OPIOID RESTITUTION FUND

ADVISORY COUNCIL

Meeting Minutes

May 22, 2023

3:00 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.

I. Welcome and Introductions

ORF Council Chair, Tiffinee Scott, welcomed advisory council members and those viewing the meeting as members of the public.

Members present: Emily Keller, Special Secretary of Opioid Response OOCC, Brian Edmunds, Designee for the Attorney General, Senator Dawn Gile, Maryland Senate, Lauren Levy, Maryland Association of Counties, Ryan Moran Deputy Secretary of Health Care Financing and Medicaid, Tiffinee Scott, Chair, Howard Ashkin, Marcus Webster, Meghan Westwood, Kristin Thomas, Carlos Hardy

Members not in attendance: Erin McMullen, Designee for the Deputy Secretary of the Behavioral Health Administration, Delegate Samuel Rosenberg, Maryland House of Delegates, Dr. David Myles, Maryland Municipal League

II. Motion to Approve May 8th 2023 Meeting Minutes

ORF council approves minutes

III. Presentations and Special Guests

Presentation by Michael Coury, on behalf of Dr. James Yoe, PhD from BHA Office of Applied Research and Evaluation

Opioid Overdose Deaths in Maryland: A Summary
Includes Data from January 2015 through September 2021

Opioid-Related Overdose Decedent Demographics, CY 2020

- More than two-thirds (72%) of opioid decedents were Male
- Just over one-half (56%) of opioid OD decedents were White, while 39% were NH Black and 5% identified with other races
- One-half of decedents were over 45 years, while 5% were under 25 years

Unintentional Overdose Deaths by Year, Gender, Age Jan - Sept 2007 to 2021

- Intoxication deaths increased dramatically between 2015 and 2021, more doubling over this period
- While the number of overdose deaths were beginning to decline in 2019, they have rebounded during the pandemic, increasing by 18.2% for all intoxication deaths and 19.5% for opioid related deaths between 2019 and 2021.
- Opioid OD deaths among males outpaced female deaths nearly 3 to 1
- SInce 2015, opioid OD deaths among Males and Females have more than doubled, increasing by 147% and 142% respectively.
- While Opioid OD deaths in all age groups increased between 2015 and 2021, OD deaths among adults 55 years and older increased at a faster rate than all other age groups, increasing four-fold since 2015.

Rate of Unintentional Opioid-Related Deaths by Jurisdiction, CY 2020

- Maryland Rate: 49 Per 100,000
- Opioid Overdose Death Count: 2,518
- The highest rates of opioid related deaths occurred in Baltimore City, Allegany, Washington and Cecil Counties
- The lowest rates of opioid related overdose deaths occurred in Montgomery, Howard, Garrett, and Prince George's Counties

Presentation by Brian Edmunds on Funding Update

The State will receive another $10 million from the J&J settlement in the next fiscal year for the next installment.

Presentation by Sara Whaley, MSW, MPH, MA Faculty Research Associate from Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health

Principles for the Use of Funds from the Opioid Litigation

- Principles include:
  - Spend money to save lives
  - Use evidence to guide spending
  - Invest in youth prevention
  - Focus on racial equity
  - Develop a fair and transparent process
- Maryland should consider conducting a needs assessment to determine where funding is most needed and a landscape analysis looking at programs and policies currently in place.

- Transparency
  - Annual Reporting Requirements
    - Financial: Where/What programs? How much funding was allocated?
    - Impact: What were the outcomes?
    - Rhode Island, Colorado and North Carolina have dashboards to display their opioid settlement spending. Maryland could consider incorporating this into the existing dashboard.

Presentation from Ann Ciekot from Public Policy Partners

- Ann was invited to share feedback from her perspective as an advocate with the council. Her feedback was:
    - Local zoning laws are barriers to treatment access.
    - Use funds to support programs that are not reimbursable through Medicaid, such as MOUD in detention centers.
    - Treatment is reimbursable, but recovery services rely on grants.
    - Peer work (in most settings) is not reimbursable.
    - Decriminalize possession of drug paraphernalia.

Presentation from Harriet from BHRC

- Harriet was invited to share feedback on harm reduction funding gaps with the council. Her feedback was:
    - The change in administration is an opportunity to reevaluate priorities.
    - The state should ensure equitable funding and be more transparent in reporting spending to the public.
    - The three main gaps in harm reduction funding are housing, access to food, and treatment services.

V. Discussion on Recommendations

Secretary Keller mentioned that the Moore Miller administration will release an updated strategic plan in the coming months.

Marcus recommended that the council invite Jessica Jeffreies to come speak about recovery in high schools.

VI. Motions

From previous meeting:
The council voted to recommend the strategies listed in the Interagency Opioid Coordination plan.

The council voted to recommend that ORF funds be used for overdose prevention sites, if legislation passes in Maryland allowing such programs.

May 22nd Meeting:
The council voted to recommend strategies under Improve Infrastructure for Opioid Initiatives in the Interagency Opioid Coordination Plan.

The council voted to recommend strategies under Promote Youth Resiliency, with the amendment to include families, in the Interagency Opioid Coordination Plan.

VII. Public Feedback / Recommendations

Increase in overdose over the age of 55. Ask the council to consider the older population in getting attention and that they remember that they need services.

Q: When giving recommendations, do they go to the Governor? A: Yes

Consider using ORF to bridge gaps in Medicaid coverage.

Jackie Ward shared concerns including older populations, funding for HB116 in jails, and that the overdose death data is not based on residency.

VIII. Motion to Adjourn

- Next meeting June 5, 2023 at 3pm