



OPIOID RESTITUTION FUND

ADVISORY COUNCIL

Meeting Minutes

July 10, 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 OOC, Brian Edmunds, Designee for the Attorney General, Spencer Dixon representing Senator Dawn Gile, Maryland Senate, Lauren Levy, Maryland Association of Counties, Erin McMullen Designee for the Deputy Secretary of the Behavioral Health Administration, Ryan Moran Deputy Secretary of Health Care Financing and Medicaid, Tiffinee Scott, Chair, Howard Ashkin, Marcus Webster, Meghan Westwood, Kristin Thomas

Members not in attendance: Delegate Samuel Rosenberg, Maryland House of Delegates, Dr. David Myles, Maryland Municipal League, Carlos Hardy

II. Motion to Approve June 5th Minutes

ORF approves minutes

III. Council Recommendations Discussion

Recommendations to date:

- All strategies listed in the Interagency Opioid Coordination Plan
- Support for families
- Overdose prevention sites
- Access to inclusive, rather than gender specific, recovery resources
- Transportation
- Consider multi-year grants
- SUD treatment and services within detention centers
- Re-entry services
- Youth and family services & crisis services
- Youth substance use treatment



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- Ryan Moran suggested mapping the recommendations to show how they align with the Interagency Opioid Coordination Plan. Also suggested that the council consider prioritization of recommendations. Erin McMullen, Emily Keller and Howard Ashkin agreed.
- Tiffinee Scott indicated that the council and public were polled to determine which recommendations to prioritize.
- Lauren Levy agrees to list that there are different funding streams available. What will the process be going forward with funding?
- Howard Ashkin wants to use future meetings to determine how these recommendations will be further clarified such as transportation and recommends transportation to be paid for to and from substance use treatment for the first 90 days until such time is altered.
- Meghan Westwood mentioned the gap in adolescent and family services, even medicaid reimbursable services. How can we incentivize providers?
- Brian Edmunds clarified that supplanting or duplicating funds is prohibited in the ORF statute and does not need to be included as a council recommendation.

IV. The Daniel Carl Torsch Foundation Presentation - Toni Torsch

- Thanked Senator Klausmeier for her support.
- MARCO Members include – Addiction Connection Resource, Char Hope Foundation, Charm City Care Connection, Community of Grace, Daniel Carl Torsch Foundation, Destiny, Power and Purpose, Fort Recovery, Gratitude Foundation, Homecoming Project, James Place, Mariah’s Mission, Maryland Heroin Awareness, Mint2Be, NCADD, On Our Own Maryland, OPTIMUS, Phoenix Recovery Academy, Rage Against Addiction, RECTIFY, Serenity Sistas, The Journey Home, Worcester Goes Purple
- MARCO is concerned that the Maryland statute only specifically mentions funding peer recovery specialists within hospitals and correctional facilities and that recovery community organizations and community based organizations may not be eligible for restitution funds.
- Request – funding to be specifically earmarked for RCOs who do not have the capacity to bill for services
- Data – last 90 days (provided by 5 RCOs)
 - 4,722 Individuals
 - Over 25,000 Engagements
 - 7 Counties



V. Motions

Kristin Thomas motioned to support adding recovery community organizations to the list of recommendations. Howard seconded. Approved.

Howard Ashkin motioned to approve the current council recommendations with the amendment of recovery community organizations. Marcus seconded. Approved.

VI. Questions

Q: Debbie Santini: Under the recommendations for supports for families are there subtopics? Public awareness I don't see anything for that A: Under the branding for youth resiliency you can find that.

Q: Frederick Chavis: How are you going to get funding to a variety of organizations, not just well known programs and organizations?

A: We have heard that alot from boots on the ground organizations who feel funding doesn't get given to them and we will be thoughtful about this when we distribute the funding.

Q: Angelica de Guzman: We are working on a bill to provide grief counseling for those who have lost loved from suicide due to self harm and overdose. This would also provide services for the workers. Can the ORF be used for trauma treatment and treatment for the workers?

A: The council would need to have more information before an official answer can be given.

Comment from Barbara Allen: Provided resources around grief- Compassionate Friends and GRASP provide support at no-cost..

<http://grasphelp.org/>

<https://health.maryland.gov/bha/Pages/Grief-and-Loss-Resources.aspx>

<https://www.compassionatefriends.org/>

VII. Motion to Adjourn

- o Next meeting Aug 14, 2023 at 3:30pm