

**Opioid Recovery and Remediation Fund (ORRF) Advisory Council**

Meeting Minutes

December 10, 2025

12:30 to 2:00 pm

Date of meeting: December 10, 2025

Start time: 12:35 PM

End time: 1:37 PM

Location: Virtually on Zoom

Members participating remotely or in person		Vote 1	Vote 2	Vote 3
1	<b>Joanne Marqusee</b> ( <i>non-voting chair designee</i> ) – Executive Office of Health and Human Services (EHS)	N/A	N/A	N/A
2	<b>Charles Anderson, MD, MPH, MBA</b> – The Dimock Center	X	X	X
3	<b>Alex Arriaga</b> – Worcester Department of Health and Human Services	X	X	X
4	<b>Marci Bailey</b> – North Reading Substance Use Prevention	X	X	X
5	<b>Michelle Clark</b> – Boston Mayor's Office of Recovery Services	-	-	-
6	<b>Tess Curran</b> – Fall River Health Department	-	-	-
7	<b>Gabrielle Dean, LICSW</b> – Brookline Health Department	X	X	X
8	<b>Lisa Golden</b> – City of Lowell Department of Health and Human Services	X	X	X
9	<b>Stephanie Tonelli</b> – Springfield Police Dept.	-	-	-
10	<b>Vaira Harik</b> – Barnstable County Department of Human Services	-	-	X
11	<b>Erika Hensel</b> – Massachusetts Attorney General's Office	X	X	X
12	<b>Adrian Madaro</b> – Massachusetts House of Representatives	-	-	-
13	<b>Candice McClory</b> – Lynn Department of Public Health	X	X	X
14	<b>John McGahan</b> – Gavin Foundation, retired	X	X	X
15	<b>Carla B. Monteiro, MSW, LICSW</b> – Grayken Center for Addiction at Boston Medical Center	X	X	X
16	<b>Patrick O'Connor</b> – Massachusetts Senate	-	-	-
17	<b>Taylor McAndrew</b> – Northampton Health Department	X	X	X
18	<b>Andy Ottoson</b> – Berkshire Regional Planning Commission	X	X	X
19	<b>Alyssa Peterkin, MD</b> – Grayken Center for Addiction at Boston Medical Center came late	-	X	X
20	<b>David Rosenbloom, PhD</b> – Boston University School of Public Health	X	X	X
21	<b>LaToya Whiteside</b> – Prisoners' Legal Services	-	X	X

(X) Voted in favor; (O) Opposed; (A) Abstained from vote; (-) Absent from meeting or during vote

## **Proceedings**

**Vote to Call to Order:** EOHHS Assistant Secretary Joanne Marqusee called the meeting to order with a roll call vote (see detailed record of votes above – Vote 1).

**Introduction of New Council Member:** Assistant Secretary Marqusee welcomed Alex Arriaga from the Worcester Department of Health and Human Services to the ORRF Advisory Council.

**Vote to Approve September 10, 2025, Meeting Minutes:** Assistant Secretary Marqusee asked if anyone had any edits to the draft minutes. Hearing none, she asked for a motion, made by John McGahan and seconded by Carla B. Monteiro to approve the minutes. Motion carried (see detailed record of votes above – Vote 2).

**Important Announcements:** Bureau of Substance Addiction Services (BSAS) Director of Opioid Abatement Julia Newhall shared that the ORRF is holding the next Regional Listening Session on March 12, 2026, in Berkshire County. She also shared that the RIZE team will be hosting information sessions for the Advisory Council to better understand grantmaking and the training and technical assistance. Lastly, Julia Newhall shared that the next ORRF Advisory Council meeting will be held in-person in March 2026 in Marlborough and will be a strategic planning session.

**Spotlight and Discussion: Shaping Path Forward Part II:** BSAS Director Deirdre Calvert reviewed survey results from the September 2025 ORRF Advisory Council Meeting, provided an overview of BSAS's budget and services, and spoke about how the ORRF fits into the agency's budget. See [meeting slides](#) for more information.

Deirdre Calvert shared a proposed process for the March 2026 strategic planning ORRF Advisory Council meeting. Highlights from the ensuing discussion are summarized below:

- Joanne Marqusee: Emphasized the need to ensure continuity of funding, noting that contracts must be in place by July 2027 to avoid service disruptions.
- Marci Bailey: Asked about meeting logistics and whether substitutes are permitted.
- Joanne Marqusee: Clarified that members are appointed as individuals rather than organizational representatives and that this will be further reviewed.
- John McGahan: Requested information on program goals and outcomes to support evaluation efforts.
- Julia Newhall: Confirmed that program overviews and performance metrics will be shared in advance.
- Erika Hensel: Asked about decision-making processes and voting structure.
- Julia Newhall: Clarified that the March meeting will focus on developing evaluation criteria, with further refinement anticipated at the June meeting.
- Andy Ottoson: Suggested exploring more frequent meetings to expedite the process.
- Nicole Schmitt: Noted that decisions regarding program continuation and wind-down are expected by July 2026.

Council members broadly expressed support for the proposed process and the emphasis on strategic, data-informed decision-making. Several members emphasized the importance of both qualitative and quantitative analysis, return on investment, and ensuring that funding decisions are aligned with demonstrated impact.

Following the discussion, Deirdre Calvert presented an overview of BSAS's continuum of care and how ORRF funds support these efforts. See [meeting slides](#) for more information. Council members expressed appreciation for the overview and emphasized the importance of aligning ORRF investments with broader BSAS strategies and demonstrated areas of impact.

**Vote to Adjourn:** Assistant Secretary Marqusee requested a motion to adjourn, made by John McGahan and seconded by Vaira Harik. The meeting adjourned at 1:37 PM (see detailed record of votes above – Vote 3).