

OPIOID ABATEMENT ADVISORY COMMISSION

OFFICIAL PUBLIC MEETING

APPROVED MINUTES

DECEMBER 15, 2023

The Opioid Abatement Advisory Commission was held at District of Columbia Hospital Association, 1152 15th Street, NW, Suite 900, Washington, DC 20005 on Friday, December 15, 2023. Members of the public were also invited to attend in-person and virtually via WebEx: [Opioid Abatement Advisory Commission-20231215 1406-1 - OCTO WebEx Enterprise Site](#).

ATTENDEES

Present

1. Barbara Bazron, Ph.D., Director, Department of Behavioral Health
2. Ayanna Bennett, Ph.D., Director, DC Health
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. Senora Simpson, PTMPH, DrPH
12. LaVerne Adams, DMin, Chief Executive Coach, Total Life Consultancy LLC (virtual)
13. Demetrius Jones, Certified Peer Recovery Specialist, Wards 7 & 8 DC Prevention Center/DC Recovery Community Alliance
14. Larry Bing, Certified Peer Recovery Specialist, Leadership Council for Healthy Communities
15. Larry Gourdine, Program Manager, Psychiatric Institute of Washington
16. J. Chad Jackson, MS, CEO, Ardan Community Living, LLC
17. Beverly Settles-Reaves, PhD, Program Manager, Howard University
18. Nnemdi Elias, MD, MPH, Addiction/Internal Medicine

Absent

19. Franciso Diaz, MD, FACP, DC Chief Medical Examiner
20. Queen Anunay, MPH MCHES, Designee, Deputy Mayor for Public Safety and Justice
21. Juanita Price, M.Ed, Chief Executive Officer, Hillcrest Children and Family Center

J. Chad Jackson called the meeting to order at 9:05 AM.

Agenda

Approval of Minutes

Chair Jackson presented the minutes for the November 29, 2023, commission meeting.

Mark Levota motioned to vote on the amended operating procedures. Nnemdi Elias seconded the motion.

The Commission approved the minutes by unanimous vote.

Approval of Operating Procedures

Mark Levota noted that an amendment to the duties of the Chair, that was voted on previously, was missing in the document.

Ayanna Bennett noted that change that was made to the conflict of interest that was missing from the document.

Christina Okereke asked for clarity on where the amended conflict of interest statement.

Ayanna Bennet motioned to vote on the amended operating procedures. Larry Bing seconded the motion.

The Commission approved the minutes by unanimous vote.

The approved operating procedures document is available.

Live. Long. DC. Data Report

The report of Dr. Orlando Barker, director of the Office of Opioid Abatement, titled “Live. Long. DC: State Opioid Response Funding Report” was received. The full report is available.

Dr. Laverne Adams stated that funding for the faith-based organizations “seems to be so meager for the group of people who are closest to the problem,” and that more funding to these organizations could be beneficial.

Gap Analysis and Ideas for Areas of Focus for Abatement Activities

The report of Dr. Orlando Barker, director of the Office of Opioid Abatement, titled “Live. Long. DC: Gap Analysis and Ideas for Areas of Focus for Abatement Activities” was received. The full report is available.

Subcommittee Designation

Jacqueline Bowen presented a document to the Commission (in-person) which listed the subcommittee designations.

The designations were listed as follows:

Prevention Subcommittee- Ayanna Bennett, Senora Simpson, Brian Schwalb, J. Chad Jackson, Laverne Adams, Larry Bing, Francisco Diaz

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.

Harm Reduction Subcommittee- Barbara Bazron, Juanita Price, Ciana Creighton, Demetrius, Jones, Queen Anunay, Beverly Settles Reaves, Christina Henderson

Treatment and Recovery Subcommittee- Nnemdi Elias, Larry Gourdine, Mark LeVota, Melisa Byrd, Edwin Chapman, Jacqueline Bowens, Patricia Quinn

Dr. Bennett stated that the Commission could get funds out quicker by expanding initiatives that already being funded by government agencies.

Larry Gourdine recommended that a comprehensive list of MOUD providers, comprehensive list of all recovery housing and their capacity is needed.

Dr. Edwin Chapman suggested that there may be a need for a third party entity to track data

Dr. Bennett stated that there is a lot of local data that exists and that DC Health could immediately use funding to enhance government data evaluation efforts.

Christina Henderson recommended funding the Fire and Emergency Services post-overdose response team.

Dr. Bennett also recommended that funding could be used for purchasing more harm reduction vending machines.

Ciana Creighton stated for the subcommittee it would help if to create a template for reporting out goals and outcomes.

Dr, Bennett stated that each subcommittee will need some time to meet in the next few weeks and will have a data request. Furthermore, if they do meet they will generate ideas.

Patricia Quinn recommended that invites be sent to the entire Commission for the subcommittee meetings.

Jacqueline Bowen suggested that after the first Commission meeting of the year every other subsequent Commission meeting be conducted virtually.

Public comments

Judy Ashburn, Ambrose Lane, and RS Fletcher made comments in person.

Kelvin Manurs made comments virtually through Webex.

Adjournment

At 11:00 AM, J. Chad Jackson adjourned the meeting.