

Opioid Epidemic Response Advisory Council (OERAC)

Meeting Minutes for March 15, 2024

Meeting Location: Hybrid meeting using WebEx and in-person at Jackpot Junction Casino Hotel, Running Horses Meeting Room, 39375 Co. Hwy. 24 Morton, MN 56270.

Members present: (Names in italics are non-voting OERAC members)

Remote: Joe Clubb, Dr. Ashwin George, Sarah Grosshuesch, Rep. Erin Koegel, Jack Martin, Toni Napier, Dr. Kathy Nevins, Dr. Charles Reznikoff, Rep. Dave Baker, Brock Reed, Sadie Broekemeier, Irene Folstrom, Peter Carlson, Judge Nicole Starr, Dr. Antony Stately, *Dana Farley, Eric Grumdahl, Jolene Rebertus*

In person: Kristi Schoen

Members not present: Dr. Heather Bell, Pam Hughes, Senator Bill Lieske, Senator Kelly Morrison

State Staff Members Present: Jen Sather, Amanda Langston, Laura Farlow

Call to order

Facilitator Amanda Langston began the meeting at 12:00 pm, reviewed the OERAC mission, the meeting ground rules and gave a guest welcome. The OERAC Chair, Dr. Kathy Nevins, and OERAC Vice Chair, Joe Clubb, reviewed the meeting agenda and gave welcome. A roll call followed. Quorum was secured. See voting log for details.

Public Comment

Facilitator, Amanda Langston, welcomed public comment at 12:10PM.

- Mark Wiger, community member
 - Discussed the loss of a loved one and the importance of expanding accessibility of fentanyl test strips.
 - Cited CDC's State Unintentional Drug Overdose Reporting System (SUDORS) data on the number of fatalities due to overdose. Additionally discussed the legality of fentanyl test strips in Minnesota.
 - Noted OERAC priorities for 2023 were minimal on availability of test strips in Minnesota and wishes for every county to have a plan to distribute test strips in businesses such as cannabis dispensaries and liquor stores.

- Mark Wiger requested OERAC members contact him to collaborate on solutions.
- *Member comment: Rebertus*
 - Clarification that fire departments distribute fentanyl test strips due to their own policies.
- Paul Ostrow, Chair of Fentanyl Free Communities.
 - Emphasized OERAC's position in fight against fentanyl and the importance of focusing on the current harms in the community.
 - In the Memorandum of Understanding for the Opioid Settlement, Fentanyl Free Communities is alarmed that there are only three references to fentanyl in the document. Encourages OERAC to support the fight against fentanyl.

Business items

Minutes approval: Reznikoff moved to approve the minutes from the January 19, 2024. Seconded by Grosshuesch. Motion passed with roll call vote. See voting log for details.

Bylaws update: Kathy Nevins discussed bylaws. Recently sent to council members. There will be discussion and vote in April meeting.

Update on 2023 RFP OERAC Grants: Jen Sather presented an update on the 2023 OERAC Grants. Number of grants executed has increased to 23 contracts. 5 contracts still processing, majority are close to completion.

IAA Update: Dana Farley gave update on IAA. Hired two tribal liaison staff and will send updated information to tribal representatives on OERAC to introduce staff and contact individual tribes. The agreement will go through June of 2026 and staff currently prioritizes engaging tribes in person.

- *Member comments: Nevins*
- Verification this is the amount approved in January 2023, 1.1 million, and that this will be in effect until June 2026. The two tribal liaisons were hired outside of this funding and for the purpose to have the capacity and staffing to engage the Tribal Nations of Minnesota.

OERAC webpage: OERAC Chair, Kathy Nevins, vocalized the suggestion to have each council member submit a short biography and photo that would be posted on the OERAC webpage following their name.

- *Member comments: Baker, Koegel, Grosshuesch, Carlson*
- Majority of council members spoke in support of this option, including *Koegel, Baker, Grosshuesch, Napier, Carlson, Broekemeier, Schoen, Stately, Reznikoff, Folstrom*.
- *Baker and Koegel* noted that this opportunity gives additional information to engage the community and promote trust and transparency.
- *Grosshuesch* discussed that members who applied for position on OERAC council submitted documents that are public information on the Secretary of State website. Therefore, submitting a similar biography on the OERAC webpage would be acceptable.
- *Carlson* was supportive of this opportunity and would like insight on if there is information the council members appointed to their position should be aware of.

DHS staff will create standard form that will be sent to council members so that each biography will be similar.

RFP drafting update: Amanda Langston gave overview on the current RFP draft.

- *Member comments: Nevins, Clubb, Baker*
- *Nevins* questioned if OERAC would be able to view RFP draft.
 - Langston referenced that there are certain public procurement policies that may prevent information from being addressed in an open meeting format to ensure that each applicant of the RFP has an equal opportunity. Willing to seek legal expert guidance to verify the specific aspects of the RFP that can be shared.
- *Nevins and Clubb* discussed practices of continuous review from prior years of OERAC RFP process.
- *Baker* discussed challenging OERAC process to be as transparent as possible, while not revealing trade secrets of an RFP. Emphasized need for clear leadership and legal guidance on these items to prioritize transparency, protect integrity of process, and allow for an equal playing field for all applicants.
- *Nevins* referenced January Meeting Minutes and the Financial Update where it was discussed that an estimated \$13.9 million would be available for the RFP. DHS staff confirmed this amount was prior to starting the RFP drafting process, yet DHS is still operating under this assumption.
 - *Grosshuesch* questioned if this amount included second round of settlements, as Minnesota counties have not yet received that round of funding. January Minutes referenced that \$13.9 million was guaranteed, but unclear of funding streams.
 - *Grumdahl* stated a Financial Update will be given at April meeting.

County Settlements Update

Sarah Grosshuesch gave an update on the County Settlements from the Local Public Health Association's (LPHA) meetings, which is affiliated with the Association of Minnesota Counties (AMC).

- Gave a high-level update on what the counties have been discussing in relation to opioid work. Specifically, Minnesota counties, rather than counties and cities. This includes single county and multi county health departments. Encourages connecting with local jurisdictions for any clarifications.
- The LPHA meets monthly, with an AMC staff member facilitating. The format began during COVID-19 Pandemic and the group sets their own agenda. Primarily peer discussion with guest speakers attending.
- Initially in 2022 the conversations focused on the new money coming in and creating relationships between Local Public Health (LPH), Minnesota Department of Health (MDH), Department of Human Services (DHS), and the Attorney General Office (AGO).
- Current meetings have included guest content experts and discussions on RFP reviewing. Large benefit for county representatives being state RFP reviewers, as they are able to see DHS and other organizations processes, learn about the grant writing process, and find additional funding options.
- This group of meetings is an excellent space to converse with multiple county representatives at one time.

Adjourn

OERAC Chair Dr. Kathy Nevins adjourned the March 2024 meeting.

Next meeting: April 19th: 10:00AM -2:00PM

Roll Call and Voting Log

March 15, 2024

P = in person R = remote participant A = absent

Member	Attendance status	Minutes approval for 2/16/24	Vote: TBD	Vote: TBD	Vote:
Rep. Dave Baker	R	Y			
Dr. Heather Bell	A	-			
Sadie Broekemier	R	Y			
Peter Carlson	R	Y			
Joe Clubb	R	Y			
Irene Folstrom	R	Y			
Dr. Ashwin George	R	Y			
Sarah Grosshuesch	R	Y			
Pam Hughes	A	-			
Rep. Erin Koegel	R	Y			
Senator Bill Lieske	A	-			
Jack Martin	R	Y			
Senator Kelly Morrison	A	-			
Toni Napier	R	Y			
Dr. Kathy Nevins	R	Y			
Brock Reed	R	Y			
Dr. Charles Reznikoff	R	Y			
Kristi Schoen	P	Y			
Judge Nicole Starr	R	Y			
Dr. Antony Stately	R	Y			
Dana Farley	R				
Jolene Rebertus	R				
Eric Grumdahl/Kristine Preston	R				
Tally	voting members present= 16 absent= 4	Motion to approve: Reznikoff Second: Grosshuesch	Motion: Second:	Motion: Second:	Motion: Second: