

Opioid Crisis Recovery Funds Advisory Committee Meeting

November 9th, 2022, 10am-12pm

Meeting Minutes

Members: Attorney General Phil Weiser, Cristen Bates, James Mobley, Gordon McLaughlin, Rob Valuck, Jude Solano, Dr. Morgan Medlock, Ashley Absmeier-Koppenhafer, Sue Hansen, Dmitry Kunin, Jeff Kuhr, Jim Schoettler, Wendy Buxton-Andrade, Bommer, Jason Hoppe, James Mobley, Chase Kohne

Department of Law Staff: Heidi Williams, Jamie Feld, Jack Patterson, Robyn Steuer

Guests: Jose Esquibel, Crystal Goodiel, Katie First

Welcome

Director of Opioid Response Heidi Williams welcomed attendees and introduced the Opioid Response Unit team. Heidi provided an overview of the agenda, noting the primary meeting topics, including updates on the settlement funds, prioritization of the state share, and the 2023 conference.

Attorney General Phil Weiser welcomed the committee and thanked them for their engagement in the important work.

Opioid Settlement Funds Update

Heidi Williams provided an update on the current status of the Opioid Settlement Funds in Colorado, noting that nearly all regions have submitted their initial funding requests. The Colorado Opioid Abatement Council is overseeing the distribution of those funds.

The Local Government Share funds for those that opted-in are also currently being distributed. The regions that have not yet submitted funding requests will have additional opportunities in December and March.

State Share Discussion

Attorney General Weiser detailed the currently proposed priorities for the usage of the state share, noting that there is approximately \$10m available in the first year (2022). AG Weiser highlighted that the state is not required to spend these funds immediately as the funds can roll-over.

AG Weiser shared that a portion (\$1.7m) of the State Share has been allocated to the Colorado tribes as they were not a party in the Colorado MOU. The allocation was determined by treating the Tribes in a similar structure as the Local Government Share.

Second, the Opioid Response Unit is paid from the State Share (\$400k) that administers the opioid settlement funds, provides staffing and support to the Opioid Crisis Recovery Funds Advisory Committee, the Colorado Opioid Abatement Council, the Substance Use and Trend Response Taskforce, coordinate the abatement conference, and provide technical assistance to regions, local governments, and other stakeholders.

Heidi Williams shared that the state is developing an Opioid/Fentanyl Youth Awareness Campaign (\$500k in Year 1, \$250k in Year 2) and is currently evaluating RFP submissions for a two-year awareness campaign. The State is also focused on expanding the recovery friendly workplaces initiatives.

The state is exploring an educational program to educate jails not currently offering MAT in jails through providing stipends to experienced MAT providing sheriffs to train other sheriffs.

Annual Conference and Next Steps

Heidi Williams shared that the Colorado Department of Law is beginning to plan the second Colorado Opioid Abatement Conference that will be in Montrose in August of 2023. Heidi Williams noted that the 2023 Conference will build upon the success of the 2022 conference in Denver, and that there would be an additional emphasis on facilitating regional collaboration. The State expects the cost for the conference to be between \$75-100k.

Heidi Williams asked the Committee to reach out to the Opioid Response Unit with any recommendations for speakers, session content.

Public Comment

AG Weiser asked if there were any public comments. Hearing none, AG Weiser adjourned the meeting.

Meeting Conclusion