

# **OPIOID ABATEMENT ADVISORY COMMISSION**

## **OFFICIAL PUBLIC MEETING**

### **DRAFT MINUTES**

**FEBRUARY 14, 2023**

The Opioid Abatement Advisory Commission was held at District of Columbia Hospital Association, 1152 15th Street, NW, Suite 900, Washington, DC 20005 on Wednesday, February 14, 2024. Members of the public were also invited to attend in-person and virtually via WebEx.

### **ATTENDEES**

#### Present

1. Barbara Bazron, Ph.D., Director, Department of Behavioral Health
2. Ayanna Bennett, Ph.D., Director, DC Health (virtual)
3. Melisa Byrd, Interim Director, DC Department of Health Care Finance
4. Ciana Creighton, Deputy Mayor for Health and Human Services
5. Christina Okereke, Representative of the Attorney General of the District of Columbia
6. Marcia Huff, Representative of the Chair, DC Council Committee on Health
7. Edwin Chapman, MD, President Designee, Medical Society of the District of Columbia
8. Jacqueline Bowens, Chief Executive Officer, District of Columbia Hospital Association
9. Mark LeVota, Executive Director, District of Columbia Behavioral Health Association
10. Patricia Quinn, Designated Representative, District of Columbia Primary Care Association
11. LaVerne Adams, DMin, Chief Executive Coach, Total Life Consultancy LLC (virtual)
12. Demetrius Jones, Certified Peer Recovery Specialist, Wards 7 & 8 DC Prevention Center/DC Recovery Community Alliance
13. Larry Bing, Certified Peer Recovery Specialist, Leadership Council for Healthy Communities
14. Larry Gourdine, Program Manager, Psychiatric Institute of Washington
15. J. Chad Jackson, MS, CEO, Ardan Community Living, LLC
16. Beverly Settles-Reaves, PhD, Program Manager, Howard University (virtual)
17. Nnemdi Elias, MD, MPH, Addiction/Internal Medicine
18. Franciso Diaz, MD, FACP, DC Chief Medical Examiner
19. Queen Anunay, MPH MCHES, Designee, Deputy Mayor for Public Safety and Justice
20. Juanita Price, M.Ed, Chief Executive Officer, Hillcrest Children and Family Center

#### Absent

21. Senora Simpson, PTMPH, DrPH

## **Call to Order**

Chair J. Chad Jackson called the meeting to order at 9:10 AM.

## **Quorum Declaration**

Chair Jackson conducted a roll call for quorum declaration.

## **Approval of Minutes**

Chair Jackson presented the minutes for the January 19, 2023, Commission meeting.

A motion was made to vote on approving the minutes. This motion was seconded.

The Commission approved the minutes by unanimous vote.

## **Welcome and Overview of Agenda**

Chair Jackson presented and discussed the agenda for the meeting.

## **Director's Report**

Dr. Orlando Barker of the Office of Opioid Abatement presented the current budget for the Opioid Abatement Fund. The full report is available.

## **FEMS Buprenorphine Initiative**

Stephen Gerber of Fire and Emergency Services (FEMS) conducted a presentation titled "EMS Care for Persons with OUD DC Opioid Abatement Commission." The full report is available.

Dr. Laverne Adams asked if there were a sustainability plan in place if monies from the Opioid Abatement Fund were used to expand the FEMS program.

Larry Gourdine commented that a more in-depth analysis of 42 CFR needs to be conducted, in order to understand how that affects current policy.

## **Proposed Recommendations for Areas of Focus**

Dr. Barker conducted the presentation titled, "Proposed Recommendations for Areas of Focus." The full presentation is available.

Jacqueline Bowens asked Dr. Barker to provide clarity on the next steps the Office of Opioid Abatement would take after the Opioid Abatement Advisory Commission makes its recommendations for areas of focus.

Dr. Adams asked more questions about the Office's next steps concerning the Commission's recommendations.

Dr. Barker further discussed the process to be taken by the Office regarding the prioritization of funding the recommendations.

## **Prevention Subcommittee**

Dr. Barker presented the recommendations for areas of focus submitted by the Prevention subcommittee.

Dr. Adams commented that the order of the recommendations was not presented in the correct order.

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According to Dr. Adams, the recommendations were originally submitted to Dr. Barker in the Subcommittee's preferred order of prioritization, which was not reflected in the presentation.

A motion was made to vote on approving the Prevention subcommittee recommendations. The motion was seconded.

Mark LeVota motioned to make an amendment that all Prevention subcommittee recommendations would be limited to a total \$500,000 cost. The motion was seconded.

A unanimous vote approved the amended vote stating that the recommendations of the Prevention subcommittee would be approved with the limitation of \$500,000 of Opioid Abatement Funds to be spent on each recommendation.

### **Harm Reduction Subcommittee**

Dr. Barker presented the recommendations for areas of focus submitted by the Harm Reduction subcommittee.

A motion was made to vote on approving the Harm Reduction subcommittee recommendations. The motion was seconded.

Mark LeVota motioned to make an amendment that all Harm Reduction subcommittee recommendations would be limited to a total \$500,000 cost. The motion was seconded.

A unanimous vote approved the amended vote stating that the recommendations of the Harm Reduction subcommittee would be approved with the limitation of \$500,000 of Opioid Abatement Funds to be spent on each recommendation.

### **Treatment and Recovery Subcommittee**

Dr. Barker presented the recommendations for areas of focus submitted by the Prevention subcommittee.

A motion was made to vote on approving the Treatment and Recovery subcommittee recommendations. The motion was seconded.

A unanimous vote approved the amended vote stating that the recommendations of the Harm Reduction subcommittee would be approved with the limitation of \$500,000 of Opioid Abatement Funds to be spent on each recommendation.

### **Unfinished Business**

Due to one of the Harm Reduction Subcommittee recommendations being absent on the slide that was supposed to have all of harm reduction recommendations listed, a motion was made to vote on vote on the all the harm reduction recommendations again to ensure all Commission member understood they were aware of the Harm reduction recommendation on which they were voting. The motion was seconded and the Vote was unanimous.

Larry Gourdine stated that there needs to be a comprehensive list of private providers, who are actively treating medications for opioid use disorder needs to be published.

Dr. Edward Chapman stated that the State Opioid Response Fiscal Year 2024 budget that was provided, This meeting is governed by the Open Meetings Act. Please address any questions or complaints arising under this meeting to the Office of Open Government at [opengovoffice@dc.gov](mailto:opengovoffice@dc.gov).

needs to include more detailed information.

**New Business**

Chair Jackson announces that the next meeting will focus on the use of peers and the building of a peer network.

**Public Comment**

Jo Patterson, Ambrose Lane, Chris Thomas, Prince Hamn, Tyrone Parker provided public comments in-person.

Nestor Rocha provided public comments via WebEx.

**Adjournment**

Chair Jackson adjourned the meeting at 10:55 PM.