

Opioid Recovery and Remediation Fund (ORRF) Advisory Council

Meeting Minutes

September 10, 2024

12:30 pm to 2 pm

Date of meeting: September 10, 2024

Start time: 12:31 pm

End time: 1:55 pm

Location: Lynn City Hall and Virtually (Zoom)

Members participating remotely or in person		Vote 1	Vote 2	Vote 3
1	Kiame Mahaniah (<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
3	Matilde Castiel, MD – Worcester Department 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	Abby Dean, LICSW – Brookline Health Department	x	x	x
7	Lisa Golden – City of Lowell Department of Health and Human Services	x	x	x
8	Lindsay Hackett – City of Springfield	x	x	x
9	Vaira Harik – Barnstable County Department of Human Services	x	x	x
10	Adrian Madaro – Massachusetts House of Representatives <i>Notetaker from Rep. Madaro's office present.</i>	-	-	-
11	Candice McClory – Lynn Department of Public Health	x	x	x
12	John McGahan – Gavin Foundation	x	A	x
13	Carla B. Monteiro, MSW, LICSW – Grayken Center for Addiction at Boston Medical Center	-	-	-
14	Jeffery Olmstead – Amherst Fire Department	x	x	x
15	Andy Ottoson – Berkshire Regional Planning Commission	x	x	x
16	Alyssa Peterkin, MD – Grayken Center for Addiction at Boston Medical Center came late	-	x	x
17	Joanne Peterson – Learn 2 Cope	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	-	-	-
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: EHS Undersecretary Kiame Mahaniah welcomed members and called the meeting to order with a roll call vote (see detailed record of votes above – Vote 1).

Vote to Approve June 13, 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 Vaira Harik, to approve the minutes. Motion carried (see detailed record of votes above – Vote 2).

Important Announcements: Undersecretary Mahaniah informed the Advisory Council of the upcoming deadline for municipalities to submit their FY24 expenditures for annual reporting as part of the Massachusetts Subdivision Agreement for Statewide Opioid Settlements. He also noted the upcoming release of a statewide report on Municipal Opioid Abatement. In addition, EHS Health Policy Manager Millie Bhatia provided a status update on the FY24 ORRF Annual Report and reminded Advisory Council members of their opportunity to review the report ahead of the October 1, 2024 filing deadline.

ORRF Mission & Vision, Guiding Principles, and Timeline of Council Activities: Julia Newhall, Director of Opioid Abatement, Massachusetts Bureau of Substance Addiction Services (BSAS), provided an overview of the ORRF Strategic Framework, including the ORRF's mission and vision, seven guiding principles, and work accomplished by the ORRF Advisory Council since its inception in 2021. See [meeting slides](#) for a detailed overview of these topics. Director Newhall also shared that the ORRF team is in the process of planning regional listening sessions to take place throughout the state in 2025.

Overview of ORRF Strategic Priorities and Update on Ongoing Initiatives: BSAS Director Dee Calvert provided a detailed update on ORRF initiatives, organized around the ORRF's strategic priorities: Equity, Service Expansion/Enhancement, Workforce Development, Supporting Families, Social Determinants of Health and Data Collection & Analysis. See [meeting slides](#) for details on each strategic priority and updates regarding corresponding initiatives. Director Calvert also updated the Council on the recent hire of Casey León, ORRF epidemiologist, to support the ORRF's Data Collection & Analysis workstream.

ORRF Revenues and Expenditures: EHS Senior Policy Advisor Karen Tseng provided an overview of ORRF funds received and expended or committed to-date for FY22-FY25. Ms. Tseng noted the ORRF spending plan presented during the December 2023 Advisory Council meeting prioritized increased spending in all of the areas identified by the ORRF Advisory Council as strategic priorities described above.

Initiative Spotlight: Mosaic Opioid Recovery Partnership (Mosaic): Julie Burns, President and CEO of RIZE MA, presented on Mosaic's first round of grantmaking, Community-based Opioid Response Efforts (CORE). Ms. Burns discussed CORE's application process, applicant demographics, and the 18 awardees that together received \$3,750,000 in grant funding. Jen Tracey, Chief Program Officer at RIZE MA, shared information on the timeline for the second round of grants, the Municipal Matching Grants. (See [meeting slides](#) for further details on RIZE MA's presentation.) Highlights from the ensuing discussion are summarized below:

- Vaira Harik: Noted that information for the second round of grants is not yet available online.
- Jen Tracey: Shared that the grant application would be released on September 23, 2024.
- Alyssa Peterkin: Asked about the demographics of the organizations that received the grants.
- Nicole Schmitt, Director of BSAS's Office of Strategy and Innovation: Noted that in addition to Mosaic, the ORRF has a dedicated grant program focused on BIPOC-led organizations.
- John McGahan: Asked whether the fact that 80 percent of applicants did not receive funding in this first round would discourage organizations from applying for future rounds.
- Julie Burns: Acknowledged this concern and explained that RIZE is meeting with grantees that did not receive funding to provide constructive feedback and to encourage them to partner with municipalities and re-apply for the next round.

- David Rosenbloom: Praised the presentation and noted the importance of understanding organizations who did not receive funding or who did not apply.
- Jen Tracey: Stated that RIZE reached out to such organizations and received responses from about 10.
- Vaira Harik: Inquired whether the second round of grants will match 100 percent of municipal funding and noted that some towns impacted greatly by the opioid crisis did not receive proportionate funds.
- Julia Newhall: Acknowledged this concern and confirmed that evidence-based metrics of municipal opioid impact will be incorporated into this next round of municipal grantmaking.
- Abby Dean: Asked how the ORRF is tracking changes in overdose rates over time.
- Nicole Schmitt: Responded that the BSAS Community Profiles Dashboard is updated every six months with this information.
- Joanne Peterson: Asked when more information on the impact and outcomes of ORRF initiatives would be available.
- Nicole Schmitt: Referenced Director Calvert's announcement regarding hiring Casey Leon, ORRF epidemiologist, and the development of an ORRF Dashboard to track expenditures and key performance indicators in greater detail.
- Candice McClory: Inquired about the possibility of getting additional information/more granular data on overdose deaths.
- Nicole Schmitt: Noted that BSAS is actively working to incorporate additional data sets beyond what is publicly available today, to get at more granular data.
- John Rosenthal: Emphasized the importance of using ORRF funds to save lives and asked whether ORRF expenditures are keeping pace with revenues.
- Karen Tseng: Noted that at the start of last year, the Healey-Driscoll administration inherited a surplus in the ORRF and credited the outgoing administration for not immediately spending down the entire ORRF balance. She acknowledged and echoed the importance of actively spending to keep pace with revenues, so that funds are being deployed wherever needed, and noted that a key purpose of the five-year spending plan reviewed by the ORRF Advisory Council in December 2023 has been to increase the pace of expenditures to keep up with revenues.
- Kiame Mahaniah: Added that in addition to strategic spending through the ORRF, the state each year spends extremely substantial sums to combat substance use disorder, with BSAS's annual budget alone equivalent to more than half of the anticipated principal of the ORRF over 18 years.

Vote to Adjourn: Undersecretary Mahaniah requested a motion to adjourn, made by David Rosenbloom and seconded by Alyssa Peterkin. Meeting adjourned (see detailed record of votes above – Vote 3).