

**OPIOID SETTLEMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE (OSAC)**  
**Meeting of Tuesday, March 12<sup>th</sup>, 2024**  
**Teams Virtual Meeting**  
**10:00 a.m.**

**ATTENDANCE**

**Members/Designees:** Nancy Navarretta, Commissioner, DMHAS; Mayor Neil O’Leary, Waterbury; Jodi Hill-Lilly, Commissioner, DCF; Jody Terranova, Deputy Commissioner, DPH; Francis Gregory, DCF, Jennifer Kolakowski, Dr. Srinivas Muvvala; Judy Dowd, OPM; Timothy Birch, AGO; Kimberly Grove; Lisa Deane; Senator Cathy Osten; Representative Toni Walker, Hartford; Mayor Elinor Carbone, Torrington; Senator Saud Anwar; Representative Cristin McCarthy Vahey; First Selectwoman Tracey Hanson, Voluntown; First Selectman Rudy Marconi, Ridgefield; Mayor Lisa Marotta, Rocky Hill; Jeanne Milstein; First Selectwoman Maureen Nicholson, Pomfret; Dawn Niles; Erica Teixeira; Russell Melmed; Donna Culbert; John Lally; Christine Gagnon, Christian Spencer, Maggie Young, Kyle Zimmer, Liz Fitzgerald, Megan Albanese, Elizabeth Rivera-Rodriguez

**Visitors/Presenters:** Luiza Barnat; Keith Radziwon; Christopher McClure; Kris Robles, Nita Asani, Danielle Ebrahimi, Colleen Harrington, Matthew Fitzsimmons, AGO, Dr. David Fiellin, Christy Knowles, Justin Mehl, Emma Biegacki, Kimberly Karanda, Addressa Granada, Sarju Shah, Dorothy Ames, Addressa Granada, Craig Safran, Deborah Lake, Gina Florenzano, Kimberly Haugabook, Heidi Wilson, Michael Hines, Jennifer Jacobsen, Virginia Juarbe, Kimberly Sue, Maia Carpentino, Daniel Newton, Nicole Tomassetti, PJ Cimini, Gary Roberge, Kris Robles, Sarah Firmin, Megan Sopelak, Stacey Johnson, Nicole Taylor, Michael Williams, Karolina Wytrykowska, Zachary Foti

**Recorder:** Melanie Richard

The March 12<sup>th</sup>, 2024 meeting of the Opioid Settlement Advisory Committee (OSAC) was called to order at 10:00 a.m. by Commissioner Nancy Navarretta, DMHAS.

<b>Topic</b>	<b>Discussion</b>	<b>Action</b>
<b>Welcome and Introductions</b>	Commissioner Navarretta welcomed all in attendance and introduced the following new members of the Opioid Settlement Advisory Committee:  Dr. Elizabeth Rivera-Rodriguez, Director of Health and Human Services, City of Bridgeport, Municipal Representative  Megan Albanese, STEP’s Prevention Coordinator, City of Southington, Municipal Representative	Noted
<b>Review and Approval of Minutes</b>	Minutes approval from January 9 <sup>th</sup> , 2024 meeting – moved by Tim Birch, Attorney, Attorney General Designee, seconded by First Selectman Rudi Marconi, Town of Ridgefield.  Corrections needed: Add Kyle Zimmer to the attendance list for the last meeting; Dawn Niles was listed as attending so no correction needed to add her to the list.  Minutes approved, no further discussion.	Informational
<b>Public Comment</b>	No requests were received regarding public comments.  No public comments were made during this time.	Informational
<b>Final CORE Report Presentation</b>	The team at Yale completed the CORE Report after a draft was submitted to this Committee. There was a period of public comment and those recommendations and comments were incorporated in the report to complete the final version. This report	Informational Dr. David Fiellin, Yale

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	<p>has been a guidepost in making decisions regarding funding and will continue to do so moving forward. Connecticut will be an excellent place to make educated decisions about evidence-based practices and interventions which will be lifesaving.</p> <p>Presentation by Dr. David Fiellin, Yale: <a href="#">Final CORE Report PowerPoint</a></p> <p><u>Discussion:</u>  Senator Saud Anwar: Offered clarification that the bill passed from the Public Health Committee and from the legislative body about harm reduction centers is in compliance with federal laws. The part that is not in compliance is about the safe injection sites, but we are hoping at some point our federal government will change that law so that we can truly save lives.</p> <p>Dr. Fiellin agreed and stated that they were in agreement on providing access to overdose prevention centers and all services allowed by the federal government and would open discussion on terminology regarding safe injection sites.</p> <p>Representative Walker asked for clarification regarding the data used to identify funding priorities and things listed in the report and if it was from 2016. Dr. Fiellin clarified that they focused on existing data and updated the analysis and the review of the literature to include the current Connecticut situation rather than the situation that was observed in 2016. In talking about the best programs and plans for interventions to save lives, it is important to note that despite putting in what was believed to be effective strategies in 2016, the drug supply transitioned rapidly. The report also now includes recommendations that relate to cocaine, other stimulants, and what is commonly referred to as poly-substance use. This is a state-wide addiction crisis that requires as many effective tools as possible.</p> <p>Russell Melmed stated that local communities are looking to us for guidance when it comes to administering their funds, and if there is a focus on evidence based practices focused on preventing youth initiation of opioids or opioid use disorder in the future. Dr. Fiellin explained that the recommendation of rolling out prevention programs for youths should be tied with evaluations to be certain that we are getting a program that is updated and more effective than those that were designed 20 – 30 years ago to prevent things like alcohol and fentanyl initiation in youths.</p> <p>First Selectman Rudy Marconi asked that as we begin to implement various programs and efforts across the state, what is the estimate of a timeline to be able to measure whether they're having an effect or not? Dr. Fiellin stated that it depends exactly on which intervention is being studied, as some of them will have a timeline of 5 – 10 years and others could have a much more immediate impact.</p> <p>First Selectman Rudy Marconi asked if the more aggressive distribution of naloxone is attributable to the plateauing that we're seeing in deaths and Dr. Fiellin believes that it is, and that the state and the state agencies should be commended for their work over the last 5 – 10 years. Studies have shown that the provision of naloxone demonstrates that it is among the most impactful interventions that we could make to save lives, and then we pair that with matching individuals to treatment, which can reduce risk for death by 50%.</p>	
<b>Treatment Funding Recommendation for Committee Vote</b>	<p>Nancy Navarretta, Commissioner, DMHAS presented the Treatment Funding Recommendation for Committee Vote:</p> <p>Mobile OTP's allow for easier access to medications for Opioid Use Disorder and can be placed in convenient locations across the State. This is a proposal to fund 2 mobile units across the state, utilizing data to assess underserved locations in CT. Based on analysis performed by Yale/Virginia Tech team (Dr. Howell, Dr. Kim, et al) on drive time and access to current OTP's, this proposal is to establish units in 2 of these geographical areas: Northeast, Northwest, Southeast, or Central CT. These Mobile</p>	Committee Vote

Topic	Discussion	Action
	<p>OTP's will be able to serve individuals in remote locations of the state as well as residential settings such as long term and skilled nursing facilities.</p> <p>The anticipated cost for each Mobile OTP project would include start-up and operating costs for a three year project period. The start up cost includes the purchase of a mobile unit. The ongoing operating cost must include a minimum of two staff at all times (nursing and recovery coaching) and ensure all regulatory requirements are met.</p> <p>This recommendation has been passed through the subcommittee process and fits in to our number one priority that is in the CORE Report. It is an evidence based practice and a pilot of sorts. It will be two fully operational vans connected to brick and mortar, so it will be a local rollout wherever the RFP is awarded. It is an allowable strategy and will be up to \$4m for three years. The van, the services, and evaluation in terms of sustainability will have a piece that is billable, so this will give us time to evaluate the recommendation.</p> <p>The roll call for votes was called by Melanie Richard, DMHAS, and the voting members of the Opioid Settlement Advisory Committee voted in support of this recommendation, making it the second recommendation that has been approved by the Committee. The first recommendation was hard reduction supplies.</p> <p>Commissioner Navarretta thanked everyone for their hard work, research, and consultation with the content experts. This recommendation will be different as an RFP is involved, so it will take longer, but it creates a fair, transparent, and equitable process for people to apply for this award.</p>	
<p><b>Subcommittee Updates</b></p>	<p><b>Referral: First Selectman Rudy Marconi</b></p> <p>The Referral Subcommittee is waiting to discuss a recommendation brought forward from the ADPC Criminal Justice Subcommittee but will be working on that when it comes forward. There is also a DOC recommendation that will be reviewed by this Subcommittee at their meeting on April 1<sup>st</sup>, 2024.</p> <p><b>Research and Data: Luiza Barnat on behalf of Dr. Srinivas Muvvala</b></p> <p>This subcommittee has continued to meet monthly and review the recommendations received from the referral and other subcommittees. The subcommittee last met on February 9<sup>th</sup> and reviewed and approved the recommendation for the Mobile Opioid Treatment Program (OTP). We did emphasize the need for program evaluation to assess the effectiveness of this program as it is implemented and we will continue to help with the recommendation review process.</p> <p>This group wants to thank Dr. Fiellin and the group for drafting the CORE Report and will review it in further detail in our upcoming meetings and use it as a guide as we review and evaluate programs that come up.</p> <p><b>Finance and Compliance: Representative Toni Walker</b></p> <p>This subcommittee reviewed the OTP van recommendation and would like a way to be more involved in the other subcommittees discussions going forward for future recommendations.</p>	<p>Informational</p>
<p><b>Next Steps</b></p>	<p>The next OSAC meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, May 14<sup>th</sup> from 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.</p>	<p>Informational</p>

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	The subcommittees will continue meeting to review the recommendation submissions.	

**NEXT MEETING** – Tuesday, May 14<sup>th</sup>, 2024 Video Conference Call through Teams

**ADJOURNMENT** – March 12<sup>th</sup>, 2024 meeting of the Opioid Settlement Advisory Committee adjourned at 11:40 a.m.