

Opioid Recovery and Remediation Fund Advisory Council

Meeting Minutes

May 14, 2021

10:00-11:30 am

Date of meeting: Friday, May 14, 2021

Start time: 10:00 am

End time: 11:30 am

Location: Virtual Meeting (WebEx)

Members participating remotely		Vote I*
1	Marylou Sudders (non-voting chair) – Executive Office of Health and Human Services	X
2	Jennifer Almonte – Lynn Department of Public Health	X
3	Charles Anderson MD, MPH, MBA – The Dimock Center	X
4	Gina Armstrong – Pittsfield Health Department	X
5	Jason Ball – Framingham Police	X
6	Koren Cappiello – Brockton Health Department	-
7	Matilde Castiel, MD – Worcester Department of Health and Human Services	X
8	Maureen Cavanagh – Magnolia New Beginnings	X
9	Damon Chaplin – New Bedford Health Department	X
10	Denise Garlick – Massachusetts House of Representatives	X
11	Lindsay Hackett – City of Springfield	X
12	Suzie Hauptmann – Falmouth Department of Human Services	X
13	Brendan Little – Granada House	X
14	John McGahan – Gavin Foundation	X
15	Mary Beth Ogulewicz – Amherst Department of Senior Services	X
16	Joanne Peterson – Learn 2 Cope	X
17	David Rosenbloom, PhD – Boston University School of Public Health	X
18	John Rosenthal – Police Assisted Addiction and Recovery Initiative (PAARI)	X
19	Elsie Taveras, MD, MPH – Mass General Brigham	X
20	Jennifer Tracey – Boston Mayor's Office of Recovery Services	X
21	LaToya Whiteside – Prisoners' Legal Services	X

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

Proceedings

Secretary Sudders called the meeting to order at 10:00 am. She welcomed members and noted that all votes taken during the meeting would be conducted via roll call.

Jordan Maynard, Chief Secretary and Director of the Governor's Boards and Commissions office administered the oath of office.

Secretary Sudders delivered welcoming remarks to the Council, explaining that she serves as a non-voting member of the group. She explained that she views the funds in the Opioid Recovery and Remediation Trust Fund as additive and not supplanting existing public dollars for ongoing work in the Commonwealth. She noted that she expects the recommendations from the Council to focus on evidence base, data, and equity.

Council members briefly introduced themselves and their respective affiliations.

Lauren Cleary, Associate General Counsel for the Executive Office of Health and Human Services, provided an overview of the Open Meeting Law. She emphasized the importance of transparency and reminded members of the Council that documents and minutes from the Council's meetings are part of the public record.

David Giannotti, Public Education and Communications Division Chief of the State Ethics Commission, provided the Council with a brief overview of the state's conflict of interest and ethics regulations. He explained that members of the Council are considered special state employees and should consult the State Ethics Commission with any questions or concerns related to potential conflicts of interest and any required disclosures.

Secretary Sudders read through the Council's charges, highlighting requirements for the Council to meet at least four times annually and develop recommendations related to the expenditure of the Trust Fund administered by the Executive Office of Health and Human Services, in consultation with the Advisory Council.

Gillian Feiner, Senior Enforcement Counsel at the Health Care and Fair Competition Bureau of the Massachusetts Attorney General's Office provided an overview of the creation of the Opioid Recovery and Remediation Trust Fund and the ongoing litigation that the Office of the Attorney General is currently pursuing. Ms. Feiner highlighted the creation of the Opioid Industry Documents Archive, which aims to consolidate all opioid litigation documents into a searchable, universally-accessible, and easy-to-use digital archive for the public's benefit (<https://industrydocuments.ucsf.edu/drug/collections/opioids/>). For additional details, refer to Ms. Feiner's presentation posted to the Opioid Recovery and Remediation Fund Advisory Council's [Meeting Materials webpage](#).

Deirdre Calvert, Director of the Bureau of Substance Addiction Services at the Department of Public Health (DPH), presented selected data from the recently-released Bi-annual Opiate Report. In particular, Director Calvert highlighted the persistent threat of fentanyl in opioid-related overdose deaths in Massachusetts (92% present in toxicology screenings in 2020) and the significant increase of opioid-related overdose death rates for Black non-Hispanic men in the state over the past seven years. In addition to investments in enhanced treatment and recovery support, particularly in communities of color, she noted that DPH/BSAS is dedicating a significant portion of supplemental funding from the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration's (SAMHSA) Substance Abuse Prevention and Treatment Block Grant towards addressing health and racial equity. For additional details, refer to Director Calvert's presentation posted to the Opioid Recovery and Remediation Fund Advisory Council's [Meeting Materials webpage](#).

In response to questions from Council members, Director Calvert noted that BSAS is currently exploring the distribution of fentanyl test strips and will be able to provide additional information to Council members at a future meeting related to the geographic distribution of overdoses and utilization of services. She also noted that her team will be able to provide an overview of current addiction services for adolescents, including the recently-updated medication for opioid use disorder (MOUD) toolkit for adolescents.

Secretary Sudders explained that if members have any questions or additional requests for data, they should be submitted to her staff member, Gabe Cohen. She noted that a Mass.gov webpage and mailbox have been created for the public to submit general comments and questions for the Council. She noted that the mailbox would be monitored by her staff, who will compile and share questions or comments submitted.

Secretary Sudders noted that in addition to two Council meetings scheduled for July 19 and September 17, an additional meeting will be scheduled for June as well.

Vote to adjourn:

Secretary Sudders requested a motion to adjourn. Professor Rosenbloom introduced the motion, which was seconded by Director McGahan and approved by roll-call vote (see detailed record of votes above).

The meeting was adjourned at 11:30 am.