

# Opioid Epidemic Response Advisory Council (OERAC)

## Meeting Minutes for May 16, 2025

**Meeting Location:** Hybrid meeting using WebEx and in-person at Elmer L. Andersen Building – 2nd Floor, Room C2370, 540 Cedar Street, St. Paul MN 55101

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

Remote: Dr. Kathy Nevins, Dr. Heather Bell, Peter Carlson, Dr. Ashwin George, Brock Reed, Kristi Schoen

In person: Joe Clubb, Sarah Grosshuesch, Jack Martin, Dr. Charles Reznikoff, *Deepa McGriff, Lauren Webber (proxy for Jolene Rebertus), Teresa Steinmetz*

**Members not present:** Rep. Dave Baker, Rep. Robert Bierman, Sadie Broekemeier, Curtis Jackson, Senator Bill Lieske, Senator Zaynab Mohamed, Judge Nicole Starr, Dr. Antony Stately

**State Staff Members Present:** Laura Farlow, Kate Toftness, Estelle Brouwer

### Call to order

Facilitator Estelle Brouwer 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:** Kristi Schoen moved to approve the minutes from the March 21, 2025 meeting. Seconded by Charles Reznikoff. Motion passed with roll call vote. See voting log for details.

**Council member departure:** OERAC member, Toni Napier, has departed from the council. Council showed appreciation for her long-term dedication and expertise.

**DHS staff transitions:** Noted changes in supervisor and grant manager roles at DHS.

**2024 grantee update:** At the time of meeting, a few contracts were still processing.

**Microgrants:** A survey was sent to OERAC grantees to gather ideas for the microgrant project, which would be a \$5,000 grant over the timespan of 3 months. Grantees submitted ideas, such as purchasing harm reduction supplies and hosting community events. DHS will reach out to grantees for next steps.

**2025 OERAC RFP:** Recruitment for Request for Proposals (RFP) community reviewers will begin once the RFP is released. Review period will be in August 2025. OERAC subcommittee meeting will be on September 5<sup>th</sup> and all council members are welcome to participate.

Multiple council members stressed the importance of volunteering to be a community reviewer and attending the subcommittee meeting.

## Public Comment

OERAC Chair, Joe Clubb, welcomed public comment at 10:20AM.

- Julie Shannon Williams, a Certified Yoga Therapist, is launching a pilot program to address healthcare gaps for people with chronic pain. The program supports education, treatment, and services related to the opioid epidemic.

## Grantee Presentation: Hennepin Healthcare TLC-HOWs Program

Dr. Arti Prasad, physician at Hennepin Healthcare and Project Director of the TLC- Heals on Wheels program, presented on a community-based initiative for integrative chronic pain management.

## Data Presentation: Minnesota Department of Health

### Minnesota Drug Overdose Trends and the State Unintentional Drug Overdose Reporting System

Mary DeLaquil, epidemiologist at the Minnesota Department of Health, presented an overview of current and upcoming state-managed data sources related to overdose surveillance. She shared visuals for various systems, including the State Unintentional Drug Overdose Reporting System (SUDORS).

Council members discussed potential data combinations that would be helpful to the work of OERAC, including linking prescription data to overdoses, identifying counties with rising overdose deaths, and mapping available treatment services by location.

Weston Merrick from Minnesota Management and Budget provided information on the upcoming opioid settlement dashboard update and asked the council for feedback on what information would be most helpful to support their work. A survey will be sent to council members after the meeting.

## Quarterly Financial Update

Kate Mayer, the Budget Director for the Behavioral Health Administration at DHS presented the OERAC Quarterly Financial Update.

For State Fiscal Year 2026, there will be a higher amount of settlement funds distributed than previous years.

## State Naloxone Portal Presentation

Alicia Baker from the Department of Human Services provided an update on the new features of the Naloxone Portal.

## Attorney General's Office Update

Assistant Attorney General, Evan Romanoff, discussed the Purdue Pharma settlement document. This document is now finalized and under review at the Attorney General's Office. The State of Minnesota has until June 7<sup>th</sup> to join the settlement, which would bring in approximately \$60 million dollars over the next 15 years.

## Safe Recovery Site Updates

Jack Martin began the discussion of the proposed cut to Safe Recovery Sites by the Minnesota Legislature and the importance of these sites for providing critical services to individuals at high risk of overdose.

## Data Presentation: Widening Racial Disparities in the U.S. Overdose Epidemic

Dr. Kumi Smith from the University of Minnesota and Pearl Evans from the Minnesota Department of Health presented findings from their recent paper, *Widening Racial Disparities in the U.S. Overdose Epidemic*. The presentation prompted council discussion on routes of administration, the critical need for engaging diverse communities in substance use research, and the importance of funding Black-led and Indigenous-led organizations in addressing the overdose crisis.

## Adjourn

OERAC Chair Joe Clubb adjourned the May 2025 meeting.

Next meeting: July 18th, 11AM – 1PM in St Paul, MN.

# Roll Call and Voting Log

May 16, 2025

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

Member	Attendance status	Minutes approval
Joe Clubb	P	Y
Sarah Grosshuesch	P	Y
Dr. Kathy Nevins	R	Y
Rep. Dave Baker	A	-
Dr. Heather Bell	R	Y
Rep. Robert Bierman	A	-
Sadie Broekemeier	A	-
Peter Carlson	R	Y
Dr. Ashwin George	R	Y
Curtis Jackson	A	-
Senator Bill Lieske	A	-
Jack Martin	P	Y
Senator Zaynab Mohamed	A	-
Brock Reed	R	Y
Dr. Charlie Reznikoff	P	Y
Kristi Schoen	R	Y
Judge Nicole Starr	A	-
Dr. Antony Stately	A	-
Deepa McGriff	P	
Lauren Webber (proxy -Jolene Rebertus)	P	
Teresa Steinmetz	P	
Tally	voting members present= 10 absent= 8	Motion to approve: Kristi Schoen Second: Charles Reznikoff 10 = yes 0 = no