

Nebraska Opioid Settlement Remediation Advisory Committee Meeting
July 11, 2022
Nebraska Association of County Officials (NACO) Offices, 1335 H Street, Lincoln, NE
10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.
Meeting Minutes

1. Open Meetings Act Statements:

Chairperson Todd Stull called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. and welcomed all attendees to the meeting. Chair Stull informed attendees that the meeting follows the **Open Meetings Act**, which was posted at the front sign-in table, and can be found at <https://ago.nebraska.gov/open-meetings>.

2. Establishment of a Quorum/Member Roll Call:

Roll call was conducted, and a quorum was determined to exist, with 18 voting members present. There are 24 initial voting members, therefore quorum would be 13 members present.

Voting Members

Members in Attendance: Ann Anderson-Berry, Susanna Batterman, Kevin Borchert, Mary Ann Borgeson, Yohance Christie, Sara Howard, Brandon Kelliher, Christopher Kratochvil, Paul Lambert, Neil Miller, Marcia Mueting (proxy Jenny Minchow), Amy Reynoldson, Cory Schmidt, Deb Schorr, Jason Scott, Kevin Spencer, Todd Stull, Davidson Wissing.

Members Absent: Jerome Kramer, Dana Miller, Brandon Pete, Helen Stockman, Bill Tielke.

Non-Voting Attendees

Members in Attendance: Nathaniel Cacy, Sheri Dawson, Jordan Duncan, K. Engel, Zack Hicks, Cheri Ivers, Tiffany Joekel, D. Jones, Sharon Kahm, Joseph LeDuc, Doug Peterson, Sarah Spencer, Danielle Wing, Kenneth Zoucha.

3. Opening Remarks/Announcements:

Chair Stull stated that any public attendees would be able to make comments during the allotted period at 11:00 a.m. Public attendees were reminded to sign in at the front if they wished to make comments, or if attending virtually, to let the moderator know via the virtual chat box.

Attendees were reminded that documents pertaining to these meetings, including agendas, past meeting minutes and virtual attendance links, can be found on the DHHS Division of Behavioral Health website at <https://dhhs.ne.gov/Pages/Opioid-Settlement-Workgroup.aspx>. Upcoming meeting information can also be found on the Nebraska Public Meeting Calendar at <https://www.nebraska.gov/calendar/index.cgi>.

4. Approval of June meeting minutes:

Chair Stull presented the June 6, 2022 meeting minutes for review and confirmed that voting members had reviewed these. Chair Stull asked if there were any corrections or comments. It was noted that in *Section 6: Establishment of Outcomes Measurement Subcommittee*, Sara Howard was named as chairperson; notes will be updated to reflect this. Chair Stull asked for a motion to accept the June 6, 2022 meeting minutes, to include this change. Motion was made and seconded to accept the June 6, 2022 minutes. Motion was approved by roll call vote, with 17 ayes and 1 abstain.

Attorney General Doug Peterson thanked everyone for their involvement in the committee. These first few meetings have been extremely important in the long-term impact of developing the structure of this committee

and its purpose. Nebraska is currently in good standing to disburse funds, due to early cooperation with League of Municipalities, NACO and individual communities. Funds are close to being distributed. Discussions continue with larger distributors. A significant portion of settlement funds will be coming in at the end of the summer, which will soon put Nebraska in a position to begin receiving applications for fund distribution. Brown Greer, the national settlement administrator, indicated that cities, counties, and states applications received before June 25th are being processed and funds can be expected around August 14th.

5. Conflicts of Interest Disclosures:

Chair Stull reminded committee members that they should have received a *Conflict of Interest Disclosure* via email earlier today. This form has been tailored specifically for this committee. Committee members are asked to review and complete this form, and return to Jeri Keller-Heuke at DHHS Division of Behavioral Health. The question was posed as to what may constitute a conflict of interest. An example would be if a committee member was employed by, or working with, an entity which is requesting funds. All potential conflicts should be noted on this form. If a committee member is unsure if they may have a conflict of interest, they are invited to share their concerns with the committee to problem-solve. The notification of conflicts is a fluid process; therefore, if conflicts arise in the future, a new form can be submitted. These disclosures will be discussed again at the August meeting.

6. State Opioid Response (SOR) Grant Overview

Danielle Wing, Prevention System Administrator, from DHHS Division of Behavioral Health presented an overview of the DHHS State Opioid Response Program, which is funded through the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA). Discussion was held on data points, what these funds are used for, and potential future plans.

Public Comment Period

Dr. Kenneth Zoucha, Director of Psychiatry at Nebraska Medicine, expressed support for this funding to build a statewide network of support, and proposed more data to be collected to support such a network. Investments in training, real time support for providers, and research into evidence-based practices were suggested as a few areas of focus for this committee.

There was no additional public comment.

7. Presentation of Current Data

Zack Hicks, Epidemiologist, from DHHS Division of Behavioral Health presented the “Use of Population Health Surveys and Online CDC Mortality Data for Nebraska Overdose Tracking”, explaining the importance and methodology of using surveys. This presentation will be continued at the next meeting as well.

8. Subcommittee Updates/Reports:

- Data/Needs Assessment Subcommittee—Dr. Ann Anderson-Berry presented an overview of the Data/Needs Assessment Subcommittee and its purpose of data collection. Due to the large scope of work being charged to this subcommittee, it is recommended that this work be contracted to outside professionals. An outline of expectations for such a contract was presented. Discussion was held on the feasibility, timeline and process of moving forward with this proposal. Motion was made and seconded to move forward with conducting a short term needs assessment and hire a professional organization to conduct data work. After some discussion, motion and second were then rescinded, due to needing further information currently not available.
- Disbursement Criteria Subcommittee—Due to length of previous agenda item discussions, the Disbursement Criteria Subcommittee’s report will be heard at the August meeting.

- Outcomes Measurements Subcommittee—Due to length of previous agenda item discussions, the Outcomes Measurements Subcommittee’s report will be heard at the August meeting.

9. New Business

It was requested that all presentations shared during today’s meeting be distributed to attendees with the minutes.

Conflict of Interest Disclosures are due to Jeri Keller-Heuke by the August meeting.

10. Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Nebraska Opioid Settlement Remediation Advisory Committee is scheduled for Monday, August 1, 2022 at 10:00 a.m., at the Nebraska Association of County Officials (NACO) Offices, 1335 H Street, Lincoln, NE.

August agenda items to include:

Conflict of Interest Disclosures

Continuation of current data presentation by Zack Hicks

Continuation of discussion surrounding potential Needs Assessments contracting

Process for entities to apply for funds disbursement

Adjourn

Due to the length of the meeting, the committee voted by acclamation to adjourn. Chair Stull declared the meeting adjourned at 12:24 p.m.