



Kentucky Opioid Abatement Advisory Commission

Meeting Agenda

October 8, 2024, 1:00 p.m. ET

Location: Virtual meeting

View meeting: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bisKzUx22FY>

MINUTES

Members Present: Christopher Evans, Chair (Zoom), Darren Allen (Zoom), Patricia Freeman (Zoom), Secretary Eric Friedlander (Zoom), Representative Chris Fugate (Zoom), Van Ingram (Zoom), Russell Treasurer Mark Metcalf (Zoom), Von Purdy (Zoom), Debbie Rains (Zoom – video difficulties; photo used but no video), Jason Roop (Zoom).

Russell Webber, proxy for Treasurer Mark Metcalf, and Dr. Allen Brenzel, proxy for Secretary Eric Friedlander were also present via Zoom.

Members Absent: Karen Kelly

Staff Present: Jessie Halladay and Alison Chavies

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Evans called the Kentucky Opioid Abatement Advisory Commission (KYOAAC) meeting to order at 1:03 p.m. on Tuesday, October 8, 2024.

II. ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Van Ingram moved to adopt the October 8, 2024, agenda. Dr. Patricia Freeman seconded, and the motion carried.

III. BUSINESS MEETING SCHEDULE

1. November 12, 2024, 1:00 p.m.

**** All business meetings will take place at Capitol Annex, 702 Capital Ave, Frankfort, KY 40601. Room to be assigned based on availability.**

IV. MINUTES

1. September 10, 2024, Business Meeting

Treasurer Mark Metcalf moved to approve the September 10, 2024, minutes. Von Purdy seconded, and the motion carried.

V. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR UPDATES

1. Welcome Debbie Rains

Executive Director Evans welcomed the Commission's newest appointee, Debbie Rains. Ms. Rains joins the Commission by appointment from Attorney General Coleman to represent victims of the opioid crisis. Ms. Rains expressed her honor at being selected and that she looks forward to bringing her years of professional experience in education, as well as her personal experiences of losing a son to the work of the Commission.

2. Request for Information (RFI)

Executive Director Evans updated members regarding the recently published Request for Information (RFI). The RFI will provide information to the Commission about what types of projects might need funding in this area and will be used to craft a future grant funding opportunity. The solicitation is available on the Kentucky vendor portal and will be open for responses until December 2, 2024.

VI. OLD BUSINESS

1. Commission Priorities Discussion

Executive Director Evans asked Deputy Director Halladay to go through the staff's review of the Commission's priority-setting discussion from the July meeting. The Commission discussed whether or not to follow national guidelines set out by Johns Hopkins for how to utilize settlement funds. Commission members agreed those principles, which include using money to save lives, using evidence to guide spending, investing in youth prevention, focusing on equity, and creating a fair and transparent process, are the overall principles they want to follow. During the discussion, members emphasized that equity should be understood as a commitment to fairness to all communities across the Commonwealth with grant decisions being driven by the Commission's assessment of the severity of need and acuteness of impact on specific communities as demonstrated by the best available data.

Deputy Director Halladay reported that based on the conversation in July, it appeared there was a need for two funding opportunity notices – one for prevention and one for treatment and recovery. For the Prevention application, based on the Commission's discussion, the priority areas would be Youth-focused prevention (both in-school and out-of-school) and harm reduction. Commission members expressed their agreement with that and discussed how to define youth. They concluded that youth would be defined as up to age 26.

For the Treatment and Recovery funding notice, Deputy Director Halladay recapped that the Commission's July discussions indicated they did not want to prioritize treatment applications unless they articulated a clear service gap, due to the amount of treatment beds now available in the Commonwealth. Additionally, the July discussion highlighted several areas for emphasis in recovery support, including supportive housing, transportation (though this application would still not allow the purchase of vehicles), employment support, and projects that emphasize family togetherness. The Commission discussed adding Recovery Community Center development to the priority list.

Deputy Director Halladay also summarized the consensus items the Commission discussed in July for grant review criteria. Those include demonstration of strong collaboration, projects that expand or enhance



service opportunities and don't supplant funds, NARR certification requirement for recovery housing, clear descriptions of how service gaps are addressed, and outcome measurements.

Finally, the Commission discussed criteria as it relates to the continuation of funding/length of funding. The Commission will consider continuation funding requests, though no guarantee exists that funding will be supported beyond the initially funded project. The Commission agreed requests for continuation funding must decrease by 25 percent of the original grant award.

The Commission decided to retain the cap of \$1 million and any application requesting more than \$1 million will not be considered. They also agreed that prohibited expenditures for the upcoming grant cycle will include no vehicle purchases, no purchase of land, and no construction or costs of permits related to construction or renovation.

VII. ADJOURNMENT

2:28 p.m. Secretary Eric Friedlander moved to adjourn the scheduled business meeting of the KYO AAC. Von Purdy seconded, and the motion carried.