

OPIOID SETTLEMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE (OSAC)

Tuesday, January 13, 2026

Teams Virtual Meeting

10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

ATTENDANCE:

Members/Designees:

- | | | | |
|--|---|---|--|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Nancy Navaretta | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Mayor Thomas Dunn | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> First Selectman Rudy Marconi | <input type="checkbox"/> Daniel Rezende |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Paul Pernerewski | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Kevin Elak | <input type="checkbox"/> Mayor Lisa Marotta | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Elizabeth Rivera-Rodriguez |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Senator Saud Anwar | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Daniel T. Farley | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Representative Cristin McCarthy Vahey | <input type="checkbox"/> Dr. Marilyn Sanders |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Amy Bethge | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Liz Fitzgerald | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Patrick McCormack | <input type="checkbox"/> Senator Heather Somers |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Attorney Timothy Birch | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Bridget Fox | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Russell Melmed | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Christian Spencer |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Ray Bishop | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Christine Gagnon | <input type="checkbox"/> Katherine Milde | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Erica Teixeira |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Maritza Bond | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Kimberly Grove | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Robert Miller | <input type="checkbox"/> Dr. Katherine Tucker |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Susan Campion | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> First Selectwoman Tracey Hanson | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Jeanne Milstein | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Janine Vose |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Mayor Elinor Carbone | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Ebony Jackson-Shaheed | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Dr. Srinivas Muvvala | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Representative Toni Walker |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Pareesa Charmchi-Goodwin | <input type="checkbox"/> Paul Januszewski | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> First Selectwoman Maureen Nicholson | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Kaye White |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Lisa Deane | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Jennifer Kolakowski | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Representative Tammy Nuccio | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Maggie Young |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Judy Dowd | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> John Lally | <input type="checkbox"/> Senator Cathy Osten | |

Visitors/Presenters:

Antonio Gueudinot, Luiza Barnat, Ciara Beattie, Dr. James Lehman, Natalie Dumont, David Fiellin, Cyndi Frank, Anna Gasinski, Michael Hines, Chrishaun Jackson, Jaime Ellis, Julia Fishman, Kimberly Karanda, Christy Knowles, Maria Coutant-Skinner, Mary Murhpy, Christopher McClure, Sarah Messier-Smith, Justin Mehl, Melissa Augeri, Nathalie Garcia, Kris Robles, Karolina Wytrykowska, Sarju Shah, Lynn Sosa, Sandra Springer, Adati Tarfa, Owen Rood, Michaela McLeod-Fraser, Eric Reynolds, Matthew Fitzsimmons, Bridget Cepalia, Gary Roberge, Amy Rodriguez, Pamela Mautte, Addressa Mikita, Alysse Schultheis, Esther Schlossberg, Morgan Suess,

Recorder:

Chrishaun Jackson

The January 13th, 2026, meeting of the Opioid Settlement Advisory Committee (OSAC) was called to order at 10:02 a.m. by Commissioner Nancy Navaretta, DMHAS.

Topic	Discussion	Action
Welcome and Introductions:	Commissioner Navaretta welcomed all in attendance.	Noted
Review and Approval of Minutes	Minutes approved from the September 9, 2025, meeting – moved by Atty. Tim Burch, seconded by Maritza Bond. There were no abstentions or objections.	Noted
Administrative Updates: Sarah Messier-Smith, Opioid Settlement Program Manager	Sarah Messier-Smith, Opioid Settlement Program Manager, gave a presentation regarding updates for the Opioid Settlement Advisory Committee including the budget, the Purdue settlement, Housing and Homeless Services, the Municipal Report, and the CT Opioid Settlement Dashboard. Presentation: Administrative Update	Informational

<p>OSAC Project Data Collection and Outcome Report: DMHAS Administration</p>	<p>Commissioner Nancy Navaretta provided a high-level overview of the report and the data collection and program monitoring processes. Sarah Messier-Smith shared initial data from 5 OSAC projects. The full OSAC Project Data Collection and Outcome Report is available at the CT OSAC website here.</p> <p>*All project data is documented and posted, and available upon request. Presentation: Data Collection and Outcome Report Overview</p>	<p>Informational</p>
<p>5-Year Planning: DMHAS Administration</p>	<p>A plan outlining the costs of all projects over 5 years was requested during the last OSAC meeting. Luiza Barnat provided an overview of the 5 Year Planning process. Sarah Messier-Smith reviewed the 5-year planning document, which is available at the OSAC website here. The current Opioid Settlement fund balance is \$161,184,046. The current project amounts approved are \$111,691,813. If approved, the 5-year plan would extend the timeframe for some of the existing programs, totaling \$140,844,033.60. The plan only includes current projects.</p> <p>Discussion: Key discussion includes:</p> <p>Rep. Walker asked for clarity on what the committee is approving. Luiza Barnat clarified that the 5 year plan is a spending plan to ensure that we are not overspending, also stating that it is not a procurement plan and does not change the procurement process.</p> <p>Concerns were expressed that lengthening contracts could result in issues if the contractors do not implement the project to expectations and that approving the 5-year plan may be circumventing the subcommittee review process. Commissioner Navaretta stated that in every contract there are out clauses that allow the opportunity to change the contract if Providers are not performing to expectations, up to termination of contracts with cause. The Research and Data committee and DMHAS Admin team will work collaboratively using the data reports to assess whether program benchmarks are met.</p> <p>Russell Melmed voiced concern about the process to evaluate proposals and recommended that we restart the Process subcommittee process to look at this more carefully, including a motion to refer the spending plan to the process subcommittee for review. Luiza Barnat and Commissioner Navaretta reviewed the various roles of the subcommittees and the review and approval processes. Russell Melmed withdrew the motion.</p> <p>Multiple committee members weighed in on whether they agreed to a vote on the 5-year plan, either during the current meeting or at a future meeting, and the potential impact on existing contracts. Commissioner Navaretta concluded by stating that a vote would not be held based on the committee feedback provided during the discussion. The document will be used as a planning document, is not an approval or commitment of funding, and no project dates will be changed at this time. Projects needing renewal in the future will be reviewed by the Research and Data and Finance and Compliance subcommittees and brought to the full committee for vote.</p>	<p>Informational, as a vote to approve the plan was not held.</p>
<p>Subcommittee Updates:</p>	<p>Referral Subcommittee: Sarah Messier-Smith for First Selectman Rudi Marconi</p> <p>New incoming recommendations were reviewed and prioritized by the subcommittee.</p> <p>Research & Data: Dr. Srinivas Muvvala</p>	<p>Informational</p>

	The evaluation and data collection plans for recently approved OSAC recommendations were discussed. The group was provided with the OSAC project data collection and outcome report and dashboard. Members provided feedback and suggested recommendations. Finance & Compliance: The subcommittee did not meet.	
Public Comment:	Dr. James Lehman commented that he is interested in offering a recommendation that we consider a research project related to chiropractic services being used to reduce prescriptive opioids for individuals with neck and lower back pain. Luiza Barnat requested the information be sent to osac@ct.gov to be vetted via the recommendation review process.	Public Comment
Other Business:	Jeanne Milstein commented on sober homes/ residential programs regulation and criteria; asking if there was any data on people being asked to leave these programs, and if other communities are experiencing the same. Commissioner Navaretta recommended bringing this discussion to the Alcohol and Drug Policy Council (ADPC).	Discussion for ADCP
Next Steps:	The next OSAC meeting will be held in April 2026. The date is tentatively set for April 14, 2026 from 10a.m.-noon.	Informational

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Adjournment: The January 13th, 2026, meeting of the Opioid Settlement Advisory Committee adjourned at 11:40p.m.