

Opioid Recovery and Remediation Fund (ORRF) Advisory Council

Meeting Minutes

September 10, 2025

12:30 to 2:00 pm

Date of meeting: September 10, 2025

Start time: 12:35 PM

End time: 2:00 PM

Location: In person and virtually on Zoom

Members participating remotely or in person		Vote 1	Vote 2	Vote 3
1	Joanne Marqusee (non-voting chair designee) – 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	Marci Bailey – North Reading Substance Use Prevention	X	X	-
4	Matilde Castiel, MD – Worcester Department of Health and Human Services	X	X	X
5	Michelle Clark – Boston Mayor's Office of Recovery Services	X	X	X
6	Tess Curran – Fall River Health Department	-	-	-
7	Gabrielle Dean, LICSW – Brookline Health Department	X	X	X
8	Lisa Golden – City of Lowell Department of Health and Human Services	X	X	-
9	Vaira Harik – Barnstable County Department of Human Services	X	X	X
10	Erika Hensel – Massachusetts Attorney General's Office	-	X	X
11	Adrian Madaro – Massachusetts House of Representatives	-	-	-
12	Taylor McAndrew – Northampton Health Department	X	A	X
13	Candice McClory – Lynn Department of Public Health	-	-	X
14	John McGahan – Gavin Foundation	X	X	X
15	Carla B. Monteiro, MSW, LICSW – Grayken Center for Addiction at Boston Medical Center	X	X	X
16	Sen. 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	-	-	-
19	David Rosenbloom, PhD – Boston University School of Public Health	X	-	X
20	Stephanie Tonelli – Springfield Police Dept.	X	A	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).

Introduction: Assistant Secretary Marqusee welcomed new members to the ORRF Advisory Council: Stephanie Tonelli, Tess Curran, Taylor McAndrew, and Senator Patrick O'Connor.

Vote to Approve September 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 Vaira Harik and seconded by Erika Hensel to approve the minutes. Motion carried (see detailed record of votes above – Vote 2).

Important Announcements: Director of Massachusetts Bureau of Substance Addiction Services (BSAS)'s Office of Strategy and Innovation Nicole Schmitt shared an update on the Regional Listening Session that was held with the Franklin Regional Council of Governments on October 6, 2025. BSAS Director of Opioid Abatement Julia Newhall announced that municipal training and technical assistance was relaunched under RIZE and encouraged Advisory Council members to utilize the available services to help their municipalities expend their opioid settlement funds. Julia Newhall also shared that Mosaic hosted an event to celebrate one year of grantmaking on October 8.

BSAS Epidemiologist Casey Leon updated the Advisory Council on changes to municipal reporting requirements and shared a status update of reports received. Highlights from the ensuing discussion are summarized below:

- Varia Harik: Asked why the strategies component was eliminated from the reporting requirement.
- Casey Leon: Replied that the strategy and implementation portion led to confusion in prior reports and the goal of the reports is to solicit more quantitative data and feedback on the work that is being done.
- Taylor McAndrew: Inquired about who at the municipality level receives the request for information.
- Julia Newhall: Informed Taylor that the fiscal person receives the request.
- John McGahan: Requested information on towns that have not spent their opioid settlement dollars.
- Julia Newhall: Stated that a small percentage of municipalities did not spend any of their received funds in 2024.
- John McGahan: Asked whether there is a mechanism to retrieve unspent funds from municipalities.
- Julia Newhall: Said that municipalities can send their dollars back to the state ORRF fund by reaching out to the Attorney General's Office.
- John McGahan: Questioned whether municipalities receive guidance on spending their funds.
- Julia Newhall: Replied yes.
- Nicole Schmitt: Added that municipalities that receive smaller amounts are allowed to pool their dollars together to fund more impactful initiatives and programs.

- Casey Leon: Stated that municipalities that pool their funds together also submit the report together.

Initiative Spotlight: Shaping a Path Forward: Julia Newhall presented on other state structures to expend opioid settlement dollars. Julia explored themes of other state advisory councils including having a clear mandate, governance structure, and strategic planning and investments. BSAS Director Deirdre Calvert walked through a live survey to solicit feedback on the Advisory Council's role, ideal level of engagement, commitment, and more. See [meeting slides](#) for more information on the survey.

Advisory Council members generally expressed a willingness to commit more time to the ORRF Advisory Council. Their survey results also indicated that the group is interested in creating subcommittees to utilize each member's expertise. They also expressed a desire to conduct more work related to data analytics, evaluation, and strategic planning.

Vote to Adjourn: Assistant Secretary Marqusee requested a motion to adjourn, made by Vaira Harik and seconded by Charles Anderson. Meeting adjourned (see detailed record of votes above – Vote 3).