

Final Meeting Minutes

Date: 4/2/2024

Location: In-person meeting

Open meeting law in-person location, staffing, and council member in attendance:

- Eddy's Resort in Onamia, 41334 Shakopee Lake Rd, Onamia, MN 56359.

Council members in attendance:

- | | | |
|-------------------|----------------------------|---------------------|
| 1. Brandy Brink | 6. Jeffrey Lind | 11. Kimberly Stokes |
| 2. Colin Cash | 7. William Messinger | 12. Fiyyaz Karim |
| 3. Beth Elstad | 8. Suzanne Nash | 13. Travis Winship |
| 4. Wendy Jones | 9. Lynne Redleaf | |
| 5. Pamela Lanhart | 10. Anderson Saint Georges | |

Absent:

- | | | |
|-----------------|------------------|------------------|
| 1. Gavin Bart | 3. Autumn Dillie | 5. LaTricia Tate |
| 2. Farhia Budul | 4. John Donovan | |

State guests in attendance:

- | | | |
|-------------------|---------------------|------------------|
| 1. Andrew Bentley | 4. Angela Fairbanks | 7. Mary DeLaquil |
| 2. Kim Maley | 5. Wendy Helgamo | |
| 3. Angie DeLille | 6. Jay Fisherman | |

Office of Addiction and Recovery (OAR), Minnesota Management and Budget (MMB) Department of Human Services (DHS), and staff:

- | | | |
|-----------------------|--------------------|------------------|
| 1. Jeremy Drucker | 3. Jose Phipps | 5. Stacy Sjogren |
| 2. Jennifer Blanchard | 4. Catherine Rohde | |

Welcome and Roll Call

- Members and guests were welcomed, and Beth Elstad – Chair, provided opening remarks. Colin Cash – Co-Chair provided a Tribal welcome.
- **Roll call and introductions:** Roll call was taken, and introductions were made. State staff guests were introduced.
- **Review of agenda:** Agenda and objective for the meeting were reviewed.

- **Approve minutes:** Members voted to approve February 2024 meeting minutes.

Public comment

- No public comment

Presentation and discussion: Disparities in overdose deaths

Mary DeLaquil, Epidemiologist from MDH presented a slide deck on Fatal Overdose data

- Data is split into OD's that are "MN residents" and "Occurrent OD's" (meaning they are not a resident of MN, but the OD happened in MN.)
- Resident deaths get logged in "Wonder"
- Occurrent get logged in SUDORS
- Early 2023 data shows a decrease in Occurrent OD's
- Increases in OD's are driven by fentanyl and stimulant involved deaths
- Medical examiner determines the cause of death.
 - i.e. - if someone gets high and drives onto a tree, the cause of death is a car accident
- American Indians are more than 10 times as likely to die of an OD, than a white person
- Racial data is taken from death certificates
 - Provided by next of kin
- Black data includes East African individuals
- OD's at a private residence increased during COVID restrictions
- IMF and meth is present in the majority of SUDORS OD data

Rick Moldenhauer, BDHD Human Services Consultant from DHS participated via phone

Council members were asked to watch a presentation given by Rick Moldenhauer "[What is and What Should Never Be](#)" ahead of the April 2 meeting. Mr. Moldenhauer was available by phone to address questions.

Questions included:

- What is the reason for disparities in OD's
 - In many cases geographic remoteness causes a lack of resources and treatment. There's also confusion on who has authority to respond when a call comes in.
- Is there a role for culture in Medicaid billing for services?
 - Personally, yes. You can't separate culture from life. Is it reimbursable? There is not a lone definition of culture. To operationalize it and pay for it using Medicaid comes with trade-offs that need to be considered.
- While we want to make sure Tribes are funded, also want to address Urban Indians. Is that possible?
 - Yes, most grant opportunities are available to Indian organizations as well as Tribes.

General council and OAR updates

Jeremy Drucker, Director of the Office of Addiction and Recovery provided an update on the Governor's Subcabinet on Opioids, Substance Use, and Addiction.

- Subcabinet updates: Substance Use Disorder has been included as a measurable goal, "[One MN Goals](#)", under the Governor's One Minnesota Plan.
 - Requires OAR to report progress quarterly to the Governor's Office.
 - One MN Goals focus on a specific metric – SUD is Opioid Overdose Deaths
- OAR hosted a Law Enforcement Summit in March OAR, MN Department of Health and the Department of Human Services will host a Naloxone saturation convenings in May with organizational and Tribal partners to help inform the development of a draft Naloxone Saturation plan.
- OAR is convening a workgroup with the Sheriff's Association and Minnesota Medical Association with a focus on increasing access to MOUD's in jails.
- Governor Walz and Lieutenant Governor Flanagan's supplemental FY 2024-25 budget addresses issues that can't wait until the 2025 session including a recommendation from the council to seek authority to pursue a federal 1115 Reentry waiver. See the [2024 session fact sheets](#).
 - There is a surplus this session, but it is important to note there is also a structural deficit in the coming biennium.
- Council members provided updates, along with Kim Stokes providing an update to the council on a recent meeting she had with members of the Crow Wing County Sheriff's department regarding their use of MOUD in jails.

Legislative updates:

Jeremy Drucker and members of the council including Beth Elstad, Wendy Jones, Brandy Brink, and Bill Messinger provided legislative updates on the following:

- Jeremy Drucker
 - 1115 Reentry waiver
 - Use of Cannabis funding
 - Holistic response to illicit drugs task force
 - MH and SUD education center
- Beth Elstad
 - Ombudsperson
 - Access to MAT and other medications in sober homes
 - Expansion of Steve's law
- Wendy Jones

- RCO language/certification
- Brandy Brink
 - Peer recovery services/independent contractor elimination
- Bill Messinger
 - Legalized gambling
 - Access to MAT and support for recovery
 - Allow opt out of treatment
 - Limited drivers' licenses for treatment court participants

Planning for future work

How do we want to use our platform over the next 12 months?

- Continue the focus on criminal justice system reform
- Draw attention to the lack of adolescent – MAT and MOUDs – access to substance use disorder treatment medications/drugs via private insurance.
- Draw attention to the lack of non-prescription SUD treatment and counseling facilities for adolescents
- Balance of new things and following up on existing recommendations throughout the year.
- Look at specific barriers and figure out how to overcome them.
- Ask to have state agencies come to “our table” as they are implementing things so that we can provide feedback in real time.
- Look for more ways to communicate “out” to encourage collaboration and share better information on processes.
- Build out what the council has done to date and develop strategic direction for council action.

What would we need to know/discuss to move ahead on those ideas?

Need to know

- What is the level of authority to leverage action within pivotal agencies (Perhaps this is a regular report from Jeremy on status updates).
- Education on how things get done in state government.
- Better understand RFP process – weigh into the RFP process
- Understand where to go in DHS to complain as representatives of the service providers
- How the council will advise on the use of Cannabis funds

Need to discuss

- Do we want to schedule the development of council recommendations? How do we want to communicate with the governor? (report every year? Every few years?) When/how do we move our recommendations through to accomplishment?
- How we can do a better job of engaging community, listening to the needs of community to build on what we know?
- Decide how we make decisions. Vote to prioritize, for example? (Helps us figure out how to act on the directive to “consult”)
- How can we attend to the “industry” burnout and build sense of genuine hope?

How do we create more community around our work and in these meetings?

- Background reform – how do we humanize the issue then share this with various state agencies and the legislature.
- Assure that any engagement with communities isn't limited to front end listening without follow-through.
- Remember that we represent communities, and our voice and experience can and should direct action.

Next meeting and adjourn

The Advisory Council meeting adjourned at 3:30 pm. The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, June 4. This will be a virtual meeting.