

Opioid Epidemic Response Advisory Council (OERAC)

Meeting Minutes for July 18, 2025

Meeting Location: Hybrid meeting using WebEx and in-person at Elmer L. Andersen Building – 2nd Floor, Room C2222, 540 Cedar Street, St. Paul MN 55101

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

Remote: Sarah Grosshuesch, Dr. Kathy Nevins, Dr. Heather Bell, Rep. Robert Bierman, Sadie Broekemeier, Dr. Ashwin George, Curtis Jackson, Jack Martin, Senator Zaynab Mohamed, Brock Reed, Dr. Charles Reznikoff, Kristi Schoen, *Deepa McGriff, Jolene Rebertus*

In person: Joe Clubb, Abdirahman Warsame, *Teresa Steinmetz*

Members not present: Rep. Dave Baker, Peter Carlson, Senator Bill Lieske, Judge Nicole Starr, Dr. Antony Stately

State Staff Members Present: Laura Farlow, Stacy Sjogren

Call to order

Facilitator Stacy Sjogren and Chair Joe Clubb began the meeting at 11:00 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 May 16, 2025 meeting. Seconded by Charles Reznikoff. Motion passed with roll call vote. See voting log for details.

New Council Member Welcome: Abdirahman Warsame joins the council as the member in opioid recovery. He is co-founder of Generation Hope. The Council welcomed him to the group.

Facilitator Change: Stacy Sjogren is welcomed back as the main facilitator for OERAC.

RFP Important Items: OERAC 2024 grantees and the Opioid Response Settlement Dashboard are updated. The OERAC 2025 RFP was open and there was a call for Community Reviewers for the OERAC 2025 RFP.

Council Open Seats: Three OERAC seats were open for applications on the Office of the Secretary of State's website:

- Licensed Opioid Treatment Program, Sober Living Program, or Substance Use Disorder Program Representative
- Public Member with Chronic Pain, Intractable Pain or Rare Disease or Condition
- Alternative Pain Management Therapies Representative.

Noted by Council that "Sober Living Program" language should be changed.

OERAC Leadership Nominations: OERAC Chair and Vice Chair nominations will open in August and be selected in October.

Tribal Consultations: Joe Clubb, OERAC Chair, noted that Tribal Consultations are currently happening. The OERAC Chair and Vice Chair are the representatives for OERAC that attend the consultations.

Public Comment

OERAC Chair, Joe Clubb, welcomed public comment at 11:20AM.

- Yussuf Shafie, Founder of Alliance Wellness Center, spoke about the burden of addiction on communities, particularly the Somali community in Minnesota. He emphasized that addiction and recovery can look different across communities. While many people are in recovery, stigma continues to persist. He noted that minority communities are often left behind in terms of resources and services. He expressed support for Abdirahman's appointment to the Council and called for partnership and commitment to continue this work.
- Mohamed Ahmed, who is in recovery, shared his personal journey. He described recovery as allowing him to live a full life, noting he tried many different avenues before finding success in recovery with people who shared his lived experiences and background. He highlighted the heavy impact of the opioid crisis on the East African community and the role stigma and shame play in preventing people from seeking help. He shared the story of a woman seeking a recovery program specifically for women but finding no resource available.
- Adan Hassan, an alumni member of Alliance Wellness Center, spoke about the importance of culturally specific treatment centers. He felt entering treatment was easier when he felt comfortable and supported by people who understood his background and needs. He also emphasized the importance of ongoing support after recovery. He called for more resources dedicated to messaging and outreach to alert people of the available treatment programs.
- Jeff Missling, Founder and CEO of Frenelle Pharma, a pharmaceutical company based in Plymouth, MN, shared information about his company's work. Frenelle Pharma aims to develop a safer, accessible, and cheaper version of Sublocade and Brixadi.
- Hanna Kazempour, employee at Change the Outcome, provided information that the organization is hiring young people, in recovery or impacted by loved one's substance use, that are interested in participating in their school education programs.

- Kylie Komaridis spoke about need for diversity of organizations receiving grant contracts and need for follow up on the organizations receiving large grants.

Prescription Monitoring Program Update

Brock Reed, OERAC representative for the Board of Pharmacy, presented an update on the Prescription Monitoring Program (PMP). The PMP's purpose is intended to aid in clinical decision making and minimize prescription drug abuse. All dispensed controlled substance prescriptions are reported to the PMP, which is then used as a clinical tool for prescribers and pharmacists when providing patient care.

Council Education: Conflict of Interest

Kristine Preston, DHS Deputy Assistant Commissioner for the Behavioral Health Administration, presented information on Conflict of Interest. She reviewed relevant Minnesota statutes, OERAC bylaws, and the definitions of conflict of interest. The Council Members then participated in case scenario discussions.

Adjourn

OERAC Chair Joe Clubb adjourned the July 2025 meeting.

Reminder of the Council Subcommittee meetings in September, which are closed to the public.

Next meeting: September 19th, 10AM – 3:30PM in Elk River, MN.

Roll Call and Voting Log

July 18, 2025

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

Member	Attendance status	Minutes approval
Joe Clubb	P	y
Sarah Grosshuesch	R	y
Dr. Kathy Nevins	R	y
Rep. Dave Baker	A	-
Dr. Heather Bell	R	y
Rep. Robert Bierman	R	y
Sadie Broekemeier	R	y
Peter Carlson	A	-
Dr. Ashwin George	R	y
Curtis Jackson	R	y
Senator Bill Lieske	A	-
Jack Martin	R	y
Senator Zaynab Mohamed	R	-
Brock Reed	R	y
Dr. Charlie Reznikoff	R	y
Kristi Schoen	R	y
Judge Nicole Starr	A	-
Dr. Antony Stately	A	-
Abdirahman Warsame	P	Abs
Deepa McGriff	R	
Jolene Rebertus	R	
Teresa Steinmetz	P	
Tally	voting members present= 14 absent= 5	Motion to approve: Schoen Second: Reznikoff 12 = yes 0 = no