

Opioid Remediation Committee Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, April 6th, 2022

4:00 PM – 5:30 PM

SLC Staff Present: *Jana Blomberg, Patrick Boyle, Molly Cooper, Ashley Grimm, Mike Jugovich, Ross Litman, Kim Maki, Linnea Mirsch*

Members Present: *Greg Anderson, Katie Bauman, Laura Bennett, Joseph Bianco, Elisabeth Bilden, Heather Blue, Pat Conway, Melissa Dybvig, Beth Elstad, Jennifer Garbow, Brandon Hankey, Bryan Johnson, Sherry Johnson, Danielle Jones, Jessica McCarthy-Nickila, Jeff Polcher, Lisa Prusak, Susan Purchase, Verne Wagner*

Others Present: *Angela Theis*

Members Absent: *Branden Mattson, Allison Vanneste, Nick Campanario*

The Opioid Remediation Committee meeting began at 4:00 PM on Wednesday, April 6th, 2022. Director Mirsch had all the members introduce themselves before transitioning into an overview of the settlement but first highlighted that the goal was to hear from other partners before making decisions on how to utilize St. Louis County's (SLC) allocation. Despite SLC receiving the fifth largest share in the State of Minnesota, it is nowhere near enough money to fund the work that is already happening, which is not sufficient to get at root cause prevention or improve existing systems access. She reiterated that tough decisions would need to be made by this group so there is a call for transparency and best minds so that the best decisions can be made. She added that the Committee's role is advisory with recommendations going to the SLC County Board. Exact details are not yet available; however, it will be an 18-year payment cycle. More information will be coming very soon. The goal of this Committee is to figure out how to make the best recommendations about what to do with these additional funds to really make a difference.

The Association of MN Counties lead negotiations on behalf of the counties in the state of MN with the Attorney General's Office. Angela Theis, a policy analyst with the Association of MN Counties, stepped in for Nick Campanario who was unable to attend. Theis provided her background before moving into a high overview of the settlement.

They've been tracking the opioid settlement for a while and when it was announced they did a joint presentation with the Attorney General's Office and five days after the national settlement was announced which kicked off 120 window for states to opt into the national settlement. Over that time, the association of mn counties, after the state opted in, designated their leadership to participate in negotiations alongside a few other individuals. Tried to get counties as much as would be helpful. In MN we had 35 counties that entered individually into litigation. As a part of the memorandum of agreement for the states that entered it, they can determine how those dollars are spent and allocated between systems. 75% of funding goes to counties with a caveat of having to pass legislation and the other 25% will go the state to be administered by Opioid Epidemic Response Advisory Council (OERAC). This model was decided upon based on the experiences of Colorado and North Carolina. County government and providers are the front line and want to make sure that county resources have to do remediation, abatement, harm reduction and ideally get up into prevention.

Linnea pointed out Appendix A outlines the uses which will be helpful as we move forward and really important to orient yourselves to. A payment schedule was also included but holding on numbers until they are final but it is around \$10.5 Million over an 18 year period, and it is front loaded. All three companies have s-growed payment one and looking to make payment two during this year as well. Angie added the 75/25 is reliant on legislation which is being fast tracked and funds can be release almost immediately. Ref - SF4025

Money doesn't need to get out the door immediately so take the time you need. In addition there are obnoxious bills which are moving and are specific to the reporting. Session ends may 23, so clarity in next 7 weeks. Tribal nations, have their own settlement so there will be a need to coordinate.

Q & A

Greg Anderson – In relationship to allocation & tracking, he hopes the department of phhs is not responsible as historically this has been nightmareish. Closer accountability and oversight if they are apart of it. Linnea said there is a lot to build on there is a lot more to come as these things become more clear.

Verne Wagner – Clarified our share. In the range of 10.5 million but there have been a lot of changes so it is not final. Not enough money but it's an opportunity.

Ross Litman – Can someone elaborate on them being front end loaded and the term where it is available...18 years with 3-5 years being front loaded and then they are evened out. 2-3 additional settlements that have yet to reach agreement. Additional funding may be there but for planning purposes is the amount release by the AG. His perspective, if they could see what that looks like over the 108 years, it would help guide them. Linnea agreed and felt that would be coming soon.

Linnea feels the hardest work will be deciding where to invest the money, regardless of the amount. Try to wrap head around without the specifics.

Joe Bianco – any Diversity and inclusion stipulations with this money? Settlement does not have specific parameters to cultural responsive programming. The states funding does have specific parameters.

Questions can be sent to linnea or molly.

Janas presentation

Discuss proposed meeting schedule for 2022

Colorado Blueprint – four categories – really loved them and felt they were a good representation of the work already being done in SLC. Also allow us to hit the ground running since the systems and work are already in place.

Survey – had people take hypothetical amounts to allocate funds into specific categories (community needs) – Just examples to spark ideas and conversations. Commitment to use everything that has been done and perspectives and wisdom to move towards decisions and a consensus level.

Results – broke out the results based off of the categories of the experts. The clean visual would be great to recreate for SLC.

QUESTIONS: Ashley Grimm – what most comparable community needs assessment that has been done? Anything comparable to what we are doing? Linnea – hoping to capture here is more of a meta analysis, more data will come next month but the goal is to not recreate and bring to gether all dat and perspectives. This is a way to do that. Not one single data sources that would point us here.

Linnea – Jess’s perspective -use the experiences of people who have lived this experience as well as professionals.

Verne Wagn – Concerned about, Colorado did a great job but as we do a survey with the ocommuny or business we are dealing with, at this for a numbe of years so we should be able to get good results as to what the outcomes have been in the last four years. Example – treatment programs to see what is working, any reductions in addiction/arrests, since we have a limited amount of money, think we need to make sure we are very selective as to how we spend the money so it isn’t beign thrown away.

Next two meetings, not meeting in July or August.