

**OPIOID SETTLEMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE (OSAC)**  
**Meeting of Tuesday, July 8<sup>th</sup>, 2025**  
**Teams Virtual Meeting**  
**10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.**

**ATTENDANCE**

**Members/Designees:** Nancy Navarretta, Commissioner, Jennifer Kolakowski, Dr. Srinivas Muvvala; Judy Dowd, OPM; Kimberly Grove; Senator Cathy Osten; Representative Toni Walker, Hartford; Bridget Fox; First Selectwoman Maureen Nicholson, Pomfret; John Lally; Patrick McCormack, Amy Bethge, Erica Teixeira, Maritza Bond, Maggie Young, Robert Miller, Megan Albanese, Attorney Timothy Birch, Elizabeth Rivera-Rodriguez, Christine Gagnon, Ebony Jackson-Shaheed, Erica Texeira, Russell Melmed, Tracey Hanson, Dr. Marilyn Sanders, Janine Vose, Kevin Elak, Daniel Rezende, Mayor Thomas Dunn, Katherine Tucker, Katherine Milde, Representative McCarthy Vahey, Mayor Elinor Carbone, Torrington, Elizabeth Fitzgerald, Representative Tammy Nuccio, Kevin Elak, Jeanne Milstein, Kaye White, Senator Heather Somers, Katherine Tucker, Mayor Paul Pernerewski

**Visitors/Presenters:** Luiza Barnat; Christopher McClure, Danielle Ebrahimi, Dr. David Fiellin, Michael Hines, Sarah Messier-Smith, Matthew Fitzsimmons, Gretchen Shugarts, Dr. Sheila Alessi, Robert Heimer, Justin Mehl, Michael Williams, Gail D'Onofrio, Kris Robles, Susan Logan, Keith Radziwon, Gina Florenzano, Melissa Sienna, Taylor Aitken, City of Waterbury, Lora Passetti, Gary Roberge, Sandra Springer, Kevin Shuler, Andrew Brown, Kimber King, Kimberly Haugabook, Erica Previti, Carl Schiessl, Edith Atwerebour, Karolina Wytrykowska, Evan Dantos, Eliza Halsey, PJ Cimini, Katherine Meslow, Travis Tanuis

**Recorder:** Melanie Richard

The July 8<sup>th</sup>, 2025 meeting of the Opioid Settlement Advisory Committee (OSAC) was called to order at 10:00 a.m. by Commissioner Nancy Navarretta, DMHAS.

Topic	Discussion	Action
<b>Welcome and Introductions</b>	Commissioner Navarretta welcomed all in attendance.	Noted
<b>Review and Approval of Minutes</b>	Minutes approved from the May 13 <sup>th</sup> , 2025 meeting – moved by Representative Toni Walker, seconded by Representative Tammy Nuccio. Kaye White abstained from voting on the minutes.	Informational
<b>Administrative Updates</b>	<p>Chris McClure, DMHAS Chief of Staff, gave a presentation regarding updates for the Opioid Settlement Advisory Committee including budget, settlement, municipal, and a schedule of future meetings</p> <p><u>Presentation by Chris McClure:</u> <a href="#">Administrative Update</a>   <a href="#">OSAC Update</a></p> <p><u>Discussion:</u> DMHAS staff members will be rolling out a new dashboard that will give a breakdown of each priority and what recommendations have passed that meet those priorities. This dashboard has been in creation and the hope is to have it complete within the next few months to present to members of the Opioid Settlement Advisory Committee.</p> <p>Representative Walker asked where to go to find out the number of deaths and the data on those that have been affected by opioid use disorder in order to see which areas the recommendations that have passed will affect. The goal is to see where we are impacting and who we are impacting with these dollars and efforts. The data is collected in collaboration with the Department of Public Health (DPH) and the Office of the Chief Medical Examiner (OCME), and DMHAS can provide that information from the report going forward, as the reports are produced monthly.</p>	Informational Chris McClure, DMHAS

Topic	Discussion	Action
LiveLOUD Update	<p>Members of the O'Donnell Company presented an update on the LiveLOUD campaign update. Members included Dan and Eileen O'Donnell, Antonio Gueudinot, Melissa Augeri, Julia Fishman, and Nathalie Garcia.</p> <p><a href="#">LiveLOUD Presentation</a></p> <p>The objective of the campaign is behavior change with focus on access to medication, reduce overdose risk and mortality, and reduce community stigma. The key audiences of this campaign are individuals struggling with opioid addiction or at risk of opioid overdose and death, as well as friends and family, stakeholders, professionals, community leaders, treatment professionals, providers, first responders, and Connecticut communities. The campaign strategy includes repeated exposure, enhanced brand recognition, improved brand retention, and building trust with the audience.</p> <p><u>Discussion:</u></p> <p>Jeanne Milstein asked if the team had any idea of the demographics of the people who are viewing this campaign, especially on social media? And if so, what does that engagement look like? Is it with community members, nonprofits, individuals, etc.?</p> <p>Melissa Augeri explained that in order for an engagement to count, the user would need to stop and view the video from start to finish, and then if they like it or share it within their network, that also counts as an engagement. The campaign is targeting people across the state who match some of the profiles of those who may have experienced a greater percentage of overdoses or who have witnessed overdose deaths. But the team is always looking at that information to make sure that they're reaching the right people. The team uses tactics such as Google Search and Google Display to try to reach the people that really need the information the most. When it comes to the demographics, there is a wonderful mix of those in the community and a good representation of who's engaging with the campaign and with each other.</p> <p>Representative Walker questioned how the O'Donnell Company disseminates this information across the state and if they are handing out materials for distribution to different areas of the state, as well as public health facilities. Commissioner Navarretta explained that we use resource links or partners in prevention in the work that we do in the community, which would be BH Care in Representative Walker's area. There are cards that are distributed, as well as cards and paper, in addition to the social media resources. The O'Donnell Company has a digital <a href="#">toolkit</a> where materials can be accessed and used for outreach in the community. In the fall, the plan is to put an E-blast campaign that would have an email list that can include anyone in the community who's interested in learning more about the toolkit, which is one of the efforts included in the schedule for September in conjunction with recovery month and can make sure that this committee is on the list.</p> <p>Russell Melmed asked that as we approach the one year mark and the funding is running out for this campaign, what was the difference that was made by the funding we allocated, as this campaign was live before the funding was provided from this Committee. What was the reach before the dollars were awarded and what was your reach afterwards?</p> <p>Antonio Gueudinot explained that this campaign has two flights and that this was the spring campaign shown in this presentation and just the spring campaign has exceeded the reach by 13% compared to last year's reach and this is just the first half of the campaign. There have been increased visitors to the site, with sessions being almost 20% longer when they're on the site, and the engagement rate on the website is higher by almost a little over 19%. The fall campaign will see new placements in recovery centers, bars, pubs, etc. so there will be an increase in messaging.</p>	Informational, O'Donnell Company

Topic	Discussion	Action
	<p>Representative Nuccio and Martiza Bond mentioned wanting more outreach in their areas of the state. Commissioner Navarretta explained that certain areas do come up discussion because of higher rates, but it does not mean that we're not focusing on rural communities as well. One of the approved recommendations that was approved for medication assisted treatment (MAT) in the border areas of Connecticut and in some in between areas where there was a lack of services. The DMHAS team would be happy to share that data and information offline to those who are interested.</p>	
<b>Stigma Presentation</b>	<p>Commissioner Navarretta introduced John Lally, who is a family member who has been deeply affected by the opioid crisis, and has been a steadfast advocate regarding remediation and elimination of stigma. His presentation is a good reminder of why we do this work and the information that he provides does guide a lot of the work that we do.</p> <p>John Lally is the Executive Director of a nonprofit called Today I Matter, which is named after his son, Tim, who died from an opioid overdose of January 2016. The mission has been to work hard to reduce the shame and stigma of both mental illness and addiction.</p> <p><a href="#">Stigma Presentation</a></p> <p><a href="#">Ending the Stigma of Opioid Use Disorder Video</a></p>	Informational, John Lally, APRN
<b>Subcommittee Updates</b>	<p><b>Referral: First Selectman Rudy Marconi</b></p> <p>This subcommittee continues to meet and review proposed recommendations. The group reviewed a number of incoming recommendations and there were some that would not be moved forward while there were others that were moved forward, which are being shared with the appropriate ADPC or subject matter expert for additional review.</p> <p>The Referral Subcommittee will be meeting before the next scheduled Opioid Settlement Advisory Committee meeting to review additional proposed recommendations. This subcommittee also reviewed the budget as we did here at the beginning of this meeting.</p> <p><b>Research and Data: Dr. Srinivas Muvvala</b></p> <p>This subcommittee has continued to meet monthly and review the recommendations received from the referral and other subcommittees and will be meeting before the next scheduled Opioid Settlement Advisory Committee meeting.</p> <p>Most projects are still in pre-implementation or early implementation phase, so the group is still waiting for those reports. Regarding projects, members expect to have some data for a few projects for the next meeting. This subcommittee also recently reviewed approved projects and identified data points that they will be looking for in the project updates and report outs. There were two prevention recommendations that the group reviewed that were not approved but sent back with updates requested. The group would like to establish a direct link to opioid abatement and challenges tracking opioid-related outcomes, as well as evidence of how the proposals would directly help with reducing opioid use and overdose rates in Connecticut.</p> <p><b>Finance and Compliance: Representative Toni Walker</b></p> <p>This subcommittee did not meet, as the recommendations did not pass through the Research and Data Subcommittee and there was nothing for the group to review prior to this full Opioid Settlement Advisory Committee meeting.</p>	Informational

Topic	Discussion	Action
Public Comment	There were no items brought forth during the public comment period.	Public Comment
Next Steps	<p>The next OSAC meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, September 16<sup>th</sup>, 2025 from 10:00 – 12:00 p.m.</p> <p>The subcommittees will continue meeting to review the recommendation submissions.</p>	Informational

**NEXT MEETING** – Tuesday, September 16<sup>th</sup> - Video Conference Call through Teams

**ADJOURNMENT** – Tuesday, July 8<sup>th</sup>, 2025 meeting of the Opioid Settlement Advisory Committee adjourned at 10:35 a.m.