

Draft Meeting Minutes

Date: 2.4.2025

Location: virtual

Attendance

Open meeting law virtual meeting, staffing and council members in attendance.

Council members in attendance:

- Gavin Bart
- Brandy Brink
- John Donovan
- Wendy Jones
- Pamela Lanhart
- Jeffrey Lind
- William Messinger
- Suzanne Nash
- Lynne Redleaf
- Anderson Saint Georges
- Kimberly Stokes
- LaTricia Tate
- Fiyyaz Karim

Absent:

- Colin Cash
- Travis Winship
- Autumn Dillie

Office of Addiction and Recovery (OAR), Minnesota Management and Budget (MMB), Minnesota Department of Education (MDE) staff:

- Jennifer Blanchard
- Cat Rohde
- Jennifer Dugan (MDE)
- Jose Phipps
- Jeremy Drucker

Welcome and Roll call

- **Jeremy announcement:** The governor has appointed Wendy Jones to be the next chair of the Governor's Advisory Council. Colin is going to remain as vice chair.
- **Members and guests were welcomed:** Wendy Jones, Chair provided opening remarks and noted she valued the Council for their diversity of perspectives and how every individual member has a huge community behind them.
- **Roll call:** Roll call was taken
- **Review of Agenda:** Agenda and objectives for the meeting were reviewed
- **Approve minutes:** Members voted to approve the December 2024 minutes

Public comment

- No public comment

Office of Addiction and Recovery updates

Jeremy Drucker provided an update including:

- Legislative updates
 - [FY 2026-2027 Governor's Budget Recommendations](#)
 - **OAR policy and cross-agency proposals:**
 - **Opioids, Substance Use, and Addiction Subcabinet Membership Addition**
 - **Statewide Substance Use Plan Responsible Authority**
 - **Naloxone Data Availability Improvements** -This proposal would require dispensers to submit data to the Board of Pharmacy when opioid overdose reversal agents like naloxone are dispensed. It aims to address the lack of current data on naloxone availability across the state while protecting patient privacy. The Office of Addiction and Recovery is partnering with the Board of Pharmacy on this initiative.
 - **Emergency Medical Services Overdose Data Linkage** - This proposal seeks to allow the Office of Emergency Medical Services to share data it receives on drug overdoses with the Overdose Detection Mapping Application Program. This is a proposal developed in collaboration between the Office of Addiction and Recovery and Results Management at MMB along with the Emergency Medical Services Regulatory Board/Office of Emergency Medical Services.
- All-SUD funds database/fiscal mapping and SUD State Plan
 - 2025 Governor's Policy Proposal to transfer responsibility for developing and governing an interagency state substance use plan from DHS to the Subcabinet on Opioids, Substance Use, and Addiction.
 - Draft proposed language (differs slightly from existing statute):
 - The subcabinet must develop and publish a comprehensive substance use and addiction plan for the State of Minnesota. The plan must establish goals and priorities for a comprehensive continuum of care for substance misuse and substance use disorder for Minnesota.
 - All state agencies operating programs related to substance use prevention, harm reduction, treatment, or recovery or administering state or federal funds for such programs shall set their program goals and priorities in accordance with the state plan. Each state agency shall submit its relevant plans and budgets to the subcabinet for review upon request.
 - Creates an interagency state substance use plan
 - Provides role clarity across the administration
 - Functions similarly to the White House Office of National Drug Control Policy
 - Allows Subcabinet to integrate other state plans into an overarching and aligned state plan
 - Gives Subcabinet a clear function and duty that will outlast any particular administration
 - Aligned with current functions OAR and the Subcabinet
- 1115 Reentry waiver
- 2911 Rule making
- MOUD in Jails workgroup

- Naloxone Saturation Strategy
- Task Force on Holistic and Effective Responses to Illicit Drug Use
- Teva settlement
- OAR monthly webinar
 - It's a very informal way for the public and other interested folks to just engage with the office. It's 60 minutes. It's the last Wednesday of the month, from 11:00 to noon.
 - If you have topics that you would like to see covered, feel free to suggest those to us.
- American Indian SUD summit

Questions:

- Gavin – I wonder how protected our settlement funds and ORAC funds are from being absorbed into the general budget to offset shortfalls elsewhere.
- Jeremy - I am not aware of any conversations around the opioid settlement funds. I think the ORAC funds is the result of a memorandum of understanding between the state and the counties. I have not heard of any conversation around changing that agreement in any way.
- John - What is being done specifically to address waste, fraud and abuse in the recovery field? Specifically, there's a huge disparity regarding salaries in the non-profit field.
- Jeremy - That leads to the second proposal that the governor has. The anti-fraud package broadly looks to strengthen the Office of Inspector General at DHS, increasing some of the staff there to enhance/monitor provider enrollment through post payment and assist in investigations of waste, fraud and abuse, as well as utilizing AI to better identify potentially problematic areas that need further investigation.
- Bill - My concern is there's a lot of money being spent by other agencies for SUD services and that's not been identified in health in DOC, in the Children's Cabinet Office of Public Safety. How do we get a handle on what those proposals are in the governor's budget and how do we fit that into the general plan?
- Jeremy - In parallel to the development of the state substance use plan and part of that phase one is a project that is this fiscal mapping exercise that we're doing. We are in the midst of gathering data from across the administration and conducting this fiscal mapping exercise which will map the sources and uses of funds across each activity. This fiscal mapping component is going to be included in the comprehensive report that will be part of phase one.

2024 Year End Report and use of report moving forward

Jennifer Blanchard gave an overview of the year-end 2024 report and led a discussion, including:

- How have members used the report in the past and, now that it is near completion, how could members plan to use it in 2025?
 - Wendy Jones - I have found the report to be really helpful for my organization as a way to share synthesized information and some key talking points and to bring in the broader RCO community around some of these statewide policy issues.
 - Pam - I think is really helpful to the communities that I serve, the families that I serve to be able to share with them, that it makes a difference when they speak up.

- John – It's encouraging to the people that I advocate with.

What are the agendas from other member initiatives for their organizations?

- Wendy Jones- MARCO
 - Fixing language regarding the certification process of RCOs
 - MARCO is represented in the legislatively mandated DHS workgroup for peer recovery services and recovery community organizations.
 - Identifying creative ways to advocate for continued resources invested in RCOs. How can RCOs continue to maintain fidelity to their model during difficult financial times.
- Anderson Saint Georges–MARRCH
 - SUD Rates implemented at 100% of Burnes & Associates recommendations
 - Recovery Residences workgroup and funding
 - Amendments to subsequent rates study to include adolescent services and room and board
 - Alternative Licensing Inspections with CARF or ASAM
 - Eliminate CD (SUD) Assessment Surcharge for people with DWI
 - DA timelines in co-occurring enhanced programs to exclude weekends and holidays
- Jeff Lind- MACSSA
 - Cost shares are not equal among the counties
 - Updating the social services information system (SSIS)
 - The needs in rural MN are very different than Metro MN. There needs to be more opportunities for regions within the state to identify their specific needs.
 - More support for family resource centers.

Minnesota Department of Education

Jennifer Dugan presented Minnesota K-12 Academic Standards in Health, including:

- Ten Minnesota Commitments to Equity:
 - Prioritize equity.
 - Start from within.
 - Measure what matters.
 - Go local.
 - Follow the money.
 - Start early.
 - Monitor implementation of standards.
 - Value people.
 - Improve conditions for learning.
 - Give students options.
- Statewide Health Standards
- State Agencies involved

- As described in Minnesota Session Laws, 2024 Chapter 115, H.F.No.5257, Section 21 subd. 1, the commissioner of education will consult with the commissioners of Minnesota Department of Health and Minnesota Department of Human Services.
- Project plan and public feedback timeline through April, and the standards review process
- Required content
- Helpful Links
 - Health Education - <https://education.mn.gov/MDE/dse/stds/hpe/>
 - Health Standards Public Feedback List (select Health) - <https://public.govdelivery.com/accounts/MNMDE/subscriber/new>

See the Padlet created to capture comments at <https://padlet.com/managementanalysis/governor-s-sud-council-february-4-2025-dr13lebcy5c43pff>, Password: yQOKs2R1

Council time with the chairs - Looking ahead

Jose Phipps addressed his new role as the Coordinator for Governor’s Advisory Council, as well as walking through the remaining 2025 schedule, leading a discussion on how many meetings to hold each year (the requirement is four).

Jose indicated that the April 2025 in-person meeting will be facilitated by Imagine Deliver at the Wilder Center.

Next Meeting and adjourn

The Advisory Council meeting adjourned at 3:00 p.m. Next meeting details include:

- **Date:** Tuesday, April 1, 2025
- **Time:** 11:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.
- **Location:** Wilder Center