker is re-elected.

City and County Opioid Settlement Funding

From **11:53 AM – 12:04 PM; Sarah Grosshuesch**

November of 2021 state and local agreements were conducted. Counties and cities started receiving funds around September 2022. There was a long lag between that time and the initial settlement agreements. We have several staff at the Local Public Health Association of Minnesota behind the scenes supporting the process.

Rep. Baker: Is this a working document for Association for Minnesota Counties? There is no mention of OERAC. When you say working with DHS, that does not mean working with OERAC. Would like to have an OERAC

presence. Grosshuesch: The first attempt was inviting OERAC members Rep. Baker and Nevins as well as Reed Holtum to one of the meetings. Meetings are sharing meetings and there is no formal structure. The group would like OERAC involvement as well, but don't know how to make it happen yet.

Rep. Baker: Cities are not part of this group? Grosshuesch: They're invited if they have a health department. Those that do not, their county takes the lead on communication.

Farley: You have some large local health departments, large city health departments, and small departments, so there is probably a wide variation in their processes. Would that be correct? Sarah: Yes. There are a few champions already. Some are shifting their lens from polysubstance use and prevention due to the settlement funds.

Vice Chair Vote

From **12:05 – 12:10**

Nominations were for Kathy Nevins and Sarah Grosssheusch. Votes were accepted and tallied until lunch, with Kathy Nevins retaining her vice chair role.

DHS Legislative Updates

From **12:11 PM – 12:40 PM; Kristy Graume, Minnesota Department of Human Services**

Graume provides an overview of proposed legislation for this year's legislative session as it relates to substance use and opioid issues. Governor's budget priorities were recently announced, with behavioral health proposals being released on Monday. Proposals will include items such as peer recovery support, ASAM standards implementation, improving access to comprehensive assessments, withdrawal management start-up and capacity-building funding, and OTP rate modifications and outcome data.

Break (Lunch)

From **12:40 PM – 1:00 PM**

SUD Summit Summary

From **1:00 PM – 1:18 PM; Jennifer Sather, Minnesota Department of Human Services**

Sather, Substance Use Disorder Services Director for DHS, gives an update on the Substance Use Disorder (SUD) Summit that was held January 10th and 11th. Four overarching topics were used to structure conversations on strengths, opportunities, aspirations, and results: prevention and education, cultural engagement and responsiveness, funding and workforce, and a coordinated, holistic, integrated continuum of care. Next steps are to use the responses from the summit as well as previous listening sessions to create a three to five year strategic plan to address substance use disorder reform. Updates and communication will occur in the coming months.

SAMHSA Funding Overview

From **1:19 PM – 1:32 PM, April Beachem and Tara Holt, Minnesota Department of Human Services**

Beachem and Holt provide an overview of federal grant funding received through the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) as it relates to DHS opioid programs.

SUDORS

From 1:43 PM – 2:05 PM; Mary DeLaquil, Minnesota Department of Health

DeLaquil presents data from the MN State Unintentional Drug Overdose Reporting System (SUDORS). Major points included impact of overdoses in Minnesota, rates of naloxone administration, locations of overdose cases, and the disparities seen in overdose data as it relates to American Indians in Minnesota.

Round 2 Public Comment

From 2:05 PM to 2:06 PM: No additional commenters

Next Meeting and Next Steps

Rep. Baker and Sjogren: **from 2:06 PM to 2:07 PM**

February meeting will be in Mora, MN at the Grand Event Center. Sjogren reminds attendees there may be updates regarding a special meeting for council members to discuss funding.

Adjourn

The OERAC meeting adjourns at **2:08 PM**

Written Public Comment – Bill Messinger

I would like to submit in writing as a public comment and question at the start of the meeting for distribution to members as it pertains to the SAMHSA agenda item:

Here it is:

1. I have been reviewing SAMHSA Grants to Minnesota for years 2020-2022. According to grant listing on the SAMHSA's website, DHS received the following in Opioid Response Grants:

*2020-
\$11,230,464*

*2021-
\$11,230,464*

*2022 -
\$11,357,382*

***TOTAL
\$34,116,982***

I looked at OERAC grants and found the following

*2021:
\$4,870,816*

*2022;
\$7,670,988*

*2022;
\$3,815,000 Legislature Appropriate (\$2,000 is from the general fund)*

***TOTAL
\$16,356,804***

Question for the Council and Our Recovery Advocate - Why the difference? What is DHS doing with the Opioid Response Grant SAMHSA funds of close to \$18,000,000?

2. DHS has received \$250,000,000 in SAMHSA funds total for four fiscal years - including the Opioid Response Grants. These funds may be outside the jurisdiction of the OERAC Council, but if not please find out how DHS spent the \$250,000,000