Opioid Recovery and Remediation Fund (ORRF) Advisory Council

Meeting Minutes

March 12, 2025

11:00 am to12:30 pm

Date of meeting: March 12, 2025
Start time: 11:03 pm
End time: 12:25 pm
Location: Virtually (Zoom)

Members participating remotely		Vote 1	Vote 2	Vote 3
1	**Kiame Mahaniah** *(non-voting chair)* – Executive Office of Health and Human Services (EHS)	N/A	N/A	N/A
2	**Charles Anderson, MD, MPH, MBA** – The Dimock Center	-	-	-
3	**Matilde Castiel, MD** – Worcester Dept. of Health and Human Services	x	x	x
4	**Maureen Cavanagh** – Magnolia New Beginnings	-	-	-
5	**Michele Clark** – Boston Mayor's Office of Recovery Services	x	x	x
6	**Gabrielle Dean, LICSW** – Brookline Health Dept.	x	x	x
7	**Lisa Golden** – City of Lowell Dept. of Health and Human Services	x	x	x
8	**Lindsay Hackett** – City of Springfield Admin & Finance Dept.	x	x	-
9	**Vaira Harik** – Barnstable County	-	-	x
10	**Erika Hensel** – Massachusetts Attorney General's Office	-	x	x
11	**Adrian Madaro** – MA House of Representatives	-	-	-
12	**Candice McClory** – Lynn Department of Public Health	x	x	x
13	**John McGahan** – Gavin Foundation	x	x	x
14	**Carla B. Monteiro, MSW, LICSW** – Grayken Center Boston Medical Center	-	-	-
15	**Jeffery Olmstead** – Amherst Fire Department	x	x	-
16	**Andy Ottoson** – Berkshire Regional Planning Commission	x	x	x
17	**Alyssa Peterkin, MD** – Grayken Center Boston Medical Center	x	x	x
18	**David Rosenbloom, PhD** – Boston University School of Public Health	x	x	x
19	**John Rosenthal** – Police Assisted Addiction and Recovery Initiative (PAARI)	x	x	x
20	**Stephanie Sloan** – New Bedford Health Department	x	x	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

Vote to Call to Order: EHS Undersecretary Kiame Mahaniah called the meeting to order with a roll call vote (see detailed record of votes above – Vote 1).

Vote to Approve December 3, 2024 Meeting Minutes: Undersecretary Mahaniah asked if anyone had any edits to the draft minutes. Hearing none, he asked for a motion, made by Matilde Castiel and seconded by Alyssa Peterkin to approve the minutes. Motion carried (see detailed record of votes above – Vote 2).

Update on payments from Attorney General's Office: Assistant Attorney General of the Health Care Division at the Attorney General's Office Gregory Hardy shared an update of received and expected payments to the ORRF in FY2025.

Important Announcements: Undersecretary Mahaniah notified the Advisory Council that $416,667 from the ORRF Emergency Fund was allocated to Brockton Community Health Center to provide support in FY2025. Highlights from the ensuing discussion are summarized below:

- David Rosenbloom: Asked what the funding for the Brockton Community Health Center supported.
- Nicole Schmitt, Director of Massachusetts Bureau of Substance Addiction Services (BSAS)'s Office of Strategy and Innovation: Stated that the monies will cover office-based SUD treatment and outreach to shelters.
- Maddie Castiel: Questioned whether ORRF expense requests will be related to substance use disorder, mental health, or Medicaid more generally.
- Undersecretary Mahaniah: Clarified that ORRF expenditures must be related to opioid use disorder and cannot supplant government funding.

Undersecretary Mahaniah then shared that the ORRF held their first legislative briefing in February and had over 50 attendees. He also shared the ORRF is hosting their first Regional Listening Session on March 19th at the Lynn City Hall Auditorium.

ORRF Revenues and Expenditures: BSAS Epidemiologist Casey Leon provided an update on the municipal opioid abatement dashboard. See meeting slides for details on municipal payments and expenditures. Highlights from the ensuing discussion are summarized below:

- Erika Hensel: Asked which four municipalities spent all their funds.
- Casey Leon: Informed Erika that the four municipalities that spent all their fiscal year funds were Gardner, Sheffield, Egremont, and Oak Bluffs.
- John Rosenbloom: Inquired whether municipalities can spend their money on other unrelated items.
- Greg Hardy: Explained that the State Subdivision Agreement prohibits municipalities from spending outside the specified uses.

ORRF Mission & Vision: EHS Health Policy Manager Millie Bhatia reviewed the ORRF's mission and vision.

Overview of ORRF Strategic Priorities and Update on Ongoing Initiatives: BSAS Director Dee Calvert provided a detailed update on two of the seven strategic priorities: social determinants of health and equity. See meeting slides for details on the two initiative updates.

- John McGahan: Asked when Mosaic grant recipients received money.
- Dee Calvert: Responded that grant recipients were notified last week.
- Julia Newhall: Applauded RIZE's work on this grant and disclosed that Round 3 of RIZE's grant will be $7.5 million.

Initiative Spotlight: Black and Latino Men's Re-Entry Project: Anu Sahu, Harm Reduction Program Coordinator at BSAS, and Ranjani Paradise, Director of Evaluation at the Institute for Community Health, presented on the Black and Latino Men's Re-Entry Project, which funds five community-based organizations to provide culturally tailored wraparound re-entry services. Highlights from the ensuing discussion are summarized below:

- David Rosenbloom: Inquired whether staff members of the program ensure every person has access to medication to treat opioid use disorder.
- Anu Sahu: Confirmed and added that treatment, access, and medication is part of the program.
- Candice McClory: Asked whether municipalities can target their funding to ensure the money is reaching more vulnerable populations.
- Julia Newhall: Agreed and stated that the training and technical assistance seeks to guide municipalities with data.

Advisory Council Engagement: Julia Newhall requested feedback from the ORRF Advisory Council as to what additional information would be helpful to share during Advisory Council meetings.

Vote to Adjourn: Undersecretary Mahaniah requested a motion to adjourn, made by Vaira Harik and seconded by John McGahan. Meeting adjourned (see detailed record of votes above – Vote 3).