

## Draft Meeting Minutes

### Date:

2/6/2024

### Location:

#### Virtual meeting

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

- Room 2360, Elmer Andersen Building, 540 Cedar Street
- Council member Bill Messinger
- Jeremy Drucker
- Jennifer Blanchard
- Jose Phipps
- Cat Rohde

**Online:** Beth Elstad, Colin Cash, John Donovan, Wendy Jones, Jeffrey Lind, Pamela Lanhart, Kimberly Stokes, Anderson Saint Georges, LaTricia Tate, Brandy Brink, Suzanne Nash, Lynne Redleaf, Fiyyaz Karim, Gavin Bart, and Travis Winship.

**Absent:** Farhia Budul and Autumn Dillie

**Office of Addiction and Recovery (OAR), Minnesota Management and Budget (MMB) Department of Human Services (DHS), and staff:** Jeremy Drucker, Jennifer Blanchard, Jose Phipps, Catherine Rohde, and Stacy Sjogren

## Welcome and Roll Call

- Members and guests were welcomed, and Beth Elstad – Chair, provided opening remarks.
- **Roll call and introductions:** Roll call was taken, and introductions were made.
- **Review of agenda:** Agenda and objective for the meeting were reviewed.
- **Approve minutes:** Members voted to approve December 2023 meeting minutes.

## Public comment

- No public comment

## General council updates

### Charter review:

- Stacy Sjogren reviewed the current charter including the charge, purpose, and duties of the council. She also took time to review the set of principles and expectations the council developed to guide their work together. The council was reminded that the charter is a living document that they created, which can be updated by a majority vote of the members.

## Building Connections

- The Advisory Council participated in small group discussions to build connections; particularly as new members come on board. Members were asked to share their viewpoints on addiction and recovery and reported back to the larger group to share observations from their group discussion.

## OAR Updates

- Jeremy Drucker welcomed the council and congratulated the group on their 2023 Report to the Subcabinet. He shared how the report has been distributed and provided an overview of the reaction and feedback he has received from state leaders regarding the recommendations. Additional updates included:
  - Report out from a meeting with the Governor's Office on the [One Minnesota Plan](#) and [Substance Use Disorder](#) goal review.
  - General update on things that passed last legislative session, noting that funding is slowly going out the door for money.
  - Announcement of upcoming engagement events including a Law Enforcement Summit in March and a Naloxone Saturation Academy in early May.

## Planning for future work

- The Advisory Council spent time discussing how they want to approach their work and structure their time together in 2024. Stacy Sjogren started by doing a level set with the council, reminding them of the purpose and duties of the council, reviewed in-scope and out-of-scope activities, and pointed out meeting dates to give the group perspective on the amount of time they have together. Beth Elstad, Chair and Colin Cash, Co-Chair of the council shared how they would like to approach the work over the next year, including:
  - Continue using 2023 recommendations to anchor the Council's work
  - Being intentional about the use of time so that Council is able to use the agreed upon principles to guide their work.

- The Advisory Council participated in a facilitated discussion, using Mural, to brainstorm how to use time together and structure agendas over the next six meetings to:
  - Ensure a sense of belong
  - Hear from people in community
  - Achieve the purposes of the council
- Responses included:
  - Ensure a sense of belong
    - Take time during each meeting dedicated to getting to know one another.
    - Larger group discussion to start conversation, breakout into small groups to dig deeper.
    - Identify topics of interest and break into subgroups with subject matter experts to discuss shared interest.
    - Create a council newsletter
    - Foster more communication between meetings- more opportunities to engage with each other out in community.
    - More in-person meetings, end-of-year in-person meeting
    - Be intentional about what is happening in each other's community.
    - Keeping camera on as much as possible during meeting.
    - Create list of websites/newsletters for orgs represented by Council.
  - Hear from people in community
    - Create space to share lived experience of Council members.
    - Deep dive into how to better commit to lifting voices that aren't often heard.
    - Open meeting sessions with community members.
    - Meetings could be promoted to engage community.
    - Be more intentional about inviting community to Council meetings.
    - Conduct survey/questionnaire to uplift voices and provide feedback.
    - Create space each meeting to hear from unheard communities in MN
    - Collaborate with other organizations (MAARCH for example) across the state
    - Hold listening sessions with vet community, perhaps at Camp Ripley.
    - Create more intentionality by inviting communities to the table
    - Use social media
    - Use April meeting to do a deep dive
  - Achieve the purposes of the council
    - Thinking more globally when bringing topics to the council
    - Understand the difference between making recommendations and doing the actual work to move ideas forward
    - Identify "low hanging fruit" and make sure we continue to push for change
    - Sub-groups to discuss/address big topic issues
      - Child protection
      - Boarding issues in hospitals
      - Vets
    - Advocacy through legislators and through individual associations
    - Focus on what we have already done

- Focus on spending time focusing on moving agenda topics forward.
  - Identify barriers and add those to next year's agenda.
- The Advisory Council wrapped up the meeting by identifying possible agenda items for the April 2, in-person meeting, including:
  - Work time among the Advisory Council members
  - Small groups or subgroups focusing on specific problems
  - Tour Four Winds
  - Bring in additional people to hear their stories about leaving treatment
  - An update on the current legislative session

## **Next meeting and adjourn**

The Advisory Council meeting adjourned at 3:00 pm. The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, April 2 at Eddy's in Mille Lacs. 10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. This will be an onsite meeting with no hybrid option offered.