

Opioid Epidemic Response Advisory Council (OERAC)

Meeting Minutes for June 12, 2026

Meeting Location: Hybrid meeting using WebEx and in-person at Elmer L. Andersen Building - 2nd Floor, Room C2370, 540 Cedar Street, St. Paul MN 55101

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

Remote: Rep. Dave Baker, Brock Reed

In person: Joe Clubb, Sarah Grosshuesch, Rep. Robert Bierman, Dr. Ashwin George, James Marthaler, Dave Matteson, Richard Printon, Dr. Charles Reznikoff, Yussuf Shafie, *Deepa McGriff, Jolene Rebertus, Teresa Steinmetz*

Members not present: Dr. Heather Bell, Curtis Jackson, Jack Martin, Senator Zaynab Mohamed, Kristi Schoen, Dr. Antony Stately, Abdirahman Warsame

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: Charles Reznikoff moved to approve the minutes from the April 17, 2026 meeting. Seconded by Robert Bierman. Motion passed with roll call vote. See voting log for details.

New DHS Staff introduction: New OERAC Grant Manager, Alexis Walstad, was introduced.

OERAC RFP: Reminder was given of the April RFP discussion and the upcoming community reviewer opportunity and subcommittee.

Reminder 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). Applications will be open until position is filled.

August Schedule: Discussion on how to structure August meeting and subcommittee. Group agreement to conduct both meetings on the same day.

Public Comment

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

- Sheila Grabosky, speaking as a person living with chronic pain, discussed the need for OERAC to consider the number of employees and grant writers within grantee organizations when evaluating applications. Sheila also suggested that entities should not be eligible for grant funding if they contribute in any way to political campaigns or lobbying efforts, or if they have any outstanding or upcoming lawsuits.
- Hanna Kazempour from Change the Outcome shared that the agency is hiring three new analysts in August 2026 for the upcoming school year. Change the Outcome educates youth on the opioid epidemic and substance use disorders. Applicants should be based in the Twin Cities, have been impacted by substance use disorder in some way, and be willing to share their story. Applications are available on their website.

Grantee Presentation - Lower Sioux Indian Community Presentation

Heather Arneson presented on the services being provided within their community. Goals for their OERAC-funded project included hosting naloxone and harm reduction trainings, naloxone access for the community, facilitating community engagement events, utilizing Dakota culture as prevention, and ongoing education for staff and community.

Faces of Fentanyl Presentation

Paul Ostrow provided background information on the Faces of Fentanyl display that was at the June OERAC meeting. He also described advocacy done by the Fentanyl Free Communities Foundation.

Micro Grant Presentation

Alexis Walstad, OERAC grant manager, provided an update on the OERAC Micro Grant projects. OERAC Micro Grants awarded \$5,000 each to organizations for work in the areas of Participant Support, Harm Reduction Supplies, and Community Events & Training.

OERAC Statewide Metrics

Weston Merrick from the Minnesota Management and Budget (MMB) and Deepa McGriff from the Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) presented the current opioid-related performance measures. The council discussed the importance of using data to improve services across the state. The constantly evolving landscape of the opioid crisis requires these measures to be updated routinely.

There was discussion on which measures may be missing or need to be updated. MMB and MDH will plan to return in Fall 2026 with recommended measures for the council to review and approve.

Conflict of Interest Presentation

The Department of Human Services (DHS) Deputy Assistant Commissioner, Kristine Preston, provided insight and guided discussion on conflicts of interest.

Recovery Residences Presentation

Angie Dannewitz-Johnson, DHS Recovery Support Services Policy Lead, gave a presentation on the current state of Recovery Residences in Minnesota.

Bylaws Discussion

The OERAC Bylaws require annual revision. DHS staff led the discussion on the changes proposed by council members and staff. Additional discussion and the vote will take place at the August meeting.

Proposed changes included:

- Updates to language on Absenteeism and Removal, aligning OERAC bylaws with MN Statute 15.059.
- Language adjustment to election procedures, removing “secret ballot” language to adhere to Open Meeting Law.
- Updates to standard language referring to the State.
- Additional information to clarify that conflicts of interest are reviewed and council members are recused when necessary for RFP procedures.

Council member suggested to expand open seat term limits from two three-year terms to three three-year terms to align with other State councils.

Adjourn

Next meeting: August 28th, 8AM – 9AM in St Paul, MN.

Roll Call and Voting Log

June 12, 2026

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

Member	Attendance status	Minutes approval
Joe Clubb	P	Y
Sarah Grosshuesch	P	Y
Rep. Dave Baker	R	Y
Dr. Heather Bell	A	--
Rep. Robert Bierman	P	Y
Dr. Ashwin George	P	Y
Curtis Jackson	A	--
Jack Martin	A	--
James Marthaler	P	Y
Dave Matteson	P	Y
Senator Zaynab Mohamed	A	--
Richard “Rick” Printon	P	Y
Brock Reed	R	Y
Dr. Charlie Reznikoff	P	Y
Kristi Schoen	A	--
Yussuf Shafie	P	Y
Dr. Antony Stately	A	--
Abdirahman Warsame	A	--
Deepa McGriff	P	
Jolene Rebertus	P	
Teresa Steinmetz	P	
Tally	voting members present= 11 absent= 7	Motion: Reznikoff Second: Bierman Y= 11 N= 7