

Opioid Epidemic Response Advisory Council (OERAC)

Meeting Minutes for October 27, 2023

Meeting Location: Hybrid meeting using WebEx and in-person at New Ulm MN Medical Center.

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

Remote: Sadie Broekemeier, Peter Carlson, Dr. Ashwin George, Sarah Grosshuesch, Representative Erin Koegel, Senator Bill Lieske, Senator Kelly Morrison, Toni Napier, Brock Reed, Dr. Charles Reznikoff, *Dana Farley* and *Marina Fuhrman (for Jolene Rebertus)*

In person: Representative Dave Baker, Joe Clubb, Jack Martin, Dr. Kathryn Nevins Judge Nicole Starr and *Kristine Preston (for Eric Grumdahl)*

Members not present:

Heather Bell

Call to order

Facilitator Stacy Sjogren began the meeting at 10:00 and a guest welcome, review of ground rules, and roll call followed. Quorum was secured. See voting log for details.

Business items

Minutes approval: Carlson moved to approve the minutes from the September 29, 2023, meeting. Seconded by Starr. Motion passed with roll call vote. See voting log for details.

Baker acknowledged new members: Jack Martin, Judge Nicole Starr, and Dr. Charles Reznikoff. Three tribal representatives and a new member for the Person in Long-term Recovery seat will be confirmed shortly.

Council officers' election update: Chair and vice chair voting will occur in January. Nominations occur at the December 1 meeting (the nominated person must agree to be nominated) with time for nominees to share their thoughts about what they would bring to the role. Past chair will automatically occur assuming the out-going chair wants to continue in that new role.

MDH deployment of tribal funds update: This is a 1.1-million-dollar funding carveout for tribal nations. Interagency agreement from DHS to MDH required some additional attention by the legal teams. The final agreement has now been received at MDH for its final processing. Once released, these tribal funds will be

available until June 30, 2026. In conjunction, state funds will be available via a streamlined grant form per a request from our tribal liaisons.

Tribal Consultations presentation

Baker presented a detailed overview of the DHS/tribal nation visits he and Nevins participated in over the summer. Nine tribal nations were visited. See slide decks (slides 14-29) for more information. OERAC visits now required by law annually.

DHS updates

New hires: Three new grant managers hired to administer new OERAC contracts and start on November 8. An administrative support professional position will also be posted shortly.

Annual legislative report update: First draft of the 2023 legislative report is underway. A draft will be sent to council members in advance of the December 1 meeting. More information available on slide deck (#32 and 33) including the previous year's policy objectives and recommendations from OERAC.

Additional ideas generated include:

- Starr: Tying better screenings (opioid use, chronic homelessness, etc.) to all first court appearances when arrested so that information gets built into the record triggering things like treatment, intervention, etc.
- Starr: More research and development of nontraditional treatments.
- Koegel: Wondered about recommending a capital projects for recovery and treatment, particularly in greater Minnesota.
- Martin: Sustainable SSP access to active users.

Follow-up: An opportunity to share your written recommendations for additional legislation will go out to members shortly after this meeting. Further discussion will occur at the December meeting.

Settlement updates

Eric Maloney, Assistant Attorney General presented on second wave of settlements Minnesota will participate in: five different entities including two manufacturers (Allergan and Teva) and the three biggest pharmacy chains (Walmart, CVS, and Walgreens). The total value of these five will be roughly 240 million dollars for Minnesota. Like the first wave, these agreements will follow the state and local governments MOA (25/75). No timing is available yet on when payments will start but some will likely begin in 2023.

Payments from the first wave of settlements still continue. Note: Mallinckrodt went through a second round of bankruptcy ultimately resulting in Minnesota losing 10 million dollars in payments because of the new compromise it triggered.

2023 Legislative Overview

DHS Presentation by Kristy Graume, Director of Legislative and External Affairs and Elyse Bailey, Budget Director. See slides 38-40 and handout provided by Bailey at meeting and shared onscreen.

Brown county opioid settlement spending overview

Presentation by Erin Schwab, Brown County Public Health. See slides 41-47.

Grant cycle lessons learned

See slides 48-49 and 2023 RFP Lessons Learned & Questions Raised document.

What changes would you like to see incorporated into the process next cycle?

Clubb: A better definition of the Innovation category (Note: this has been a challenge over the past several years to land on the right definition. Should it reflect new to the industry or new to the organization requesting funding? Should the category be broadened or narrowed?)

Grosshuesch; Lieske, Reznikoff, Martin and George: All expressed concern about the need for category revisions. Some noted the benefits and challenges of having categories and the immense disappointment felt when grants were not able to be awarded to deserving organizations when they applied to the wrong category. Note: DHS rules prohibit grant application reviewers from moving an application from one category to another.

Farley: Reminded members that OERAC charter requires it to monitor other local, state and federal funding initiatives and to adjust categories in an impactful way.

Napier: Encouraged looking for ways of providing grant writing skills to interested organizations.

Broekemeier: Voiced concern about relying only on the point system as it may not recognize organizations with worthy proposals.

Public Comment

Lolita Ulloa, Hennepin County, shared experience of county-level RFP and recommending state consider multiple rounds of grant review to encourage equitable review for smaller organizations.

Mark Wiger, encouraging increasing availability of test strips.

Adjourn

Next meeting (note change of date!): Friday, December 1, 10:00-2:00, United Hospital Hastings, Regina Campus, Conference Room A, 1175 Nininger Road, Hastings, MN.

Clubb moved to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Starr. Meeting was adjourned at 2:10 p.m.

Roll Call and Voting Log

October 27, 2023

P = in person R = remote participant A = absent

Member	Attendance status	Minutes approval
Representative Dave Baker	P	yes
Heather Bell	A	--
Sadie Broekeimer	R	yes
Peter Carlson	R	yes
Joe Clubb	P	yes
Dr. Ashwin George	R	yes
Sarah Grosshuesch	R	yes
Representative Erin Koegel	R	yes
Senator Bill Lieske	R	yes
Jack Martin	P	yes
Senator Kelly Morrison	R	yes
Toni Napier	R	yes
Dr. Kathy Nevins	P	yes
Brock Reed	R	yes
Dr. Charles Reznikoff	R	yes
Judge Nicole Starr	P	yes
Dana Farley	R	
Marina Fuhrman/Jolene Rebertus	R	
Eric Grumdahl/Kristine Preston	R	
Tally	15 voting members present. 1 absent	Motion to approve: Clubb Second: Starr Passed unanimously

Motion to adjourn: Clubb

Seconded: Starr