

OPIOID SETTLEMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE (OSAC)
Meeting of Wednesday, March 14, 2023
Teams Virtual Meeting
10:00 a.m.

ATTENDANCE

Members/Designees: Nancy Navarretta, Commissioner, DMHAS; Mayor Neil O’Leary, Waterbury; William Tong, Attorney General, AGO; Manisha Juthani, Commissioner, DPH; Vanessa Dorantes, Commissioner, DCF; Jennifer Kolakowski, Shayne Ember, Dr. Srinivas Muvvala; Judy Dowd, OPM; Timothy Birch, AGO; Susan Campion; Kimberly Grove; Liz Fitzgerald; Kyle Zimmer; Lisa Deane; Senator Cathy Osten; Representative Toni Walker; Mayor Luke Bronin, Hartford; Mayor Elinor Carbone, Torrington; Dr. Mehul Dalal; Mayor Thomas Dunn, Wolcott; Bridget Fox; First Selectwoman Tracey Hanson, Voluntown; Paul Januszewski; First Selectman Rudy Marconi, Ridgefield; Mayor Lisa Marotta, Rocky Hill; Jeanne Milstein; First Selectwoman Maureen Nicholson, Pomfret; Ebony Jackson-Shaheed; Dawn Niles; Erica Teixeira; Russell Melmed; Pareesa Charmchi-Goodwin; Donna Culbert; John Lally; Christine Gagnon; Kennard Ray, Jody Terranova, Deputy Commissioner, DPH

Visitors/Presenters: Katherine Ramos; Luiza Barnat; Keith Radziwon; Christopher McClure; Christy Knowles; Sandra Violette; Sarju Shah; Diana Shaw; Mike Starkowski; PJ Cimini; Andrew Brown; Mike T.; Ryan; Ana Gopoiar; William J. Gardner; Ciarra Lofstrom; Rosalyn Liss; Colleen Harrington; Shauna Pangilinan; Katherine Hart; David Fiellin; Kimberly Haugabook; Kelly Ramsey-Fuhlbridge; Kimberly Karanda; Danielle Ebrahimi; Arthur Mongillo; Matthew Fitzsimmons; Elizabeth Benton; Sara Nadim; Angela Duhaime; Evan Dantos; Colleen Violette; Kris Robles; Deborah Lake; Allison Fulton; Divik Verma; Emma Biegacki; Cara Passaro; Mary-Kate Mason; Brian Kiluk; Maria Coutant Skinner; Lisa (Guest); Kelley Edwards; John Simoncelli; Ginger Katz; Giovanna Mozzo; Cristin McCarthy Vahey; Rianne; Robin Deutsch, MD; Nicole Hampton; Robert Heimer; Benjamin Howell; Elsa Ward; Roland Harmon; Joe Lindbeck; Ken Przybysz; Allyson Nadeau; Nicole Hampton

Recorder: Melanie Richard

The March 14th, 2023 meeting of the Opioid Settlement Advisory Committee (OSCA) was called to order at 10:00 a.m. by Commissioner Nancy Navarretta, DMHAS. The meeting was co-chaired by Mayor Neil O’Leary, Waterbury.

Topic	Discussion	Action
Welcome and Meeting Guidelines	Commissioner Navarretta welcomed all in attendance. Mayor O’Leary reviewed the meeting guidelines.	Noted
Welcome and Remarks by Attorney General Tong	Commissioner Navarretta introduced Attorney General Tong. Attorney General Tong thanked those in participation of the important work of the Opioid Advisory Settlement Committee, thanking the Legislature, the members, and the towns and cities of the state. He stated that the office of the Attorney General will be present for all future meetings in support of this work.	Informational
Overview of Agenda and Introduction of Committee Members	Commissioner Navarretta and the members of the Committee introduced themselves.	Noted
Overview of the Opioid Settlements and Anticipated Settlement Amounts	<p>Commissioner Navarretta provided the following information:</p> <p>Overview of Opioid Settlements:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Connecticut has been a leader in ongoing multistate lawsuits to hold the entire addiction industry accountable. • Connecticut could receive well above \$500 million over the next eighteen years through the settlements. • The municipalities are receiving 15% of the settlement funds directly. <p>Connecticut has been a leader in these lawsuits to hold the addiction industry accountable in this crisis. Efforts to date have secured over \$40 billion to states nationwide to fight this epidemic. The number varies, but Connecticut could see between \$500-600 million dollars over the next 18 years through the settlements. Municipalities have been receiving funds already, but those allocations are not under the purview of this Committee, Those allocations go to the municipalities directly, so please reach out to your town or mayor of your municipality to find out that information. We certainly encourage communication with municipalities and we are here to consult, guide, and offer suggestions.</p>	Informational

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	<p>Anticipated Settlement Amounts:</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="499 186 1428 495"> <thead> <tr> <th>Settling Party</th> <th>Amount Possible</th> <th>Amount Received to Date</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Endo</td> <td>\$ 6,000,000.00</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Allergan</td> <td>\$ 28,000,000.00</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Teva</td> <td>\$ 47,000,000.00</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Purdue Pharma & Sackler Family</td> <td>--</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Johnson & Johnson</td> <td>\$ 59,000,000.00</td> <td>\$ 36,408,089</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Distributors</td> <td>\$ 240,000,000.00</td> <td>\$ 22,186,374</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Mallinckrodt</td> <td>\$ 13,900,000.00</td> <td>\$ 1,990,628</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Walmart</td> <td>\$ 45,000,000.00</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Walgreens</td> <td>\$ 67,000,000.00</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>CVS</td> <td>\$ 62,000,000.00</td> <td></td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>This shows the possible amounts provided by the settlement, as funds cannot be counted until officially received, but this is an overview of what the money could look like for the state of Connecticut. If you notice, Purdue Pharma and the Sackler Family have no amounts listed there because Purdue has filed for bankruptcy and the Sackler Family have vowed to take this settlement to the Supreme Court, so that field is not populated.</p> <p>On the right hand side of the chart, that is the money that has been received to date, which is about \$60 million dollars, which is the purview of this group. This does not include the dollars that have gone directly to the municipalities, and it is over the course of 18 years, so we will take that into account as we plan on how to spend the dollars.</p> <p>Questions: Representative Toni Walker: Do we coordinate with municipalities in future plannings? They have their specific amount that's allocated to them but it is not designated specifically. Do we coordinate with them so we don't duplicate? Do we communicate with them in any way to receive information on what they're using the money for?</p> <p>Commissioner Navarretta responded with today there is not legislation for anything required from the municipalities. I strongly encourage that and we do have municipalities on the call with us today, and I encourage them to reach out to us so that we do not duplicate what they are already doing. Nothing is mandated for the 15%,</p>	Settling Party	Amount Possible	Amount Received to Date	Endo	\$ 6,000,000.00		Allergan	\$ 28,000,000.00		Teva	\$ 47,000,000.00		Purdue Pharma & Sackler Family	--		Johnson & Johnson	\$ 59,000,000.00	\$ 36,408,089	Distributors	\$ 240,000,000.00	\$ 22,186,374	Mallinckrodt	\$ 13,900,000.00	\$ 1,990,628	Walmart	\$ 45,000,000.00		Walgreens	\$ 67,000,000.00		CVS	\$ 62,000,000.00		
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<p>Overview of Connecticut Legislation</p>	<p>Connecticut Legislation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An Act Implementing the Governor's Budget Recommendations Regarding the Use of Opioid Litigation Proceeds (PA 22-48) • Establishes the Opioid Settlement Advisory Committee (OSCA) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Opioid Settlement Advisory Committee consisting of 37 members. - Abatement strategies must be "evidence-based" to effectively guide the Committees decision making. - Harm reduction, prevention, treatment, and recovery supports. • Charge of the Committee Investment plan and maintain transparency in the use of all settlement funds <p>The act that implemented this group is attached to the agenda. It establishes this Committee, and we are 37 members strong, as Attorney General Tong mentioned. The strategies must be evidence based to effectively guide the committee's decision making in the areas of harm reduction, prevention, treatment, and recovery supports. We are charged with a plan that maintains transparency in the use of all settlement funds, which includes setting up a website. You may also hear us refer to something</p>	<p>Informational</p>																																	

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<p>Opioid Settlement Advisory Committee Support</p>	<p>called Exhibit E, which lists out all of the items that fall under remediation. It will be up to this group to develop and document the administrative, fiscal, and accounting processes.</p> <p>Introduction of Katherine (Katie) Ramos, the Opioid Settlement Committee Administrator for the Opioid Settlement Advisory Committee.</p> <p>Her role is to assist the committee members with its functions and plannings, to ensure it has robust public involvement, accountability, and transparency. To ensure this is accomplished, the committee will have a designated website where the meeting agendas, minutes, records of votes, approval of monies for expenditures from the settlement fund, reports, policies, and procedures approved by the committee, as well as the committee's annual report will all be published to ensure compliance with the legislation.</p> <p>In anticipation of this meeting, we have observed other states utilizing an embedded, time limited portal for feedback. We did receive positive reports that it was a good way for the committee to receive recommendations or funding for remediation projects. This might be an option that this committee may like to utilize and if so, then we will incorporate this portal in our website.</p> <p>In regards to meeting requirements, per the legislation, we are required to hold quarterly meetings. With so much work to do, we are proposing that we meet more frequently and suggest bi-weekly meetings. At this time, Co-Chair Mayor O'Leary will make a motion for a monthly meeting.</p> <p>Motion: So moved by Rudy Marconi; Second by Representative Toni Walker No further discussion, no abstentions or oppositions.</p>	<p>Informational Motion Approved</p>
<p>Needs Assessment</p>	<p>Connecticut Opioid Response Report (CORE Report)</p> <p>In preparation of this meeting, we have called upon Dr. David Fiellin and his team at the Yale School of Medicine to update the CORE Report. It was developed in 2016 in response to the rise of opioid overdose deaths, and it is a comprehensive plan to provide data driven, strategic planning information. It was used to inform and align statewide strategies with the mission to decrease the adverse impact of opioids with an immediate emphasis on reducing overdose mortality.</p> <p>The purpose of revising this report is to focus on maximizing return on investment with respect to lives saved, endorsing funding of specific activities that have strong scientific support, and to address areas which could be strengthened in Connecticut's response to the opioid epidemic. At the time the original CORE report was developed, Connecticut had fewer than 1,000 overdose deaths. The latest data from calendar year 2012 from the Office of the Chief Medical Examiner (OCME) shows projections that fatal drug overdoses in Connecticut now claim over 1,400 lives per year.</p> <p>Dr. David Fiellin introduced himself. He is a practicing primary care physician addiction medicine specialist and he has been working in the field of opioid use disorder, treatment, and research since 1997. He believes this is a wonderful opportunity to review the existing epidemiology to work with state agencies, the ADPC, local and national experts, and to align the recommendations in respect to funding with those principles that have been identified, not only in Exhibit E, but also with national and international organizations.</p> <p>The documents and the CORE Report are available on the website for members to access.</p> <p>Questions and Discussion:</p>	<p>Informational</p>

Topic	Discussion	Action
	<p>Senator Cathy Osten: Were the small municipalities looked at in this report? I've gotten a number of calls from them that are getting payments from the Opioid Settlement directly into the municipalities and some of them are 2,000 – 3,000 people, and they are getting a large amount of money but are not really prepared with ideas on how to spend the money. I was wondering, if in your assessment, based on the dollars that are received, is there any way that we could come up with a list of things that smaller communities could take advantage of that would make an impact?</p> <p>Dr. Fiellin: The report that is being referenced is work that we conducted in 2016, and I think that given the items that we identified in 2016, many of them remain relevant. The rise in fentanyl and poly-substance use has changed the epidemic a bit, but nonetheless, the recommendations that we made in 2016 are still relevant to those municipalities and quite frankly contain straightforward things like expanding access to naloxone, addressing stigma, expanding access to the most effective treatments such as medications based treatments and improving the use of data systems. The recommendations that we will make will be relevant to the smaller municipalities as well as recognize that the majority of deaths that we are seeing are in the larger urban areas.</p> <p>Senator Cathy Osten: Correct but they do have direct dollars so I think that one of the things that we may want to think about is suggestions on how these dollars can be spent. Working with the senior population in smaller communities and what's going on with their medications, I just want to build off of the report that you have done and find a way to target the municipal spending structures that have been put in place by the lawsuit and figure out what we can make as recommendations in those smaller communities of which we have a hundred or more of them. Maybe they work collaboratively with other towns, etc.</p> <p>Commissioner Navarretta: We have content experts in prevention, treatment, recovery supports. We also have access to the ADPC, which I co-chair with Commissioner Dorantes, and we have content experts in each one of those subcommittees as well. If there is a particular municipality, whatever size, that you would like to connect with me or my team, if they brainstorm or have an area or idea where they would like to spend money, we can certainly work with that group to hone that recommendation or to tell you specifically what we're doing in that area that may be duplicative or not duplicative.</p> <p>Senator Osten: One of the things that we may want to consider is that we work with the council of governments where you can meet with 20-40 municipalities at a time, and get the ideas across at a time. Mayor O'Leary also suggested to explore using are regional COGS to help our smaller communities that are anxious to make a difference.</p> <p>Commissioner Navarretta wanted to mention the ADPC again before the group moved on. The ADPC has been in existence for many years now. It was reconvened under Governor Malloy and suggested we think about how we can use their expertise because they have a number of subcommittees that have already been formed.</p>	
<p>Suggested Subcommittees</p>	<p>Katie Ramos: The committee may want to consider some of the suggested sub-committees as a place to start because we want to make sure that the committee is fiscally responsible, that it's developing and determining a process for the allocations of the dollars, as well as evaluating and determined the effectiveness of what we're investing in. Commissioner Navarretta noted that it would be important for this group to link with the Alcohol and Drug Policy Council (ADPC) because there may be sub-committees there that would be helpful and exist already. That is for this group to determine, but there may be a way for us to embed a person on those existing sub-committees. All of the content experts in prevention, treatment, and recovery supports, as well as one on criminal justice, are already convening under the ADPC.</p> <p>We will compile the volunteers for each sub-committee and it will be on a first come, first served basis. Please email Katie Ramos to volunteer for a sub-committee so that we may have that list for the next meeting.</p>	<p>Informational Motions Approved</p>

Topic	Discussion	Action
	<p>Motions:</p> <p>It is proposed that we make a motion for the first subcommittee which will be time limited to establish a process for receipt of recommendations and subsequent awarding of funds</p> <p>So moved, Vannessa Dorantes; Second, Russell Melmed No further discussion, no abstentions or oppositions – so moved.</p> <p>It is proposed that with the assistance of the Attorney General's office and the Office of Policy and Management that we make a motion to establish a finance and compliance subcommittee.</p> <p>So moved, Tim Birch; Second, Dawn Niles No further discussion, no abstentions or oppositions - so moved.</p> <p>It is proposed that we make a motion to establish a subcommittee for research and evaluation.</p> <p>So moved, Tim Birch; Second, Pareesa Charmchi-Goodwin No further discussion, no abstentions or oppositions - so moved.</p> <p>We would like to identify chairs and co-chairs for the subcommittees that have been approved, as well as bylaws for the committee. We would be looking for volunteers to help with that development, so this would be another opportunity if someone was not able to join a working group. We would also need a group to develop public participation guidelines.</p>	
<p>Other Business/ Discussion</p>	<p>The next meeting will be Tuesday, May 9th from 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. via Teams, as the group has agreed to meet bi-monthly.</p> <p>Further Discussion Regarding Subcommittees:</p> <p>Susan Campion: In our role as the authorized by statute provider, specialized treatment for opioid misuse, I wonder if we might liaison with some representatives from the state's medical society because we work with them in terms of early intervention and prevention. Doctors are extremely busy, as we know, but I think in terms of the public participation or expert participation, we have found them to be a key asset and ally, especially when it comes to intervening with folks with early onset signs of dependence. I would just like to put that out there.</p> <p>Commissioner Navarretta: We will be keeping minutes of this meeting and also posting those minutes. There will be a lot that happens in the course of each meeting, and as you said in terms of public participation or guideline development that will be a good group to keep on our list, so thank you Susan.</p> <p>John Lally: House Bill 5044 – in section 2, paragraph c, it refers to alternate funding or an alternate account if they're inconsistent with what the bill already says. What does that mean in regards to an alternate account?</p> <p>Commissioner Navarretta: I think lessons learned from past experience was to keep this money separate so that it doesn't get drained for other uses. The intent was to create a separate line so that the finance sub-committee can track exactly what is being allocated and spent, as well as full transparency that cannot tap into that account for any other reason.</p> <p>John Lally: Need clarification on the part where it says 'may deposit monies into another fund' – what alternate fund would that</p>	<p>Noted</p>

Topic	Discussion	Action
	<p>be? Is it something different than the fund the Bill already determined for our purposes?</p> <p>Commissioner Navarretta: In order to clarify, would like OPM's representative Judy Dowd, or DMHAS COS Chris McClure, or someone from the Attorney General's office to comment on that.</p> <p>Chris McClure: Some of these accounts have different reporting requirements and different use requirements. We have the large Opioid Settlement fund, but we may have different accounts within that to house the dollars because they have different requirements. This way we can fulfill reporting requirements down to the penny so that it wouldn't get co-mingled with the other funds in the larger account. But maybe Matt Fitzsimmons has a better explanation.</p> <p>Matt Fitzsimmons: I think that Chris is correct – the bankruptcies have slightly different requirements to that money that doesn't go directly to cities and towns but that the committee needs to have spent that have different reporting requirements online where that specific money went – I'm not sure of the intention of the legislature itself, but requirements of the different settlements requires some different tracking.</p>	

NEXT MEETING – Tuesday, May 9th, 2023, Video Conference Call through Teams

ADJOURNMENT – March 14th, 2023 meeting of the Opioid Settlement Advisory Committee adjourned at 11:25 a.m.