

Opioid Recovery and Remediation Fund (ORRF) Advisory Council

Meeting Minutes

March 31, 2026

12:30 to 2:30 pm

Date of meeting: March 31, 2026

Start time: 12:32 PM

End time: 2:30 PM

Location: In person

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

(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).

Vote to Approve December 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 Vaira Harik to approve the minutes. Motion carried (see detailed record of votes above – Vote 2).

ORRF Funding Overview: Assistant Secretary Marqusee provided an overview of ORRF funding, including total settlement payments received and projected expenditures. Highlights from the ensuing discussion are summarized below:

- **David Rosenbloom:** Asked about the total amount of settlement funds received, committed, and projected over time and requested a clearer understanding of the fund's long-term financial structure.
- **Joanne Marqusee:** Explained that expenditures have steadily increased over time and that the fund currently maintains a healthy balance while supporting ongoing and future investments.

Strategic Priorities Discussion: Aligned Solutions CEO Adam Stoler reviewed the ORRF's existing strategic priorities and guiding principles. He also facilitated a discussion on long-term goals for opioid settlement investments. Highlights from the discussion include:

- **Abby Dean:** Emphasized the importance of sustaining successful programs that may be at risk due to funding uncertainty.
- **Erika Hensel:** Requested additional information on program outcomes and emphasized the importance of investing in internal infrastructure and building staff capacity to monitor performance. Emphasized the need for greater accountability, transparency, and sustaining harm reduction initiatives.
- **Charles Anderson:** Highlighted the importance of establishing clear measures of success and evaluating whether investments are achieving intended outcomes.
- **Candice McClory:** Encouraged increased investment in overdose prevention education, naloxone access in schools, harm reduction services, and addressing the growing impact of stimulant use.
- **Taylor McAndrew:** Expressed concern about prevention efforts in schools and discussed opportunities to strengthen health education, naloxone training, and innovative models such as overdose prevention centers.

- **Vaira Harik:** Suggested that success could resemble other major public health achievements, such as reductions in tobacco use.
- **David Rosenbloom:** Emphasized the need to prioritize evidence-based programs and rigorously evaluate investments to determine which approaches are effective.

Program Evaluation and Performance Measurement Discussion: Council members discussed approaches for evaluating current ORRF-funded investments and determining whether funded programs are advancing the Council’s strategic priorities and guiding principles. Highlights from the discussion include:

- **Andy Ottoson:** Requested additional information regarding how funding is distributed across rural communities and whether investments are reaching areas with high overdose rates.
- **Erika Hensel:** Raised concerns regarding geographic disparities in funding and access to funded services in Western Massachusetts.
- **Vaira Harik:** Asked whether sufficient resources are dedicated to program evaluation and whether future funding decisions should include reassessment of existing funding formulas.
- **Nicole Schmitt:** Explained that some projects include built-in evaluation components and noted that BSAS continues to collect performance data while working to identify meaningful short-term indicators of success.
- **John McGahan:** Requested additional information regarding housing program outcomes and long-term impacts on participants.
- **Lisa Golden:** Suggested establishing consistent evaluation expectations for funded organizations and incorporating performance into future funding decisions.
- **Taylor McAndrew:** Encouraged the inclusion of community advisory boards and lived-experience perspectives as part of evaluation efforts.

Council members generally agreed that future funding decisions should be informed by a combination of evidence-based practices, ongoing performance monitoring, innovation, and equity considerations.

Future Investment Priorities Discussion: The Council engaged in a facilitated discussion regarding future investment priorities, including balancing investments that save lives immediately, address the upstream conditions that contribute to substance use disorder and overdose, and support individuals and families affected by addiction.

Vote to Adjourn: Assistant Secretary Marqusee requested a motion to adjourn. The motion was made by Charles Anderson and seconded by David Rosenbloom. The meeting adjourned at 2:30 PM (see detailed record of votes above – Vote 2).