

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

Date and time of meeting: January 15, 2021 from 8:30am to 12:30pm

Meeting Location: Microsoft Teams meeting

Participants: Nicole Anderson; Representative Dave Baker; Boyd Brown; Wendy Burt; Peter Carlson; Senator Chris Eaton; Dana Farley; Sarah Grosshuesch; Tara Holt; Alicia House; Katrina Howard; Representative Erin Koegel; Senator Mark Koran; Gertrude Matemba-Mutasa; Esther Muturi; Toni Napier; Kathy Nevins; Darin Prescott; Anne Pylkas; Jolene Rebertus; Kristin van Amber; Judge D. Korey Wahwassuck

Meeting Goals

Meeting goal per agenda, dated 15-January-2021, and submitted by April Beachem:

1. Review council member/agency staff roles and responsibilities
2. Receive various issue/topic updates
3. Discuss and provide input for upcoming 2021 legislative reports
4. Review and prepare for 2021 OERAC grant process

Welcome, Introductions, Ground Rules, Agenda, December Meeting Minutes

Kristin van Amber - 8:30 to 8:50

- On 12-January-2021, Boyd Brown emailed the following documents to OERAC members:
- 20-Nov-2020_OERAC_Meeting_Minutes
- 18-Dec-2020_OERAC_Meeting_Minutes_Draft
- OERAC 1_15_21 Meeting Agenda v5
- OERAC Legislative Report - January and March 2021 v3
- Are there any updates to the December meeting minutes? OERAC members responded: "No."

Council Membership

Tara Holt - 8:50am - 9:10am

There are two open seats on the Opioid Epidemic Response Advisory Council (OERAC).

OERAC members are appointed by Commissioner Jodi Harpstead of the Department of Human Services (DHS). For OERAC membership, see: <https://mn.gov/dhs/opioids/oer-advisory-council.jsp>

“The commissioner of human services shall coordinate the commissioner’s appointments to provide geographic, racial and gender diversity, and shall ensure that at least one-half of council members appointed by the commissioner reside outside of the seven-county metropolitan area. Of the members appointed by the commissioner, to the extent practicable, at least one member must represent a community of color disproportionately affected by the opioid epidemic.”

OERAC members acknowledge that members are appointed by DHS, but they would like to review the list of applications and possibly provide some feedback to the Assistant Commissioner of the Community Supports Administration, Gertrude Matemba-Mutasa, who will support the Commissioner during the OERAC membership appointment process. This would allow OERAC to “have a voice.” (Anne Pylkas, OERAC Chair)

DHS requires approx. four weeks to appoint an OERAC member through their process. Tara Holt of the Behavioral Health Division (BHD) agrees to send a summary about every applicant and their profile to OERAC members by 21-January-2021. OERAC members are granted seven days to reply. It is expected that the newly appointed OERAC members will attend the OERAC meeting in March 2021.

Membership roles

Boyd Brown of BHD discusses some OERAC membership requirements, such as (membership) roles and meeting attendance. See [2020 Minnesota Statutes 256.042 OPIATE EPIDEMIC RESPONSE ADVISORY COUNCIL](#). For meeting attendance, see Subd. 2 Membership. (d)

“The chair shall convene the council at least quarterly, and may convene other meetings as necessary. The chair shall convene meetings at different locations in the state to provide geographic access, and shall ensure that at least one-half of the meetings are held at locations outside of the seven-county metropolitan area.

For a copy of the Opiate Epidemic Response Advisory Council Charter and Bylaws, please contact Kristin van Amber of MMB: Kristin.van.Amber@state.mn.us

If it is found that an OERAC member does not attend the meetings as mandated in the bylaws, then DHS will draft a letter and send it to the respective OERAC member, copying the appointing authority. If the OERAC member does not resume their responsibilities, then a termination of the OERAC membership will need to be considered. DHS will be responsible for drafting the letter and informing the appointing authority. Kristin van Amber of MMB has been recording attendance at meetings and will continue to do so. DHS will decide on who will draft the letter.

Representative Dave Baker proposes a motion: All agree. Motion passed.

Agency staff

Agency staff means DHS or BHD staff. The involvement of DHS or BHD staff in OERAC meetings is limited. They should only speak to OERAC members if they are asked to do so. They may use the time set aside for Public Comment to contribute information, unless the DHS or BHD staff member is also an OERAC member. Per the Opiate Epidemic Response Advisory Council Charter and Bylaws, DHS or BHD staff are subject matter experts.

OERAC members have access to the Health Equity Team of the Minnesota Department of Health to support them in their quest to bring health equity to their work.

Public Comment

All - 9:10am - 9:20am

There are no public comments. However, the time is used to further discuss OERAC membership.

Updates

Eric Maloney; Erin Koegel; Boyd Brown - 9:20am - 9:50am

Federal settlement update on opioid litigation: Eric Maloney has no update at this time.

Legislative Policy Committee – SUD bill (Representative Erin Koegel)

Representative Erin Koegel shares details from a report drafted by the Legislative Policy Committee. OERAC members are asked to review the language of four pieces of legislation in that report, pertaining to: life insurance; buy-in bill; needles; and screening.

Some suggestions are: The language that pertains to “needles” should include third party prescribers. The four pieces of legislation should be separate and not in one bill.

OERAC has been working with the Minnesota Department of Health on the definition of “syringe service provider” and “paraphernalia.”

2020 SOR Grant updated (Boyd Brown)

The Grants and Contracts section of BHD received 61 responses to the 2020 State Opioid Response (SOR) Request for Proposal (RFP) by the deadline, 8-January-2021. Staff of the Grants and Contracts section will review the proposals by 26-January-2021. Funding from the 2020 SOR grant will be awarded in February.

Health Equity Subcommittee (Boyd Brown)

What plan does DHS have?

OERAC Legislative Reports

DHS staff - 9:50am - 11:40am

Review of draft OERAC Legislative Report (combined report: January 31 and March 1)

Boyd Brown of BHD shares the document, Legislative Report Opioid Epidemic Response Advisory Council, January 31 and March 1 Reports, Behavioral Health Division, February 2021.

Boyd guides OERAC members through the report, starting with I. Legislation, [2020 Minnesota Statute 256.042 OPIATE EPIDEMIC RESPONSE ADVISORY COUNCIL](#). He briefly explains three subdivisions of the law: Subd. 1. Establishment of the advisory council; Subd. 4. Grants; Subd. 5. Reports.

Boyd continues with II. Introductions (A. Background; B. Purpose of Report) and III. Opioid Epidemic Goals, Outcomes and Benchmarks (A. Background; B. Goals; C. Benchmarks and Outcome Measures).

OERAC members, in particular Representative Dave Baker, suggest the following changes:

- All charts below the heading C. Benchmarks and Outcome Measures must be revised, using current data. Here, the quality of the data matters more than the number of charts in the report. (The charts are from the Minnesota Department of Health; they will provide current data from 2020 if possible.)
- The charts should give a clear picture of the past and current situation: What is going in the right direction? What is going in the wrong direction?
- There should be a comment below every chart, explaining it. This is important for Legislators because their time to review the charts may be limited.

The aforementioned pertains to the following charts:

Figure 1. Opioid overdose deaths; Figure 2. Disparities in overdose deaths; Figure 3. Nonfatal opioid overdoses; Figure 4. Opioid prescriptions and prescription rate per 1,000 MN residents; Figure 5. Percentage of youth who report using or misusing prescription pain medications; Figure 6. Number of substance use disorder treatment admissions; Figure 7. Substance use disorder treatment discharges; Figure 8. Individuals who receive Medication-Assisted Treatment; Figure 9. Data-Waivered providers in Minnesota; Figure 10. Neonatal Abstinence Syndrome Cases; Figure 11. Children entering out-of-home care with parental drug use as a reason.

Boyd proceeds to IV. Individual Grants – Status Update (A. Available Funding; B. Direct Appropriations; C. Evidence-Based Analysis for Opioid Appropriations; D. Other Opioid Epidemic Evaluations (Evaluation of Project ECHO; Minnesota’s early opioid policy response: Impact of policies to curtail opioid prescribing; Peer recovery services for substance use disorder)).

With regard to A. Available Funding, the amount for licensure and registration fees will be updated.

Change:

Therefore, the Council voted to cancel the RFP that was issued May 27, 2020.

To:

Therefore, the Council voted to suspend the RFP that was issued on May 27, 2020 to next fiscal year.

The term “[...] adequate funds...” needs to be explained.

With regard to B. Direct Appropriations, Boyd will revise the language in the draft report. OERAC members are asked to carefully review the revised draft when they receive it.

With regard to V. Statewide Treatment Access Assessment, OERAC members ask the map, Substance Use Disorder Treatment Providers, on page 26 be interactive. (Hover the mouse over a county to display a text field with information.

OERAC members ask the table on pages 27 through 30 be replaced by content (“narrative”). OERAC members ask this narrative provide information on “what we can accomplish in this session” and on “what are we supporting this year,” followed by “this is what our long-term goals are.”

OERAC Timeline: Priority Determination (March to July)

11:40am - 12:10pm

Please review the chart, Council Individual Grant Funding Timeline, on page 27 of the draft report. OERAC members approve of this chart and the timeline it displays. This year the RFP must be simple to reach providers who usually do not receive grants. The RFPs from DHS can be 40 pages long. BHD will discuss this issue with an attorney. The RFP due date is 21-August-2021. For now, OERAC may determine the needs the funding will cover and prioritize them.

Public Comment

All - 12:10pm - 12:20pm

OERAC members discuss some needs to be covered by the RFP.

Next Steps and Meeting Wrap-up

Kristin van Amber - 12:20pm - 12:30pm

The next meeting will be on 19-February-2021

For discussion: Agenda items and 2021 legislative report