



## Opioid Abuse Advisory Committee

**Meeting #19 Minutes**  
**Thursday, January 4, 2024**

**Virtual Meeting**

The 19<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Opioid Abuse Advisory Committee was called to order by Advisory Committee Chair Lori Martinec at 9:00 am CT. The following members of the Advisory Committee were in attendance: Becky Heisinger, Sara DeCoteau, Tiffany Wolfgang, Jill Franken, Jennifer Ball, Amy Hartman, Erin Miller, John Rounds, Brian Mueller, Charles McGuigan, Representative Taylor Rehfeldt, Kari Shanard-Koenders, Mary Beth Fishback, Jason Jones, and Jason Foote.

State and program staff in attendance included: Beth Dokken, Laura Streich, Mariah Pokorny, Kiley Hump, Melissa DeNoon, Amanda Weinzetl, Jennifer Humphrey, Michelle Worden, Randee Peterson, Shaina Smykle, Vanessa Barnes, and Rachel Oelmann and Tyler Franzky (contracted project supports from Sage Project Consultants, LLC).

Guests included: Matt Tribble (CDC Foundation); Sandra Melstad (SLM Consulting); Susan Puumala, Clara Pierskalla, and Minga Vargas (University of South Dakota); Michelle Hofer (SDAHO); Kendra Joswiak (Project Recovery); Angela Kennecke (Emily's Hope); and Staci Eagle Elk (Great Plains Tribal Leaders Health Board).

### **Minutes Approval**

Minutes from the August 2024 committee meeting were approved and published in the same month. Meeting slides, handouts, and other supporting materials presented are available at <https://doh.sd.gov/programs/avoid-opioid-prescription-addiction/prescription-opioid-abuse-prevention-initiative/>.

### **Welcome & Initial Comments**

Lori Martinec, Opioid Program Director, South Dakota Department of Health (DOH) and Committee Chair welcomed the Advisory Committee members and guests. Introductions followed.

### **Funding Updates**

DOH efforts were reported by Lori Martinec. The DOH Opioid Program is funded by the Centers for Disease Control, Overdose Data to Action in States Grant or OD2A-S Grant. DOH recently closed out the 4-year OD2A grant and are currently in year 1 of the OD2A-S grant, which started on September 1, 2023. This is a 5-year grant with an annual application process. OD2A-S funds support seven different grant strategies for prevention and response to opioid use and misuse, with programs and activities classified as either surveillance or prevention. Funds used for surveillance personnel, services and supplies make up about 34% of the overall grant funds awarded or \$816,393. Funds used for prevention personnel, services and supplies make up the remaining 66% of the overall grant funds awarded or \$1,606,210. The total award for OD2A-S is \$1,865,943 for Year 1.

Department of Social Services efforts were reported by Tiffany Wolfgang, Chief of Behavioral Health Services. The State Opioid Response grant funded by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) remains in place, currently in its third iteration (SOR 3) which began September 29, 2022. The next iteration of SOR funding, which runs on a two-year cycle, is forecasted to be released for states to apply in February 2024. Wolfgang relayed updates on utilization of the SOR dollars, including funding for initiatives such as recovery home expansion, peer coaching services, treatment supports, and prevention efforts.

### **2023 Annual Report Discussion**

Lori Martinec noted that the Annual Report is presented to the Joint Committee on Appropriations each year to provide a detailed account of how federal opioid funds from the past, current, and future year are being spent in South Dakota and how the use of funds impacts those affected by Opioid Use Disorder in terms of lives saved and expanded services. The report includes a budget breakdown by federal fiscal year, and a visual representation of how those funds supported prevention and early detection, response, treatment and recovery, data capacity, and administrative costs associated with both DOH and DSS-managed grant programs. The report is jointly prepared and presented to the Joint Committee on Appropriations by DOH and DSS. The most recent annual report was submitted on November 1, 2023, and presented to the Joint Committee on Appropriations on November 13th, 2023. The report provides a budget breakdown, by Federal Fiscal Year, and provides a visual representation of the different purposes that the state's Opioid funds have been allocated to for the past 3 years.

Martinec noted that this year the report included a series of "impact moments" to highlight successes realized by individuals who have received services through programs supported by federal opioid funding. It was further noted that this year's report included information on the statewide and localized shares for the Opioid Settlement Funds.

Martinec asked for any remaining questions; none were posed.

### **Opioid Settlement Fund Overview & Status Update**

Presented by Jennifer Humphrey, joined by guests Angela Kennecke (Emily's Hope) and Kendra Joswiak (Project Recovery), each joining to present on their recently awarded contracts to develop and pilot Opioid Overdose Follow-Up Programs in the state. Information on the settlements which South Dakota is party to in this regard is available at <https://dss.sd.gov/behavioralhealth/grantinfo.aspx>.

Humphrey reported information on the active and pending opioid settlement funds. Refer to slides for specific dollar amounts and pending distributions. There is currently no indication of when the pending distributions may be made available for use in the localized or statewide shares, pending the outcome of active lawsuits.

Humphrey discussed the difference between each of the five project areas currently funded by the statewide share. Two of the five areas were reported on: Opioid Overdose Follow-Up Program and the Community Grant Program. Each of these programs has its own budget authorized by the committee. DSS leveraged the state's Request For Proposal (RFP) process to solicit offerors for the Opioid Overdose Follow-Up Program. Three offers were received following this solicitation process, and two were recommended for funding based on the RFP criterion.

DSS developed an online application form and process for soliciting applications to the Community Grant Program, separate from the RFP process noted above. South Dakota-based organizations were welcome

to apply. It was permissible for the same organization to submit a RFP response for the Opioid Overdose Follow-Up Program, and to apply to the Community Grant Program for a different initiative.

Following review of the approved budgets for each of the five project areas currently funded by the statewide share, Humphrey introduced Angela Kennecke to introduce the project plan associated with the development of their opioid overdose follow-up program. Kendra Joswiak then discussed the project plan associated with Project Recovery's developing program. The overdose follow-up programs are intended for individuals who have been identified as having recently experienced an opioid or other drug overdose. The goal of this program is to provide needed support to help reduce the likelihood that these individuals will experience future drug overdoses and increase linkage to care. Project Recovery will serve Pennington, Meade, Custer, Butte, and Lawrence Counties. Emily's Hope will serve Lincoln and Minnehaha Counties.

Question posed by Tiffany Wolfgang: How well did community partners receive the outreach from Emily's Hope to engage in this project with them? Kennecke reported that there was very positive engagement from the health systems as well as from first responders, and that everyone they've connected with in preparation for this project has been receptive and eager to partner.

Becky Heisinger commented that her team at SDAHO is currently working to accomplish similar goals and noted that future partnerships between their organization and those providing direct services could be worthwhile.

Sara DeCoteau also commented that her team has been working on creating a community team to respond to overdose situations, because individuals often fear the consequences of law enforcement being involved.

Kari Shanard-Koenders posed a question: Is Project Recovery finding any issues with pharmacies carrying buprenorphine and other medications and keeping them readily available? Joswiak reported that access to the medication itself has not been an issue, but despite their intentional efforts at education, stigma is experienced by some of their clients when filling prescriptions. Joswiak advised their clients are encouraged to report such instances to their provider or care team at Project Recovery, who in turn take the opportunity to outreach that particular pharmacy or community partner to provide education on buprenorphine and its use and effectiveness. This outreach has yielded increased understanding among partners.

Angela Kennecke also commented that they look forward to partnering with Project Recovery and both organizations feel their connection will yield great benefit to each other's efforts.

Several committee members indicated their appreciation for these entities applying for the RFP and pursuing these pilot programs. These efforts represent the first of their kind to be deployed in South Dakota.

Humphrey then provided an overview of the SD Opioid Settlement Community Grant Program, another key initiative funded by the statewide share, funding approved for use at the August 2023 meeting. Comments made beyond the information in the slide deck included:

- The Community Grant Program budget was structured to support approximately \$300,000 to 350,000 in available funding for the Fall 2023 application cycle, and a similar amount is

estimated for the Spring 2024 application cycle. The final amount available for the Spring 2024 application cycle is contingent upon contract values established with the awardees selected for funding, noting some may decline the award or accept the terms and conditions of the contract.

- The original timeline projected for application posting, acceptance, review, scoring, and administrative management ended up being too aggressive; one month was simply not enough time. Adjustments will be made to the process overall to provide for faster notification of award in the upcoming grant cycle.
- Budget modifications were made to several awardees to align their scopes with the calendar year. Continuation funding past the original six-month funding period was requested by the applicants in both instances, and the review committee took that into account when assessing the applications.
- A Scoring Committee was formed to review the applications, including DSS, DOH and Advisory Committee representation. The primary drivers for scoring criterion were reviewed.
- There were twelve applications recommended for funding; a total of thirty-six applications were submitted. Six of the twelve projects are targeting prevention initiatives, with the balance targeting treatment initiatives.

The committee was encouraged to take a few moments to review the recommended applications. Following that time, Committee Chair Martinec asked for the committee members to consider best next steps and make a motion in that regard. One member indicated concern that it was difficult to react to any of the recommended projects at that moment and that more time would be appreciated to review and process the information. Following a short discussion, a motion was made by Becky Heisinger to delay making a formal recommendation on whether or not to support the scoring committee's decisions. No timeline was stipulated. The motion died due to lack of a second. A motion was then made by Jason Foote to move forward with the scoring committee recommendations for funding and to notify the applicants of the decisions made. Motion was seconded and passed by roll call vote. The DSS team will proceed with the notification and contract process.

Additional information was then shared on proposed next steps and decisions needed regarding the Settlement Fund. The current approved budget for funds already authorized for use by the Committee totals \$2,724,006. This total includes two distributions from the Distributor Settlement, and one distribution from the Mallinckrodt Settlement. Of that total, \$672,091 is available for the funding of the Overdose Follow-Up Program discussed. The remaining distributions for Distributor and Janssen Settlements remain pending due to ongoing litigation. Humphrey reviewed the second Mallinckrodt distribution received in 2023 not yet allocated to a budget area.

On the Mallinckrodt Settlement, South Dakota has received two distribution payments (1<sup>st</sup> - \$215,643 and 2<sup>nd</sup> - \$253,698). The Committee previously authorized use of the first distribution to support the Workwell Mental Health Grant managed by Department of Health. A total of \$30,000 was used to support the initial round of funding, and additional funding is not anticipated for 2024 for the same purpose. As such, DSS proposed re-allocating the remaining balance of the first distribution (\$215,643 minus \$30,000 = \$185,643) to the overdose follow-up program to provide for continued funding for these pilot initiatives through 2025. DSS further proposed applying an administrative fee (up to 5% of distributions received) to offset costs associated with management of the settlement funds. Following some discussion to clarify the dollar amounts in question, a motion was made to move forward with the

scoring committee recommendations for funding of the community grants and to reallocate the funds as proposed by DSS. Motion was seconded and passed by roll call vote.

Wolfgang reiterated the administrative fee would be “up to” 5% based on need. Initial expenses will include access to the central accounting system and additional staff supports to provide coordination of the programs established with the funds.

Changes authorized to the Settlement Fund budget are summarized here.

FUNDS RECEIVED	
<b><u>Distributor Settlement</u></b>	
	<i>Allocations approved by Advisory Committee January 6, 2023</i>
<b>Distribution 1 (Dec 2022)</b>	<b>Total</b>
<b>\$1,223,024.00</b>	PDMP
\$174,870.00	Opioid Overdose Follow-up Program
\$305,756.00	Community Grant Program
\$350,472.00	Sustainability Fund
\$391,926.00	
	<i>Allocations approved by Advisory Committee August 24, 2023</i>
<b>Distribution 2 (Jan 2023)</b>	<b>Total</b>
<b>\$1,285,339.00</b>	PDMP
\$198,336.00	Opioid Overdose Follow-up Program
\$321,335.00	Community Grant Program
\$321,335.00	Sustainability Fund
\$444,333.00	
<b><u>Mallinckrodt Settlement</u></b>	
	<i>Allocations approved by Advisory Committee August 24, 2023</i>
<b>Distribution 1 (Apr 2023)</b>	<b>Total</b>
<b>\$215,643.00</b>	Workwell Mental Health Grant (DOH)
\$215,643.00	FY24 DOH contract for Workwell MH Grant Program
-\$30,000.00	5% Administrative Costs
<u>-\$10,782.15</u>	Remaining balance
<b><u>\$174,860.85</u></b>	
	<i>Allocations approved by Advisory Committee January 4, 2024</i>
<b>Distribution 2 (Nov 2023)</b>	<b>Total</b>
<b>\$253,698.00</b>	5% Administrative Costs
-\$12,684.90	Remaining balance
<b><u>\$241,013.10</u></b>	
\$415,873.95	Approved January 4, 2024, by Advisory Committee to allocate to overdose follow-up pilot programs for 2025 calendar year contracts.

### CURRENT PROGRAM BUDGETS

<b>All Distributions</b>	<i>Approved by Advisory Committee January 4, 2024</i>
<b>\$2,954,236.95</b>	<b>Total</b>
\$373,206.00	PDMP
\$1,042,964.95	Opioid Overdose Follow-up Program
\$671,807.00	Community Grant Program
\$836,259.00	Sustainability Fund
\$30,000.00	Workwell Mental Health Grants

### OVERDOSE FOLLOW-UP PROGRAM

#### Distributor & Mallinckrodt Settlements - Distribution 1 & 2

\$305,756.00	Distributor #1 Opioid Overdose Follow-up Program
\$321,335.00	Distributor #2 Opioid Overdose Follow-up Program
<b>\$627,091.00</b>	Total Allocation for FY24
<b>\$471,655.00</b>	Total FY24 contract amounts for Project Recovery & Emily's Hope
\$155,436.00	Remaining balance for FY24 allocation
\$174,860.85	Remaining balance of Mallinckrodt #1 for FY24. Approved January 4, 2024, by Advisory Committee to allocate to overdose follow-up pilot programs with Emily's Hope & Project Recovery for FY25 contracts.
\$241,013.10	Mallinckrodt #2. Approved January 4, 2024, by Advisory Committee to allocate to the overdose follow-up pilot programs for FY25 contracts.
<b>\$571,309.95</b>	Total allocation for Emily's Hope and Project Recovery's overdose follow-up pilot programs for FY25 contracts

### Project Updates

Lori Martinec provided update to the Committee on the naloxone for business program. All DOH and DSS offices are moving towards having on-site access to naloxone in public spaces. DOH adopted a policy that requires naloxone administration training for all current and incoming employees. Designated naloxone coordinators are being trained in each office and nalox-boxes are being sent to offices once coordinator training has been completed. All DOH staff will receive naloxone administration by mid-February 2024.

Project updates were then provided by Division of Behavioral Health (DSS) in the areas funded by the State Opioid Response grant, including treatment services, access to naloxone, and expanded recovery housing efforts in recent months. Randee Peterson highlighted Face It Together, Bethany Christian Services, and Oxford House, while explaining their organizations' roles in recovery support service efforts. Of note, expanded access to recovery homes in new communities was identified, and Committee

members were encouraged to spread the word in their areas about access to this resource and how to look up vacancies.

### **Legislative Updates**

Legislative updates were provided by Beth Dokken, Department of Health (DOH) in the scheduling of Xylazine. Beth noted that Xylazine is an important drug in the veterinary field, but efforts were made to craft a bill that best fits the use of Xylazine across the state of South Dakota. House Bill 1028 has been pre-filed in regard to this issue. A question was posed regarding whether or not xylazine test strips would be considered drug paraphernalia if and when this legislation would be passed; Dokken advised that would be taken into consideration as the bill language continues to develop to mitigate any unintended consequences of the drug's scheduling.

### **Data & Surveillance – South Dakota's Opioid Road Map**

Opioid overdose data was presented by Amanda Weinzetl, DOH. Overdose death rate in South Dakota compared to the nation remains at or near the lowest rate experienced in comparison to other states. The State Unintentional Drug Overdose Reporting System (SUDORS) data was also shared, albeit preliminary. The data shared will be redacted from the slides due to its preliminary nature. Final data once complete will be available on <https://www.avoidopioidsd.com/key-data/>.

Data related to the Prescription Drug Monitoring Program was shared by Melissa DeNoon, Board of Pharmacy. DeNoon noted appreciation for continued funding through OD2A-S to enhance the PDMP efforts including clinical alerts and prescriber reports. Heat maps and tables were displayed showing buprenorphine prescription counts, factored by age and county. Pennington County has the highest documented buprenorphine prescription count.

### **Committee & Partner Updates**

Lori Martinec encouraged partners to share about public awareness efforts ongoing at local communities, as well as any upcoming events or conferences going on for the group's awareness.

- Becky Heisinger shared that "opioid office hours" hosted by SDAHO will be held with an OUD physician in attendance, raising awareness about prescribing methods and practices, and then hosting a Q & A session for those who attend.
- Erin Miller updated on the SD-Start grants held by South Dakota State University. Contingency management has been expanded over the past six months within certain communities. There is additional availability for expanding contingency management in other counties across the state as well. Launched a separate initiative that offers vouchers for people to receive peer coach training for free.
- Staci Eagle Elk and Sara DeCoteau shared funding they recently received to help tribal community members in furthering their treatment, as well as increasing training and awareness across those communities.

### **Public Input**

Chair Martinec invited any public comment. No comments were received.

### **Closing Remarks**

Chair Martinec thanked the committee and guests for their time and attention today and invited continued collaboration in all areas presented. The next meeting will likely occur around August 2024 and be announced at a later date.