

Opioid Epidemic Response Advisory Council (OERAC)

Meeting Minutes for April 17, 2026

Meeting Location: Hybrid meeting using WebEx and in-person at Duluth Department of Transportation (DOT) Building, Room Lake Superior A&B: 1123 Mesaba Avenue, Duluth, MN 55811.

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

Remote: Rep. Dave Baker, Rep. Robert Bierman, Dr. Ashwin George, Jack Martin, James Marthaler, Brock Reed, Dr. Charles Reznikoff, Kristi Schoen, Yussuf Shafie, Dr. Antony Stately, Abdirahman Warsame, *Deepa McGriff, Jolene Rebertus*

In person: Joe Clubb, Sarah Grosshuesch, Dave Matteson, Richard Printon, Kristi Schoen, *Teresa Steinmetz*

Members not present: Dr. Heather Bell, Curtis Jackson, Senator Zaynab Mohamed

State Staff Members Present: Laura Farlow, Stacy Sjogren, Alicia Baker

Call to order

Facilitator Stacy Sjogren and Chair Joe Clubb began the meeting at 10:00 am, reviewed the OERAC mission, the meeting ground rules and gave a guest welcome. The meeting agenda was confirmed, and a roll call followed. Quorum was secured. See voting log for details.

Business items

Minutes approval: Kristi Schoen moved to approve the minutes from the February 20, 2026 meeting. Seconded by Joe Clubb. Motion passed with roll call vote. See voting log for details.

Announcement of OERAC seats open for applications: Seats are open on the Minnesota Secretary of State website for Local Department of Health Representative, Mental Health Advocate Representative, Minnesota Courts Representative (judge or law enforcement officer), Minnesota Dakota Tribe Representative, Minnesota Ojibwe Tribe Representative, Minnesota Urban Tribe Representative, Nonprofit Organization Representative, and Public Member (in opioid addiction recovery). Applicants are encouraged to submit materials by June 1, 2026, but applications will be open until position is filled. Clarification that a review committee oversees screening applications.

Public Comment

OERAC Chair, Joe Clubb, welcomed public comment at 10:20AM.

- Sheila Grabosky discussed the Opioid Task Force and the impact of their work on her ability to receive medication. Emphasized that grants should not be awarded to large entities. OERAC should consider the size of organization and not allow entities to apply when they have federal funding. OERAC should focus on applicants that do not have access to funds or grant writers.

OERAC 2023 Tribal Nation Special Allocation

Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) staff member, Heidi Glesmann, provided an overview of the 2023 OERAC Tribal Nation direct grants. Ten Tribal Nations accepted the funding and are conducting work across the continuum of opioid remediation activities. She reviewed the outcome measures associated with the substance use programs and clarified that each Tribal Nation has discretion in determining where services are provided.

Grantee Presentation – Grand Portage Band of Lake Superior Chippewa

Anna Deschampe and Judge Steven Hanke presented the services in their community, including community-based prevention, recovery, and the creation of a peer recovery network in Grand Portage.

Grantee Presentation – Fond du Lac Band of Lake Superior Chippewa

Rochelle Goodrich and Michael Munnell presented on the services in their community, including Tagwii Recovery Centers, Drum Assisted Recovery Therapy for Native Americans (DARTNA), and their culturally informed healing practices.

MOUD Low Barrier Report Overview

Jessica Hultgren and Dr. Kari Rabie provided information on the recently published Low Barrier MOUD Report. A workgroup was established to identify barriers to MOUD and provide recommendations.

Naloxone Saturation Updates

The Department of Human Services (DHS) Naloxone Coordinator, Cody Bassett, provided an update on the State's Naloxone Portal. The portal has remained continuously open since April 1, 2025. They discussed the organizations served through the portal and the evidence-based naloxone services.

2026 RFP Discussion

DHS staff reviewed the timeline of the RFP and funding availability. A total of \$29,357,000 is available in SFY26.

Staff also summarized discussion of the February meeting, including the maximum number of contracts that could be managed given staff capacity and proposed focus areas within each RFP category. Additional topics

discussed in February included direct grants to Tribal Nations, designated funding for Urban American Indian Organizations and projects serving the African American community in Minnesota, and the possibility of reserving funds for the 2027 RFP cycle.

Tribal Nation Direct Grants

Building on the February discussion, OERAC considered direct grants to Tribal Nations. These grants would follow the same contracting and reporting requirements as RFP grants while reducing the administrative burden associated with the application process.

- **Member Comments:** Baker, Grosshuesch, Stately, Clubb, Bierman, Marthaler, Rebertus, Schoen
- Council members expressed a preference for allowing Tribal Nations to choose whether to contract through the Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) or the Department of Human Services (DHS).
- Staff clarified that the proposed funding cap of \$750,000 would align with the RFP grant maximum. Tribal Nations could request less than the maximum amount. Any unallocated funds would be brought back to OERAC for consideration.
- Council members preferred that funding comes from the Settlement Account rather than Registration and Licensing Fee funds.
- Staff clarified that Tribal Nations are eligible for direct grants due to their sovereign status. Work plan and budget submission requirements would still apply.
- Council members discussed whether Tribal Nations should remain eligible to apply for RFP funding in addition to receiving direct grants.

Antony Stately moved to provide direct grants to Tribal Nations, up to \$750,000 over 3 years. Seconded by Kristi Schoen. Motion passed with roll call vote. See voting log for details.

OERAC 2026 RFP

Highlighted Funds within RFP

The Council discussed establishing designated funding for Urban American Indian Organizations and projects serving the African American community in Minnesota. Staff proposed allocating \$5,000,000 for each population.

Discussion highlights included:

- **Member comments:** Grosshuesch, Stately, Baker, Deepa, Clubb, Printon, George, Matteson
- Staff clarified that DHS cannot request staff demographic information to determine eligibility for designated funding. Community reviewers would assess responses to eligibility questions and determine eligibility. Applications deemed ineligible for designated funding would remain eligible for general RFP funding.
- Council members expressed interest in continued outreach to African American communities to help inform eligibility criteria.
- Concerns regarding potential fraud and the importance of thorough vetting of funding recipients were discussed.
- Members considered establishing minimum scoring thresholds to maintain project quality. Staff noted that the top 50 percent of applicants typically score within three points of one another.

- Council members reaffirmed that the purpose of the RFP is to save lives and direct funding to communities most impacted by the opioid epidemic. Additional outreach was encouraged to increase awareness of funding opportunities.
- Staff confirmed that if eligible applications did not utilize the full designated funding amount, any remaining funds would be available to the general applicants of the RFP.

Antony Stately moved to Fund the Opioid Epidemic Response RFP at \$18,750,000 with a maximum request amount of \$750,000 and incorporate \$5,000,000 in designated funding for the Urban American Indian Organizations and \$5,000,000 in designated funding for the African American community projects. Seconded by Sarah Grosshuesch. Motion passed with roll call vote. See voting log for details.

Category Changes

Staff reviewed February discussions regarding project priorities, revisions to the Primary Prevention category, limits on naloxone funding within Harm Reduction, removal of the Workforce category, and the addition of transitional care projects to the Expansion and Enhancement of Continuum of Care category.

- Primary prevention
 - Primary Prevention:
 - Positive youth development
 - Culture as prevention
 - Parent and trusted adult education for connecting with youth about substance use.
 - Primary Prevention definition adjustments: Adjust OUT to OUD, and remove misuse language.

Dave Baker moved to approve Primary Prevention categories and accept adjustments to Primary Prevention Definition. Seconded by Kristi Schoen. Motion passed with roll call vote. See voting log for details.

- Harm reduction
 - Syringe Service Program (SSP) infrastructure support, including but not limited to technology or existing building upgrades.
 - Creating new SSPs to address service area gaps in Faribault, Bemidji, and Southern Minnesota
 - Provide sustainability funding for existing SSPs
 - Support for Harm Reduction Organizations to continue or expand current operations, including but not limited to staffing and supplies
- Workforce
 - Removal of workforce category.
- Expansion and enhancement of continuum of care
 - Expand MOUD service delivery in non-traditional, low barrier settings
 - Expand availability of long-acting injectable formulations of buprenorphine
 - Increase access to OUD providers and Support Staff (e.g. care coordinators).
 - Sponsorship to create more providers (LADCS, etc)
 - Justice-involved peer recovery specialists program support.
 - Post-acute transitional care support
- Chronic pain and alternative treatments
 - All applications are welcome.

Sarah Grosshuesch moved to approve the categories as proposed. Seconded by Dave Matteson. Motion passed with roll call vote. See voting log for details.

Eligibility Requirements

Staff presented proposed eligibility criteria.

Discussion included:

- **Member comments:** Baker, Grosshuesch, Martin, Warsame, Reznikoff, Matteson, Stately
- Cities receiving opioid settlement funding were added to the matching funds requirement. No cap would be placed on matching funds.
- Staff clarified that DHS has access to federal debarment lists and records of DHS contracts terminated for cause but does not have access to contracts terminated for cause by other state agencies. Staff agreed to explore additional program integrity measures.
- Some members expressed concern regarding the proposed limitation of one application per organization and restrictions on organizations with existing OERAC grants, noting the loss of funding organizations are experiencing.
- Council members discussed whether the limitation should apply to applications or awards. Concerns were raised about potential bias when evaluating multiple applications from the same organization. Following discussion, members agreed that organizations should be limited to one application regardless of organizational size.

Dave Baker moved to approve the eligibility criteria as stated at the meeting (see below). Seconded by Robert Bierman. Motion passed with roll call vote. See voting log for details.

Approved Eligibility Criteria:

- One organization may submit one application to this RFP, regardless of category.
- Organizations that will have 2 or more ongoing OERAC grants as of August 1, 2026, would not be eligible for this RFP.
- Counties and cities receiving settlement funds that apply must provide matching funds for the proposed project.
- Recovery Community Organizations must be MARCO certified.
- Indirect rate costs must be 10% or less at time of application.
- A letter of support is required if another organization is named in the proposal.
- A letter of commitment is required for key collaborators of the proposal. Before contract execution, an MOU must be submitted.
- The applicant organization must not have had a prior DHS grant terminated for cause.

Question Changes

Following approval of the RFP framework, the Council discussed proposed revisions to application questions. Changes included removing redundant questions, restructuring health equity questions, refining templates, and adding questions to provide additional project context. The revisions were approved by consensus.

Adjourn

Next meeting: June 12th, 10AM – 3:30PM in St Paul, MN.

Roll Call and Voting Log

April 17, 2026

P = in person R = remote participant A = absent Y = yes (approve)

Member	Attendance status	Minutes approval	Tribal Nation Grants	RFP Funding w/ cap	Primary Prevention	All remaining categories	RFP Eligibility
Joe Clubb	P	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Sarah Grosshuesch	P	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Rep. Dave Baker	R	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Y
Dr. Heather Bell	A	--	--	--	--	--	--
Rep. Robert Bierman	R	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Y
Dr. Ashwin George	R	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Y
Curtis Jackson	A	--	--	--	--	--	--
Jack Martin	R	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N
James Marthaler	R	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	--
Dave Matteson	P	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Y
Senator Zaynab Mohamed	A	--	--	--	--	--	--
Richard "Rick" Printon	P	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Brock Reed	R	Y	Y	ABSTAIN	Y	Y	Y
Dr. Charlie Reznikoff	R	Y	--	ABSTAIN	Y	Y	Y
Kristi Schoen	P	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Y
Yussuf Shafie	R	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N
Dr. Antony Stately	R	----	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Abdirahman Warsame	R	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N
Deepa McGriff	R						
Jolene Rebertus	R						
Teresa Steinmetz	P						

Roll Call and Voting Log

April 17, 2026

Tally	voting members present= 15 absent= 3	M :Schoen 2 nd :Clubb Y=14 N=0	M:Stately 2 nd :Schoen Y=14 N=0	M:Stately 2 nd : Grosshuesch Y=7 N=6 Abs=2	M:Baker 2 nd :Schoen Y=15 N=0	M:Grosshuesch 2 nd :Matteson Y=15 N=0	M: Baker 2 nd : Bierman Y=11 N=3