

Governor's Advisory Council on Opioids, Substance Use, and Addiction

Meeting minutes

Date: 04/04/2023
Location: In person, WebEx

Participation

Participating members

Remote: Farhia Badul, Kyle Christianson, Beth Elstad, Jeffrey Lind, Kate Nofke, Anderson Saint Georges, LaTricia Tate, Arden Two Bears, and Trave Winship.

In-person: Wendy Jones, Fiyyaz Karim, Pamela Lanhart, Bill Messinger, and Kimberly Stokes.

Absent: Colin Cash, Autumn Dillie, John Donovan, Bobby Marines,

Office of Addiction and Recovery, Minnesota Management and Budget (MMB) Department of Human Services (DHS), and staff: Jeremy Drucker, Jennifer Blanchard, Stacy Sjogren, Kate Eifrig, Sam Nord, and Lynn Peterson.

Presenters: Dana Farely, MDH, and Jen Sather, DHS.

Welcome and housekeeping

Members and guests were welcomed, the new interim Deputy Director for the Office of Addiction and Recovery Jennifer Blanchard was introduced, members introduced themselves, and the agenda and objectives for the meeting were reviewed.

Approval of minutes

Members voted to approve February meeting minutes.

Public comment

No public comment.

Council's organizational activities

Chair and Vice Chair:

- Jeremy Drucker provided an update on the Governor’s appointment of a chair and shared it should be announced soon. He indicated that the council has the discretion to have a vice chair position which would assist the chair in leading the council. Council members determined they wanted to add the role.
- Follow-up action:
 - A draft position description will be developed and shared with council members to review and refine ahead of the June meeting.

Meeting schedule:

- The council discussed the future meeting schedule and noted that the middle of the week may hinder some providers from participating, others shared the challenge of holding meetings at the beginning and end of the week. The members also discussed a required in-person meeting, at least once a year.

Council charter:

- Members were asked to review and provide feedback on the draft charter ahead of the meeting. Stacy Sjogren walked through the suggested edits which members agreed to include. Members discussed other suggested changes.
- Follow-up action:
 - The feedback will be integrated into the draft charter and sent to members to review and refine ahead of the June meeting.

SharePoint site:

- Members were asked if they wanted a shared workspace. Members indicated they were interested in a shared platform. Staff provided an overview of the functionality of SharePoint and the security features which would require members to take specific trainings before they could access the site.
- Follow-up action:
 - The SharePoint site will be requested, and Jennifer Blanchard will work with members to onboard them once it has been built.

Council’s education and informational updates

Presentation of Legislative Budget Proposals:

- Jeremy Drucker provided an overview of the Governor’s budget proposals related to opioids, substance abuse, and recovery. Members were given a crosswalk they could follow which provided links to each state agencies revised budget pages. He also gave members an overview of what the House and Senate have included in their respective budgets and provided an overview of the legislation to fund a permanent Office of Addiction and Recovery.
- Dana Farley (MDH) provided an overview of the agencies budget proposals related to opioids, substance abuse, and recovery. The Public Health proposals spend about 52 million the first biennium and 67 million in the second Biennium. Members had an opportunity to ask questions and discuss the proposals.
- Jennifer Sather (DHS) provided a slide deck which outlined the DHS SUD provisions in the Governor’s budget. Members had an opportunity to ask questions and discuss the proposals. Members asked about implementation planning and what role they could play in that work going forward. Members discussed the role the council could play in future legislative sessions and recognized that during this session any

action would have to be taken individually. Members asked for more information about the House and Senate budgets.

- Follow-up action:
 - A side-by-side spreadsheet will be sent to members.

Council discussion on priorities

Round robin discussion:

- The Advisory Council participated in a round robin discussion sharing their priorities and recommended areas of focus between now and the end of the year. Results of the discussion will be synthesized and incorporated into the draft charter which members will review and refine before the June meeting.
- Follow-up action:
 - Members will receive an updated draft charter and will be asked to provide additional feedback before the June meeting.

Next meeting and adjourn

The Advisory Council meeting adjourned at 3:50 pm. The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, June 7, 2023, from 1:00 – 4:00 pm. It will be a hybrid meeting via Webex and in-person in room 2370 in the Elmer L. Anderson building.