OERAC Meeting 1

Friday, September 27, 2019

In Person: Willie Pearl Evans, Kathryn L. Nevins, DNP, Darin Prescott, DNP, Alexia Reed Holtum, Wendy Burt, Roy Sutherland, Sarah Grosshuesch, Toni Napier, Dr. Anne Pylkas, Katrina Howard, Representative Erin Koegel, Senator Mark Koran, Senator Chris Eaton, DHS Commissioner: Jodi Harpstead, MDH Commissioner: Delegate- Assistant Commissioner (MDH) Dr. Courtney Jordan Baechler, Department of Corrections: Jolene Rebertus

By Phone: Nicole Anderson, Dr. Halena Gazelka, Judge D. Korey Wahwassuck

Absent: Representative Dave Baker, Peter Carlson, Esther Muturi

MEETING NOTES:

Opening Comments:

Lieutenant Governor Peggy Flanagan

- Stop by and thank and congratulate the group; representing countless numbers of communities and families who have been deeply affected, my own family is no exception
- Representative Baker and Senator Eaton – admire them as a parent, took an unimaginable tragedy and are honoring the legacy of their children through this work
- Hope this brings you peace and justice and will never fill the void; your dedication and the dedication of others who have lost loved ones – deepest gratitude
- We will do this work in their honor
- Also recently kicked off the Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women Task Force and these issues are linked to each other
- This work is emotional and incredibly difficult and it is going to be hard
- Remember our commitment to friends, families so we will be able to do these things in a good way.
- There will be healthy tension; this is a good place to get a solid foundation on which we can continue to build.
- We want to be your partners in this work and thank you for your willingness to serve.

 Commissioner Jodi Harpstead

- Opioid epidemic is not rural or urban, democrat or republican or health or law enforcement issue. It affects every single Minnesotan
- Pleased about the kickoff of this meeting, giving your time to tackle this issue
- In the room we have people who have lost family members; My own father is in recovery from alcoholism and was afraid to take pain meds through cancer treatment because he knew about addiction. This in not about legitimate use of opioids.
- We have an opportunity to be national leader. We are the first state to collect fees from manufacturers and distributors to save lives and build a better safety net in Minnesota
- This body will recommend legislation and influence policy and allocate finds to programming
- State is ranked 39th in deaths due to opioid overdose nationwide in 2018 study of opioid related deaths.
The first discussions in MN were in 2000. African Americans and American Indians are disproportionately affected. As of 2016, African Americans 2 X more likely to die and American Indians 6X more likely to die.

This is the opportunity to continue the fight to save lives.

**Assistant Commissioner (MDH) Courtney Jordan Baechler**

- We are looking at collecting data on prevention efforts
- Have worked with many of you around the table, like the Pharma Board
- We see “near-deaths” missing from data- likely due to the increase in use of Naloxone.
- Federal grants to look at better prevention so we better will be looking at this and others
- Interested in how to move upstream- not just addressing drugs, but mental health to build communities of resilience

**Introductions**

Commissioner Harpstead initiated introductions, asking the members to introduce themselves and what brought them to this Council as well as their vision for the work ahead:

Each member introduced themselves and shared their reason for wanting to serve.

- Willie Pearl Evans
- Senator Mark Koran
- Roy Sutherland
- Darin Prescott
- Sara Grossheusch
- Kathy Nevins
- Toni Napier
- Jolene Rebertus
- Katrina Howard
- Dr. Anne Pylkas
- Wendy Burt
- Lexie Reed Holtum
- Senator Chris Eaton
- Representative Erin Koegel
- Nicole Anderson
- Halena Gazelka

Commissioner Harpstead: Since we are ahead of our agenda, could we ask the guests in the room to introduce themselves- (not recorded)

- Guests included approximately 20 individuals- staff from DHS, MDH, DOC, MMB, HCMC, lobbyists, attorneys, citizens affected by the epidemic, Health Partners, Allina Health, Mayo Clinic, consulting firms
- Colin Marsh, Medtronic, contract lobbying
- DHS legislative coordinator for HealthCare
- MMB
- BH division
• Interim assistant commissioner
• Toni Malanaphy-Sorg
• Tara Erickson, Hennepin County Medical Center

Tara Holt DHS Lead on Opioids introduced herself:
• Staffing this council
• This group is allowing us to get the missing link – we have been limited to working across state agencies and not getting external feedback
• Thank you for making it on short notice; 175 people applied and 18 people on the review team to score the applications and be sure we have the right team.
• Introduced Dave Baker, Peter Carlson and Esther Muturi we were not able to be here today

Council Purpose reviewed
Tara Holt oriented the Council members to materials provided and read the related Legislation
• The members received packets with the statute and other administrative forms (Attach documents)
• Question was asked regarding the amount of funding available. Tara Holt answered that funding will be a key topic at next meeting. She noted that damages levied for injuring people that are not going to the person will go to the General Fund. Settlement revenue (if any from lawsuits) will be kept in separate accounts. At the heart, estimate there will eventually be $20MM available in next fiscal year; and some funding in the near term. It will be important to understand this because this will be the funding for which this Council will be determining allocation.
• Key comments related to the Statute:
  o Every Council member has signed a “conflict of interest” declaration.
  o Minnesota does not currently have any settlement $

Council Name and Chair Election
• Tara Holt: We need to elect a chair but first we wish to discuss the Council name and recommend a working title.
• Name in legislation is “Opiate Epidemic...” Difference between Opiate and Opioid:
  o Opiate – Derived from poppy plant
  o Opioid – synthetic or partially synthetic
• In our case we are called “opiate”; do we want to be called “opiate” or “opioid” acting under authority of the opiate epidemic response advisory council.
• Senator Eaton: As author of the bill, I would support that – It was the original intent- I was told the language in law said “opiate” – one of the revisors changed it to “opiate”. Senator Eaton moved that the Council accept the change as proposed.
• Several Council members seconded
• The name change was passed by unanimous vote

Judge Korey Wahwassuck Introduction; I preside over cases in Itasca County, 30 years as a judge or attorney, joint wellness courts.
BREAK: 20 minutes

Selection of council chair and deputy chair

- Tara Holt noted: At the next meeting we will go through a charter that lines up with the legislation and we will establish the duties in that charter.
- Essentially, the Chair is the Chief Officer and responsible for representing the Council, planning and organizing meetings, establishing any work groups, addressing vacancies and coordinating with DHS staff
- Vice Chair will back up chair to cover when chair cannot be available and succeed as chair when the chair steps down
- All received a description of the role and opportunity to “raise their hand”. Two candidates stepped forward to date; any others at this time?
- No responses
- Dr. Anne Pylkas presented her case:
  - Internal medicine physician who has worked in all areas of this issue: in/out patient recovery, Mental health, pain and addiction, medical point of view, worked in hospitals, clinics, has her own clinic; understand the funding and budgets; knowing doctor’s perspective
  - Sit on other councils- right now Steve Rummler Hope Network and Health Partners Steering Committee where we have reduced the number of pills prescribed by thousands. Example is Percocet- moved the Percocet default from 123 to 10.
  - The main reason I am here is that I sit with people every day who have been through this: opioid addiction, pain, mental health issues- now going on 20 years.
  - I am here for patients- wish to make it smooth, non-judgmental so they don’t feel like criminals
  - Question: Do you have experience on previous boards? Answer: yes, Executive Committee of MN Society of Addiction Medicine and the Steve Rummler Hope Network focus on naloxone prescribing/distribution and prevention. Provide financial/ethical guidance and prescriber education curriculum (through U of M) that 2 large health systems are using
- Other candidate, Dave Baker: His statement was read by Tara Holt
  - Steering this advisory group will be critical to maximizing outcomes. The bill that became law in MN in 2019 has been called a model for other states to follow, but that will only be the case if we execute. Helping direct grant policy, community engagement, and effective partnerships will be critical to making the theory a reality. Assuming the revenues will be arriving within a year of the start to our work, we need to be ready right away. Organizing work groups and assigning others to help direct volunteers doesn't come easy. We need to lead the Nation on real results from this unique funding and a strong Chair and Vice Chair is key. We need leadership that is experienced in making hard decisions within the context of the fight against opioid addiction, people who are ready to say no to grant applicants that don't warrant the money, and individuals
prepared to leverage all resources available, so that we can touch as many MN residents as possible.

- As a small business owner and legislator I bring significant experience in agenda planning, stakeholder engagement, delegating, and creating accountability. For years in the Legislature I have led the fight to get to where we are with the current opportunity. In that capacity I have a neutral role to play and am practiced at maintaining an open mind, listening to all ideas, and making the tough call.

Vote for first choice

Dr. Pylkas was confirmed as Chair, having received 15 votes:
- Erin Koegel, Chris Eaton, Alexia Reed Holtum, Wendy Burt, Anne Pylkas, Katrina Howard, Toni Napier, Kathryn Nevins, Sarah Grosshuesch, Darin Prescott, Roy John Sutherland, Willie Pearl Evans, Korey Wahwassuck, Nicole Anderson, Halena Gazelka
- Dave Baker received one vote: Mark Koran
- Senator Eaton noted that Anne will be great and that traditionally “elected” are not chairs of these task forces. That is why I didn’t run.

Kathryn Nevins moved, and Senator Eaton seconded the motion that Dave Baker be elected as Vice Chair. The motion was passed unanimously and Representative Baker was elected as Vice Chair.

Meeting schedule

- Tara Holt noted the topics of the next meeting: Overview of current opioid initiatives; funding; charter and bylaws and planning
- The Council is obligated to meet quarterly; lot of work to do and recommended the Council meet monthly until March, then move to quarterly in order to meet the grant schedule
  - On break we discussed, and we would need to decide what we would grant money for and then put out the RFPs and have them back in by March
- No way we can do this without meeting monthly and coming to meetings prepared
- Alexia Holtum Reed commented: Before we start funding, we have to look at what’s been funded, what’s working and what is not working; and understand what and when funding will be available
- Wendy Burt noted: We also have to set forth outcomes, goals and measurements.
  - Tara Holt: Yes, we will get to that next meeting. Merrick Weston will be presenting
  - We will keep what we do posted on the website of the Council. It is running now.
- **Next Step:** Tara will send a link for the Opioid Epidemic Response Advisory Council (OERAC) and place meeting notes up there once approved by the members
- Anne Pylkas moved, Mark Koran seconded, and motion was carried by unanimous vote for meeting monthly through March.

Meeting Locations
• Tara Holt reminded the members that 50% of the meetings are to be held outside the metro area. Erin Koegel noted that it would be good to hold meetings in St. Paul during February and March when legislature is in session.
• Have something scheduled for Friday October 25, Thief River Falls – Group agreed Bemidji would be a preferred site.
• Chris Eaton inquired about reimbursement for travel expenses. Tara Holt responded that mileage, parking, childcare fees and hotel when overnight is required will be reimbursed. Forms are in member packets and will be provided at each meeting.
• A member inquired whether they should submit expenses for each meeting or hold them for a period of time. NEXT STEP: Tara Holt indicated she would check and get back to them.
• It was agreed that Fridays are overwhelmingly the best day for a meeting and 10am-3pm the best meeting time.
• NEXT STEP: Lexi Reed Holtum offered to check for a partner who can offer a room in Bemidji on October 25.
• Tara Holt noted that the location needs to be accessible
• Rep Baker is in a district that is rural and he could get us a facility?
• Darin Prescott offered space in Redwood Falls, but does not wish to reserve unless it will actually be used.
• Lexi has surgery on the 25th, would not like to miss the meeting – can we do it on the 18th? Ruled out the 18th due to MEA, so the 10/25 date stands
• Agreed on the following meeting dates: Generally, 4th Fridays: 10/25, 11/22, 12/20, 1/24, 2/21, 3/13 (ahead of initial report due by 3/30). NEXT STEP: Tara Holt proposed to send location options for the Chair and then the group to review;
• Anything else?
• Chair like to adjourn the meeting?
• So be it. Meeting adjourned at 2:25.

Next Meeting is October 25, from 10 – 3 in Bemidji, assuming a room can be found.