

Opioid Recovery and Remediation Fund Advisory Council

Meeting Minutes

June 28th, 2022

1:00 - 2:30 pm

Date of meeting: Tuesday, June 28, 2022

Start time: 1:00 pm

End time: 2:30 pm

Location: Virtual Meeting (Zoom)

Members participating remotely		Vote 1*	Vote 2	Vote 3
1	Marylou Sudders (<i>non-voting chair</i>) – Executive Office of Health and Human Services	N/A	N/A	N/A
2	Jennifer Almonte – Lynn Department of Public Health	X	X	X
3	Charles Anderson MD, MPH, MBA – The Dimock Center	X	X	X
4	Gina Armstrong – Pittsfield Health Department	-	-	
5	Jason Ball – Framingham Police	X	X	X
6	Matilde Castiel, MD – Worcester Department of Health and Human Services	X	X	X
7	Maureen Cavanagh – Magnolia New Beginnings	X	X	X
8	Damon Chaplin – New Bedford Health Department	X	X	X
9	Abby Dean – Brookline Public Health Department	X	X	X
10	Denise Garlick – Massachusetts House of Representatives	-	-	-
11	Lindsay Hackett – City of Springfield	X	X	X
12	Suzie Hauptmann – Falmouth Department of Human Services	X	X	X
13	Brendan Little – Granada House	X	X	X
14	John McGahan – Gavin Foundation	X	X	X
15	Jeffery Olmstead – Amherst Fire Department	X	X	X
16	Joanne Peterson – Learn 2 Cope	X	X	X
17	David Rosenbloom, PhD – Boston University School of Public Health	X	X	X
18	John Rosenthal – Police Assisted Addiction and Recovery Initiative (PAARI)	X	X	X
19	Elsie Taveras, MD, MPH – Mass General Brigham	X	X	X
20	Jennifer Tracey – Boston Mayor's Office of Recovery Services	X	X	X
21	LaToya Whiteside – Prisoners' Legal Services	X	X	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 1:00 pm. She welcomed members and noted that all votes taken during the meeting would be conducted via roll call

Vote to approve minutes from the 6/28/2022 meeting: Secretary Sudders requested a motion to approve the minutes from the Council's previous meeting on January 5, 2022. Director Tracey introduced the motion, which was seconded by Director Chaplin and approved by roll-call vote (see detailed record of votes above).

Gillian Feiner, Senior Enforcement Counsel within the Health Care and Fair Competition Bureau at the Massachusetts Attorney General's Office (AGO), provided updates on the ongoing opioid settlements

- Ms. Feiner provided an overview of the projected annual disbursement of funds from the respective settlements with Johnson & Johnson and the three major opioid distributors Cardinal, McKesson, and Amerisource Bergen through 2038.
- She noted that the settlements will provide up to \$525 million dollars total with approximately \$322,686,519 going directly towards the ORRF. The remaining 40% will be split across the 150 cities and town in the Commonwealth that has signed on.
- Ms. Feiner estimated the annual disbursement will be approximately \$18.5 million, but that she expects the settlement funds between Johnson & Johnson and distributors will be front-loaded.
- She noted that the settlement with Purdue Pharma remains delayed by the appeals process, but once confirmed, it is expected that Massachusetts will receive a total of \$102 million disbursed over several years.

Josh Cuddy, Strategy Manger at the Executive Office of Health and Human Services, provided an overview of current and anticipated revenues for the Fund. Josh noted the Fund's current revenues are \$24.5 million and that current projected revenues for Fiscal Year 2023 could be up to \$74,603,944.

Deirdre Calvert, Director of the Bureau of Substance Addiction Services (BSAS) at the Department of Public Health (DPH), provided an update on the four approved proposals for Trust Fund expenditures in addition to a larger update on BSAS's Low Threshold Housing Initiative. For additional details, refer to the meeting presentation on the Opioid Recovery and Remediation Advisory Council's [Meeting Materials Webpage](#)

Secretary Sudders shared the finalized list of principles revised for spending Trust Fund dollars and initial proposed services which the funds might support that had been developed based on Council members' suggestions during previous meetings. She noted that the list of principles and services had been revised, incorporating Council members' feedback at the last meeting. For additional details, refer to the meeting presentation on the Opioid Recovery and Remediation Advisory Council's [Meeting Materials Webpage](#)

Danna Mauch, President and CEO of Mental Health Association of Massachusetts (MAMH), and Sheriff Peter Koutoujian, Middlesex Sheriff, presented an overview of the Middlesex County Restoration Center and the Center's work to divert individuals with behavioral health and/or substance use conditions from unnecessary hospitalization and interaction with the criminal justice system.

Josh Cuddy provided an update and facilitated a discussion on efforts to develop an initial three-year strategic spending plan and the intended objectives and Scope of Work. Josh shared that they were finalizing the process to bring on a vendor and the slated time frame for the completion of the plan would be October 2022.

In response to input from Council members, Secretary Sudders agreed to add the addition of accountability measures and subsequently push the timeline for the strategic plan as well as reschedule the next Council meeting for October.

Vote to Appropriate 15 million in ORRF Funds to Support Loan Repayment

Secretary Sudders shared that in the 2022, the Legislature appropriated \$110M in ARPA funding to support loan repayment for workers in CHC, CMHC, and acute-inpatient psychiatric settings, but that Workers in ATS, CSS, and residential treatment settings for substance use disorder cannot access these funds. Additionally, the funds cannot support outpatient settings that are not classified as CHC or CMHC.

The Secretary requested a motion to approve the appropriation of \$15M in ORRF funds be added to the July procurement to support loan repayment for Master level, Bachelor level, and Associate level workers in ATS, CSS, residential treatment, and outpatient SUD treatment settings. Mr. McGahan introduced the motion, which was seconded by Professor Rosenbloom and approved by roll-call vote (see detailed record of votes above).

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

The meeting was adjourned at 2:38