OPIOID RESTITUTION FUND

ADVISORY COUNCIL

Meeting Minutes

January 9, 2023

1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.

I. Welcome and Introductions

OOCC Executive Director, Robin Rickard, welcomed advisory council members and those viewing the meeting as members of the public.

Members present: Robin Rickard, Delegate Samuel Rosenberg, Marian Bland, Lauren Levy, Tiffinee Scott, Marcus Webster, Kristin Thomas, Carlos Hardy, Meghan Westwood, Howard Ashkin, Brian Edmunds (AG's Designee)

Members not in attendance: Tricia Roddy, Dr. David Myles and AG Anthony Brown

Council staff: Teresa Heath

II. Chair Announcement

ORF council votes Tiffinee Scott to serve as Chair

III. Overview of Inter-Agency Opioid Coordination Plan

Presented by Teresa Heath, OOCC Deputy Director

Overarching Goal

- Improve opioid-related morbidity and mortality

Supporting Goals

- Improve Statewide Infrastructure for Opioid Initiatives
  - Streamline interagency and interdepartmental data sharing
  - Improve strategic partnerships at the state, local & community levels
  - Support interdisciplinary partnerships
- Promote Youth Resiliency
  - Address adverse childhood experiences & community trauma
  - Analyze data from the youth risk behavior survey

- Increase Awareness of Substance Use Disorder
    - Address stigma surrounding substance use
    - Raise awareness of public health approaches to address crisis
    - Create accurate and data driven messaging for general public
- Expand Harm Reduction Services
    - Targeted Naloxone distribution
    - Targeted community outreach
- Promote Comprehensive Care Coordination
    - Expansion of mobile health clinics
    - Improve long-term case management
- Expand Maryland's Crisis Response System
    - Identify and fill gaps in crisis services
    - Improve operational efficacy of the current crisis response system
- Expand Access to Evidence Based Treatment for Opioid Use Disorder
    - Promote buprenorphine usage in emergency departments
    - Improve primary care provider engagement
    - Expand medication to all Maryland correctional facilities
- Support Recovery Communities
    - Incorporate recovery specialists in community settings
    - Bolster recovering community infrastructure
    - Promote access to recovery housing and permanent supportive housing

IV. Poll Ranking Prioritization of ORF Funding

Presented by Tiffinee Scott, Council Chair

Due to technical difficulties, most council members were not able to access the poll through WebEx. A poll will be sent following the meeting and results will be shared with the public.

V. ORF Year One Funding Breakdown

Presented by Teresa Heath, OOCC Deputy Director

- State Allocation 15%
    - Awarded at the discretion of the State
    - State agencies
    - State projects
    - Other entities
- State Discretionary Abatement Fund 15%
    - Distributed through competitive grant program
- Targeted Abatement Grants 45%
    - Predetermined amount distributed non-competitively to local jurisdictions
- Local Allocation to Subdivision 25%

Note: Baltimore City government and Baltimore City public schools are not eligible for ORF funding due to ongoing litigation. Other city organizations are eligible.

Q: (from Delegate Rosenberg) How much money from the initial settlement is in the fund? When should a budget request of proposed use be submitted?
A: As of January 9th, none of the year one payments have been deposited into the OOCC's account. Our staff will coordinate with the MDH budget office, and the council will consider having a presentation regarding the budget process as it relates to the ORF.

Q: (from Kristin Thomas) Are there any efforts to make allotted funds transparent to the public?
A: Certainly intend to be transparent: a report will be compiled.

Q: When should municipalities expect to start receiving allocated funds?
A: Funding distribution to government entities has already started; allocation is at the discretion of the subdivision.

Q: Is harm reduction eligible for funding?
A: ORF funding shouldn't be used to take away from existing appropriated funding but added to it.

VI. Recommendations by Council

- Increase Awareness of Substance Use Disorder
    - Active engagement to avoid re-stigmatization
    - Alternatives that are engaging rather than passive
- Promote Comprehensive Care Coordination
- Expand Access to Evidence Based Treatment for Opioid Use Disorder
    - Supporting transportation of consumers' initial entrance into treatment (30 days, 60 days?)
- Support Recovery Communities

VII. Funding Allowances

- The fund may be used only to provide funds for:
    - Improving access to medications proven to prevent or reverse an overdose
    - Supporting peer support specialists and screening, brief intervention, and referral to treatment services for hospitals, correctional facilities, and other high risk populations
    - Increasing access to medications that support recovery from substance use disorders

    - Expanding the Heroin Coordinator Program, including for administrative expenses
    - Expanding access to crisis bed and residential treatment services
    - Expanding and establishing safe stations, mobile crisis response systems, and crisis stabilization centers
    - Supporting the health crisis hotline
    - Organizing primary and secondary school education campaigns to prevent opioid use, including administrative expenses
    - Enforcing the laws regarding opioid prescriptions and sales, including for administrative expenses
    - Research regarding and training for substance use treatment and overdose prevention, including administrative expenses
    - Supporting and expanding other evidence-based interventions for overdose prevention and substance use treatment

VIII. Motions Introduced by Council

- Carlos Hardy introduces motion to meet monthly on the second Monday of the month
    - Council in favor
- Kristin Thomas introduces motion to meet quarterly in-person with virtual meeting accommodations
    - Council in favor
- Marcus Webster introduces motion to approve November ORF meeting minutes
    - Council in favor