

Opioid Recovery and Remediation Fund Advisory Council

Meeting Minutes
September 30, 2021
11:00 am - 12:30 pm

Date of meeting: Thursday, September 30, 2021

Start time: 11:00 am

End time: 12:40 pm

Location: Virtual Meeting (WebEx)

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
8	Damon Chaplin – New Bedford Health Department	X	-	-
9	Abby Dean – Town of Brookline	-	X	X
10	Denise Garlick – Massachusetts House of Representatives	X	X	-
11	Lindsay Hackett – City of Springfield	-	-	-
12	Suzie Hauptmann – Falmouth Department of Human Services	-	-	-
13	Brendan Little – Granada House	X	X	X
14	John McGahan – Gavin Foundation	X	X	X
15	Mary Beth Ogulewicz – Amherst Department of Senior Services	-	-	-
16	Joanne Peterson – Learn 2 Cope	-	-	-
17	David Rosenbloom, PhD – Boston University School of Public Health	-	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	-
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 11:00 am. She welcomed members and noted that all votes taken during the meeting would be conducted via roll call.

Council members briefly introduced themselves and their respective affiliations.

Vote to approve minutes from the 7/19/2021 meeting: Secretary Sudders requested a motion to approve the minutes from the Council's previous meeting on July 19, 2021. Director Chaplin introduced the motion, which was seconded by Commissioner Castiel and approved by roll-call vote (see detailed record of votes above).

Secretary Sudders provided an update on the status of the Opioid Recovery and Remediation Trust Fund. She noted that there is currently \$11.5 million in the Trust Fund with no additional revenues deposited since the Council's last meeting in July. She stated that \$90 million is expected in settlement funds over the next several years from the Attorney General's settlement with Purdue Pharma. She reminded Council members that they are subject to the Conflict of Interest Law and are encouraged to contact the State Ethics Commission regarding any matters that might require the filing of a written disclosure.

Secretary Sudders explained that the proposals circulated to the Council align with the principles and metrics that Council members proposed to help guide expenditures from the Trust Fund and were developed with an understanding that longer-term strategies will continue to be developed with the Council. She stated that the proposals fall broadly under four categories: expansion of harm reduction services, increased access to methadone, expanding supportive housing programs, and case management and engagement. She noted that the proposals both expand upon existing initiatives and introduce innovative approaches, prioritizing disproportionately-impacted populations and communities across the Commonwealth. Secretary Sudders facilitated a discussion of Council members' proposed revisions to the principles and services that might serve as a framework for expenditures from the Trust Fund.

Deirdre Calvert, Director of the Bureau of Substance Addiction Services (BSAS) at the Department of Public Health (DPH) provided an overview of the new and ongoing prevention and treatment initiatives BSAS is implementing across the state. She presented a detailed overview of the four proposals for Trust Fund expenditures. For additional details, refer to the meeting presentation posted to the Opioid Recovery and Remediation Fund Advisory Council's [Meeting Materials webpage](#).

In response to Secretary Sudders' and Director Calvert's presentation on the proposals, Council members suggested additional services and approaches for consideration, including:

- Increased messaging to non-opiate users about the dangers of the poisoned drug supply and harm reduction services available to them;
- Expanding harm reduction supplies, education, and medication to take-home and non-traditional settings to reach most vulnerable populations, such women, sex workers, and survivors of sexual exploitation;
- Expanding the network of harm reduction service providers to ensure treatment reaches historically-underserved communities;
- Inclusion of equity metrics at every stage of implementation and inclusion of Council members in the procurement process;
- Technical assistance and support, such as toolkits, to aid new methadone and MOUD providers;
- Additional investments in community outreach and support, particularly culturally-competent outreach.

Vote to adopt the proposals: Secretary Sudders requested a motion to adopt the proposals outlined in the Council's meeting presentation, consistent with the discussions during the September 30, 2021 meeting. Mr. McGahan introduced the motion, which was seconded by Dr. Taveras and approved by roll-call vote (see detailed record of votes above).

Based on suggestions from Ms. Whiteside and Professor Rosenbloom, Secretary Sudders stated that the Council's next meeting would be dedicated to services and support for incarcerated and post-incarcerated populations.

Secretary Sudders explained that she will be filing an annual report to the Legislature on October 1, 2021 that summarizes the activities of the Council to date.

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

The meeting was adjourned at 12:40 pm.