

Meeting Minutes

Details

Date: 10/4/2023

Location: 840 Westminster St., St. Paul, MN 55130

In-person: Beth Elstad, Colin Cash, Kyle Christianson, Autumn Dillie, John Donovan, Wendy Jones, Jeffrey Lind, Farhia Badul, Pamela Lanhart, Kimberly Stokes, Bill Messinger, Anderson Saint Georges, and Trave Winship.

Absent: LaTricia Tate, Arden Two Bears, Fiyfaz Karim, and Bobby Marines

Office of Addiction and Recovery (OAR), Minnesota Management and Budget (MMB) Department of Human Services (DHS), and staff: Jeremy Drucker, Jennifer Blanchard, and Stacy Sjogren

Presenters: Dawn Davis, Deputy Inspector General, and Autumn Baum, Office of the Inspector General and Matt Burdick, DHS Director of Legislative Affairs, Nan Larson, Deputy Commissioner, MN Dept of Corrections and Weston Merrick, MN

Welcome

Members and guests were welcomed, and Beth Elstad and Jeremy Drucker provided opening remarks.

Roll call and introductions: Roll call was taken, and introductions were made.

Review of agenda: Agenda and objective for the meeting were reviewed.

Approve minutes: Members voted to approve August 2023 meeting minutes.

Updates:

- Two new staff will join the Office of Addiction and Recovery
 - Jose Phipps, Youth Program and Public Engagement Manager
 - Cat Rohde, Program and Project Management Coordinator
- Nine council member appointments end January 1, 2024. Members had a truncated appointment and are encouraged to reapply.

Council Work

At the August 2, 2023, meeting council members were asked to think through how key priority areas identified during previous meetings result in actionable next steps. The group was asked to think through what priority areas they want to advise the subcabinet on; which areas they want to dive deeper into and develop recommendations on in the short term; what areas they want to be kept informed of; and how the council could engage and seek the voice of people with lived experience to contribute to their work on an on-going basis. Overall, council members expressed a desire for more real-time, rapid cycle, opportunities to advise the subcabinet; and want to focus on high impact, high feasibility, priority areas that center equity, hit the “sweet spot”, are ripe for influence, and address immediate needs.

An initial priority area was identified based on the discussion and a debrief with the council chair and vice chair.

- Justice involved populations
 - Access to MOUD in jails and prisons
 - Background study reform

During the meeting, the council heard from leaders from the Department of Human Services, Department of Corrections, and Minnesota Management and Budget to help inform the development of recommendations to the subcabinet in key priority areas, including background studies reform and increasing access to MOUDs in jails and prisons.

Background Studies Reform

In preparation for the meeting, council members were encouraged to read the Human Services Background Study Eligibility Task Force's final report to the legislature, which included seven major recommendations to rectify issues in the current system.

The group heard from the DHS Deputy Inspector General, who provided an overview of the current system, appeals, reconsiderations, and data overview, federal programs background study requirements, a summary of the Task Force recommendations, and ideas for consideration for the 2024 legislative session. The council had an opportunity to ask questions and share their reflections and personal experiences with DHS.

The council then broke into small groups to reflect, share impacts on the lives of Minnesotans because of the current process, and discuss recommendations the council could make to improve the system.

The initial list of recommendations will be sent to council members to review and refine.

Increasing MOUDs in Jails and Prisons

In preparation for the meeting, council members were encouraged to read a report from the Minnesota Management and Budget (MMB) - Results First team on Treating Opioid Use Disorder for Criminal-Justice-Involved Individuals.

During the meeting, the group heard from the Minnesota Department of Corrections Deputy Commissioner and leadership from MMB, who provided an overview of SUD treatment services provided by DOC and results from a study on the use of MOUDs in prisons and jails. The council had an opportunity to ask questions and share their reflections and personal experiences with DOC and MMB.

The council then discussed impacts on the lives of Minnesotans because of the current system and recommendations the council could make to improve the system.

The group developed an initial list of recommendations which will be sent to council members to review and refine. These will be used by OAR to draft a yearend report which advisory council members will review before the December meeting. The council was also asked to share personal stories either of themselves or of people they know who have been impacted by these issues that they would like included in the report. At the December meeting the council will ratify the report.

Public comment

No public comment

Next meeting and adjourn

The Advisory Council meeting adjourned at 4:00 pm. The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday December 2023, from 12:00 – 4:00 pm. The meeting will be held virtually, with one council member, on-site with OAR staff.