

**OPIOID SETTLEMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE (OSAC)**  
**Meeting of Tuesday, September 12<sup>th</sup>, 2023**  
**Teams Virtual Meeting**  
**10:00 a.m.**

**ATTENDANCE**

**Members/Designees:** Nancy Navarretta, Commissioner, DMHAS; Jody Terranova, Deputy Commissioner, DPH; Francis Gregory, DCF, Jennifer Kolakowski, Dr. Srinivas Muvvala; Judy Dowd, OPM; Timothy Birch, AGO; Susan Campion; Kimberly Grove; Lisa Deane; Senator Cathy Osten; Representative Toni Walker, Hartford; Mayor Elinor Carbone, Torrington; Dr. Mehul Dalal; Bridget Fox; 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; Ebony Jackson-Shaheed; Dawn Niles; Erica Teixeira; Russell Melmed; Pareesa Charmchi-Goodwin; Donna Culbert; John Lally; Christine Gagnon; Patrick McCormack, Christian Spencer, Amy Bethge, Erica Teixeira, Martiza Bond, Maggie Young

**Visitors/Presenters:** Katherine Ramos; Luiza Barnat; Keith Radziwon; Christopher McClure; CT-N, Kris Robles, Nita Asani, Arthur Mongillo, Danielle Ebrahimi, Robert Heimer, Ana Gopoiian, Donna Culbert, Megan Massa, Matthew Fitzsimmons, AGO, Dr. David Fiellin, Jennifer Buckley, Christy Knowles, Sara Nadim, Justin Mehl, Emma Biegacki, Myrna Watanabe; Kimberly Karanda, Christine Hauser, Kelly Ramsey-Fuhlbrigge, Leonardo Ghio, Jessica Simone, Colleen Violette, Demetria Nelson, Andressa Granado, Gary Roberge, Nicole Tomasetti, Brian Sullivan, Sujata Srinivasan, Sarju Shah, Andrew Brown, Mike Smith

**Recorder:** Melanie Richard

The September 12<sup>th</sup>, 2023 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, following new legislation that was passed to add additional members:  Jody Terranova, Department of Public Health Commissioner Designee Christian Spencer, Senate Minority Designee Senator Saud Anwar, Public Health Committee Chair Representative Cristin McCarthy Vahey, Public Health Committee Co-Chair Martiza Bond, New Haven Municipal Representative Patrick McCormack, Uncas Health District Municipal Representative Amy Bethge, New Milford Municipal Representative Maggie Young, Individual with experience supporting infants and children affected by the opioid crisis Megan Smith, Individual with experience supporting infants and children affected by the opioid crisis	Noted
<b>Review and Approval of Minutes</b>	Minutes approval from July 11th, 2023 meeting – moved by Tim Birch, seconded by Representative Toni Walker  No further discussion, minutes approved	Informational
<b>Public Comment</b>	Will be at the beginning of each meeting so that members of the public have an opportunity to comment on this process or on items on the agenda. Members of the public will be asked to use the “raise your hand” function of Teams and will have three minutes to speak. It will be done on a first come, first served basis.  No public comment.	Informational

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<p><b>CORE Report Update / Discussion</b></p>	<p>We have contracted with Dr. David Fiellin and his research team from Yale to update the CORE Report. The initial CORE Report was commissioned under our previous Governor, Dannel Malloy, as the opioid crisis was becoming increasingly worse. As that was several years ago, we thought it would help our work if we were able to get an update to that report. Today's report is a draft, and Dr. Fiellin and his team will report out as to where they are as of today, September 12<sup>th</sup>, 2023 and it will be open for public comment.</p> <p>Please click <a href="#">here</a> for the 2023 CORE Report (DRAFT).</p> <p>Please click <a href="#">here</a> for the 2023 CORE Report (DRAFT Summary) presented by Dr. David Fiellin.</p> <p>Please click <a href="#">here</a> for the link for public comment.</p> <p>Questions and Comments:</p> <p>Jeanne Milstein: There were a couple of things that I wanted to highlight that I wanted to thank you for emphasizing which were harm reduction and harm reduction centers, assistance with housing, access to mental health services, childcare jobs, and having trusted people in the community to help people access these services on site and with transportation.</p> <p>Representative Walker: I think a lot of the things that you've identified are really critical, but we also need to know where the "deserts" are in Connecticut and where are over-supplying certain services. Do we have those in Connecticut so that we can try and get a balance on if we're going to increase funding in any of those areas? Having an inventory or an idea of where the needs are in the state would be beneficial. It would also be helpful to know which priorities are the immediate or low hanging fruit versus the ones that have to be a little bit more long term.</p> <p>If that can come out of your discussions, that would help us in the Finance Committee as we start to look at the distributions and the dollars that will come out of the process that we have from the other committees.</p> <p>Dr. Fiellin: In the 2016 document, we actually did a mapping exercise where we looked at where the opioid overdose deaths were occurring and their proximity to treatment services. That highlighted this issue of the need for additional services in specific locations. We can consider the opportunity if we have the data to do that again in our follow up report, with a note that a majority of overdose deaths are occurring in our large urban centers and it would be difficult for New Haven, Bridgeport, and Waterbury where the bulk of those deaths are taking place.</p> <p>Commissioner Navarretta: This is establishing a road map for us so I would encourage people to reach this document as we continue to figure out this process. Katie Ramos will go into more detail, as well as some of the subcommittees, as to how we're going to open this up for public comment in terms of getting recommendations. There will be an ability for people to comment and put forward ideas and how we do that in terms of implementation could take many forms.</p> <p>This may be sole sourcing with an entity, an RFP so that we do our due diligence in terms of looking at the data, and whatever the group decides they want to do so that there are ways of shaping where the services are delivered. It would be all part of that schematic that we've shared with the group in terms of what the process is going to be going forward.</p>	<p>Informational</p>

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	<p>John Lally: I would like to speak to the specific point of harm reduction sites, and specifically safe consumption sites. I know that there's a big barrier with going forward with that in Connecticut and that it has to do with federal legislation, but I think we need to find a way to advocate for changes in that law, even at the federal level, which would open up a lot more possibilities to us.</p> <p>Dr. Fiellin: We wanted to remain within the scope of what was currently allowed and feasible in the state, but I'd be happy to have a sidebar conversation or a more detailed discussion with this group about the evidence and support of those types of interventions.</p> <p>Russell Melmed: We're thinking about of funding that should be allocated to certain buckets and primary prevention is one of those sticky points. I know that you mentioned rigorous evaluation of things like age of initiation and how that impacts future use of opioids, and I'm wondering if the CORE Report may include some examples of where this evaluation is currently occurring. We have a generation worth of funding coming with the Opioid Settlement Funds and long term perspective evaluations over the 18 years are something that I think we need to consider.</p> <p>Dr. Fiellin: I think that most of the rigorous evaluation is coming from the National Institute on Drug Abuse, specifically a federal initiative that started around five years ago called the HEAL initiative, or the Helping End Addiction Long Term initiative. They have a prevention component that includes an array of interventions that are currently being evaluated and we have strong connections to those individuals and programs. We can provide insight into what they are learning but unfortunately the opioid issue came at us much faster than the evidence did. Most of our prevention efforts for youth are focused on cigarettes, alcohol, cannabis, and specific opioid focused interventions.</p> <p>That's why we call on this parallel evaluation to make sure that the dollars that we're spending are producing the results we need to prevent initiation in youth.</p> <p>First Selectman Rudy Marconi: One of the things we look at on a regional basis is the Office of the Medical Examiner and the toxicology reports that come out and identify not only the place of overdose, but also residents, and that a lot of the people that do in fact overdose are in the urban areas coming in from the suburban areas. How relevant is that to our work going forward and do we not only look at those urban areas, but into the suburban parts of our state as well?</p> <p>Dr. Fiellin: I think we need a treatment system that is expansive, not just focused on the urban settings. An individual in a suburban or rural setting should have the opportunity to receive treatment in their local environment and not have to travel. We should think about ways through training, mentorship, support, and perhaps even through telehealth to provide these services, especially to jurisdictions that are more suburban and rural.</p>	
<p><b>Subcommittee Updates</b></p>	<p><b>Time Limited Process: Jeanne Milstein</b></p> <p>As you may recall, the new legislation that was passed this year requires that municipalities report on the use of the settlement funds and they report to the Opioid Settlement Advisory Committee. Any municipality that receives monies directly from the settlement administrator provided this now pursuant to a judgment, consent decree, or settlement related to opioid litigation, shall submit a report to the Committee on or before October 1, 2023 and annually thereafter.</p> <p>Our sub-committee developed a form that is now online on the OSAC website under municipal reporting. We tried to make it as simple as possible, but want to get some good qualitative information, and not just quantitative information. These reports received will add value not only to our committee, but to our municipalities as well, as it will provide insight to what's doing what</p>	<p>Informational</p>

Topic	Discussion	Action
	<p>and how it all matches up. The reports will be received by October 1<sup>st</sup>, 2023 and will be posted to the DMHAS website, and then we can discuss them in more detail.</p> <p><b>Public Participation Guidelines: Dawn Niles</b></p> <p>Dawn Niles: Our sub-committee has decided that the best way to ensure good guidelines for public participation is through a portal link to receive input from diverse stakeholders regarding recommendations for funding. These would be individuals with lived experience, academic services providers, municipalities, policy makers, researchers, and son on. These recommendations would need to be evidence based or promising practice.</p> <p>The link to submit a funding recommendation will be found under how to make a funding request to OSAC and that will be located on the <a href="#">website</a>. The link will be active for a 30-day period from October 16, 2023 to November 16, 2023. To ensure an efficient review process, do not submit multiple submissions for the same recommendation. After submitting a recommendation, you will receive confirmation via email acknowledging receipt of your recommendation. OSAC will follow the guidelines for processing recommendations, but please note that submitting a recommendation does not guarantee funding.</p> <p>Representative Walker: The recommendations that people make will be evaluated by the Committee or the Public Participation Sub-Committee. Who will be evaluating the submissions and then where do these submissions then filter down to funding?</p> <p>Commissioner Navarretta: In a previous meeting, we provided a graphic that showed the process in its entirety. The recommendations will first go to the Referral Sub-Committee to sort through them and put them into buckets, and then those will be forwarded to the Research Sub-Committee to see if they are evident based and something that needs an evaluation. It will then be referred to the Finance Committee to see if it's an allowable expenditure.</p> <p><b>Research and Data: Dr. Srinivas Muvvala</b></p> <p>Dr. Srinivas Muvvala: This sub-committee has met twice since the last OSAC meeting and we continue to review opioid and other drug use, as well as overdose data in Connecticut, which is mainly provided to us by our colleagues at the Department of Public Health.</p> <p>We have also reviewed evidence-based prevention and treatment strategies. Our committee does not have a specific report out today, as we are awaiting the recommendations for us to evaluation and provide feedback on. We will review the CORE report in our next meeting, and will use it as a framework for our reviews and evaluations.</p> <p><b>Finance and Compliance: Representative Toni Walker</b></p> <p>Representative Toni Walker: This sub-committee is still developing and trying to listen to other sub-committees as we start the process of reviewing the submissions and recommendations. We will become a lot more transparent in what we are going to be doing as we hear from the other sub-committees and see some of the things evolve.</p> <p>The CORE report will help us, but our next meeting will be more substantive because we'll have gotten a better idea now on some of the things that we have to do, and we'll have to break up how we're going to do distributions to different, specific areas.</p>	

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	<p><b>Referral: First Selectman Rudy Marconi</b></p> <p>First Selectman Rudy Marconi: The sub-committee has developed a form that will be made available for incoming information. We felt that it was critical that people identify as to the type of organization, as well as whether than an agency or municipality. Also included on the form, we've asked that the identify if they are a profit or non-profit entity, which will be important as we begin reviewing submittals.</p> <p>If anyone has any other ideas or thoughts in this form that you feel is critical that we need to collect initially, please provide that feedback. As the information comes in, we will break it down into harm reduction, prevention, treatment, or recovery in the ADP for discussions. The recommendation will be reviewed, discussed, and decided whether it should move forward to the Referral sub-committee, and then pass it on if it's approved.</p>	
<p><b>Committee Comment / Discussion</b></p>	<p>First Selectman Rudy Marconi: Is the possibility of running through a trial with a couple of different ideas that someone may want to put into the system just to see how it works being thought of still? It may identify any weaknesses that exist, or any slowdowns.</p> <p>Commissioner Navarretta: Happy to entertain that, and maybe that is something that the Referral sub-committee can discuss at their next meeting and if in agreement, then we can do something that like with a noncontroversial project.</p> <p>No further questions or comments at this time.</p>	<p>Informational</p>
<p><b>Next Steps</b></p>	<p>Katie Ramos: We will be working on posting those municipality reports to the OSAC website, and we will be working on opening the link for the public to submit recommendations for funding. This will be advertised, and we will notify you all in advance. We will also be posting the instructions on how to submit a recommendation for funding in case there are any questions.</p> <p>The next OSAC meeting is Tuesday, November 14<sup>th</sup>, 2023 from 10:00 – 12:00 p.m. and it will be virtual as well. The Committee now has a designated email address which is <a href="mailto:osac@ct.gov">osac@ct.gov</a> which was utilized when we sent out the municipal notice, so we are accessing that. This email address will also be posted online. If you have any questions, you can reach out to me directly at <a href="mailto:Katherine.Ramos@ct.gov">Katherine.Ramos@ct.gov</a>.</p> <p>Any materials used today will be posted online and we will have further instructions regarding Dr. Fiellin's the portal to submit recommendations for the CORE Report.</p>	<p>Informational</p>

**NEXT MEETING** – Tuesday, November 14<sup>th</sup>, 2023, Video Conference Call through Teams

**ADJOURNMENT** – September 12<sup>th</sup>, 2023 meeting of the Opioid Settlement Advisory Committee adjourned at 11:15 a.m. Jeanne Milstein first motion to adjourn. Representative Toni Walker second motion to adjourn.