

New York State Opioid Settlement Fund Advisory Board

May 17, 2024 – Meeting

Empire State Plaza, Albany, NY – Meeting Room 6
Horizon Health Alliance, 55 Dodge Road, Getzville, NY
OASAS, 501 7th Ave., 8th Floor New York, New York

10:30am – 3:00pm

Welcome/Introductions

Chairwoman Debra Pantin opened the meeting, announced that the new NYC location was operational and thanked everyone for joining. The Board Members introduced themselves noting their respective locations.

Board Discussion

Members discussed the State's transparency score. Member Joyce Rivera stated that the New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (NYCDOHMH) should present to the Board and provide a breakdown of their expenditure of Settlement Funds. Member J. Rivera indicated that a presentation by the NYCDOHMH is necessary because the agency receives over 20% of the funding but the Board has not been adequately informed about how the funds have been disbursed.

Chair Pantin and Members addressed the resignation from the OSFAB by Avi Israel and Bill McGoldrick. Member Ashley Livingston made a motion to accept the resignation of Bill McGoldrick with a second from Member Dr. Tisha Smith and the motion was carried. Member Dr. Stephen Giordano made a motion to accept the resignation of Avi Israel with a second from Member Livingston and the motion was carried.

February 26, 2024 Meeting Minutes

The Members then discussed the Minutes from the February 26, 2024 Meeting. Member Dr. Tisha Smith made a motion to accept the Minutes and with a second from Member Dr. Kevin Watkins. Member Stephanie Marquesano requested that the Minutes be amended to include more of the discussion of co-occurring disorders from the meeting. Member J. Rivera requested that the minutes include a request for New York City to share their settlement fund expenditures. The amendments by Members Marquesano and Rivera were accepted. The motion carried.

Board Discussion on Future Meeting Presenters

Chair Pantin and Board Members discussed organizations and agencies who should provide presentations and data at future Board meetings. Member Marquesano indicated that the Board should discuss the process for how future presenters should be selected. Member Dr. Tisha Smith requested that the Board invite the Department of Corrections and Community Supervision (DOCCS) to provide an updated presentation.

Member Dr. Lawrence Brown suggested that members compile their requests for potential presenters and submit them to the Chair and that she can use her discretion from there. Chair Pantin agreed, noting that was the process already in place for the selection of future presenters and that the Board had decided on it by vote and motion which was carried in 2022.

Member J. Rivera suggested having community-based organizations present on behalf of individuals who aren't typically represented by government, specifically non-state actors who could speak to the issues caused by the war on drugs and could provide unique insight.

Commissioner Cunningham advised that there is a substantial number of available public documents and reports from agencies like DOCCS which could be helpful as a starting point in selecting organizations and/or agencies to present to the Board at future meetings. Member Marquesano highlighted the need for presentations on co-occurring disorders and enhanced integrated care in prevention and criminal justice space. Vice Chair Justine Waldman suggested the Board invite the Legal Action Center and the Center for Justice Innovation to present to the Board.

The Board further discussed the role of regional Behavioral Health Crisis Centers (BHCCs). Member Anne Constantino noted the significance BHCCs and suggested that it would be insightful for the Board to receive a presentation from them. Member Giordano highlighted that the model has a lot of promise.

The Board then broke for lunch.

Fiscal Presentation

After lunch the Division of Budget (DOB) Designee Peggy O'Shea presented to the Board. Designee O'Shea advised that the fiscal reports could potentially be revised because of anticipated changes to the incoming settlement funds. Designee O'Shea presented on the status of funds. The full presentation can be found here:

<https://oasas.ny.gov/system/files/documents/2024/05/may17-2024-osfab-presentation.pdf>

Board Discussion

Chair Pantin discussed developing a new process for drafting this year's report. She suggested that it would be more effective for the drafting this year's report to develop two committees one for strategy and one for data. Member J. Rivera indicated that the data committee can leverage data collections tools to better understand how communities are being affected. Member Dr. Brown made a motion for the Board to adopt the two-committee process for drafting the Board's annual report, Member Giordano provided a second and the motion was carried.

The Board had an initial discussion regarding whether the two committees should have agency representation. Member Marquesano suggested that the agencies should be

represented on each committee. Member J. Rivera expressed concern about the potential for issues if the agency were represented on each Committee and requested that decision be tabled for further consideration by the Members.

State Presentation: Review of Dashboard with Status Update

Commissioner Cunningham presented to the Board and provided an update on progress made since the last OSFAB meeting. She reminded everyone that they could find the opioid settlement fund tracker online: <https://oasas.ny.gov/fy-2023-opioid-settlement-fund-initiatives>

The slides and data from the Commissioner's presentation can be found here: <https://oasas.ny.gov/system/files/documents/2024/05/osfab-5-17-2024-ppt.pdf>

After the presentation, Member Livingston asked for more data on naloxone. Department of Health DOH Designee Johanne Morne advised the process and data sharing that exists for naloxone. Commissioner Cunningham noted that naloxone is now over the counter.

Public Comment and Adjournment

The Board heard from members of the public that were present at the New York City and Albany locations.

The Board then adjourned for the day.

Attendees

Board Members:

New York City location: Carmen Rivera, Joyce Rivera, Stephanie Marquesano, Commissioner Dr. Chinazo Cunningham

Buffalo location: Anne Constantino, Ray Ganoë, Cheryl Moore

Virtual: Dr. Kevin Watkins

Albany: Dr. Tisha Smith, Stephen Giordano, Dr. Lawrence Brown, Chris Smith (on behalf of OMH Commissioner Ann Sullivan), Joanne Morne (on behalf of DOH Commissioner), Peggy O'Shea (on behalf of DOB Director), Debra Pantin, Justine Waldman, Ashley Livingston