



MARYLAND OVERDOSE RESPONSE  
**ADVISORY COUNCIL**

**Citizen Advisory Workgroup**  
**Meeting Notes**

*Tuesday, January 13, 2026*  
*10:30-11:30 am*

**Introductions**

Members in attendance: Barbara Allen, Christina Kendall, Debbie Santini, Jessie Dunleavy, Johanna Dolan, LaTonia Rich, Malik Burnett, Megan Murnane, Nicole Barrows, Angel Traynor, Thomas Higdon

**Background & Housekeeping (*Emily Keller*)**

One of the Maryland Overdose Response Advisory Council's (MORAC) mandates is to identify emerging challenges related to the provision of substance use disorder services and develop recommendations to address those challenges.

This Citizen Advisory Workgroup will identify priorities and provide formal input to the MORAC from their perspectives as people who provide or utilize substance use services in Maryland.

Deliverable

The workgroup will submit recommendations by July 1, 2026 for the MORAC to discuss for inclusion in the council's annual report.

Members were selected based on:

- Submission of a completed interest form to MOOR
- Application indicating that they are a person with lived experience with substance use, a family member and/or a provider of SUD treatment or recovery services

- Geographic location, as it's a priority for all regions of Maryland to be represented

## **Workgroup Member Expectations (*Emily Keller*)**

### Meetings

- The workgroup will hold meetings at a cadence determined by the workgroup and provide relevant updates to the MORAC. Meetings will comply with the Open Meetings Act.
- The workgroup will identify a chair who will facilitate their meetings and attend MORAC meetings to provide updates.
- MOOR will provide administrative support and assist with scheduling and communications.

### Member Expectations

- Members will be expected to familiarize themselves with the Open Meetings Act.
- Members will be expected to attend and participate in workgroup meetings throughout the 2026 calendar year.

## **Designating a Chair**

The consensus was to move forward with Barbara Allen and Thomas Higdon as co-chairs for the workgroup.

## **Discussion**

Meeting cadence: The workgroup determined that meeting every other week would allow them to make recommendations to the MORAC by July 1st.

Virtual or in-person: The workgroup will mostly meet virtually with some in-person meetings, as needed.

Public comment in future meetings: Collect questions/comments ahead of meetings via Google Form immediately and allow for live comments at a later date once the group is established.

Discussion to be continued at the next meeting: How many workgroup members constitutes a quorum? Attendance policy.