

New York State Opioid Settlement Fund Advisory Board

February 26, 2024 – Meeting

Empire State Plaza Albany, NY – Room #6

10:00 am – 2:00:00 pm

Welcome/Introductions

Chair Debra Pantin opened the meeting and Board members reintroduced themselves. Members raised the December 18, 2023 Meeting and whether there would be meeting minutes for that meeting. Office of Addiction Services and Supports (OASAS) Deputy Counsel Greg Meyer advised members that December 18, 2023, was not an official meeting because there was no quorum and, as such, no motions or other Board business was conducted. A motion was made for a copy of the notes from the non-quorum meeting on December 18, 2023.

Board terms and Explanation of Process

Next, the Board discussed the appointment process and terms for the members. Deputy Counsel Meyer directed members to reach out to their appointing authority regarding the effective date of their appointment and whether the member will be reappointed at the conclusion of their terms. Chair Pantin noted that the public has expressed the need for the appointment of individuals with different perspectives on the Board.

State Presentation

Commissioner Cunningham directed members to review the OASAS website and dashboard for the state's progress on the disbursement of settlement dollars as the website is updated weekly. Member Livingston inquired about an update from the Division of Budget (DOB). Designee O'Shea addressed concern about supplantation and reiterated that the OASAS website has details on procurements for Settlement funds. Member Marquesano raised concern about co-occurring language. Commissioner Cunningham advised that Department of Health (DOH and Office of Mental Health providers are eligible and have been awarded RFAs. Commissioner Cunningham reviewed the OASAS website with the members.

Members Break for Lunch

October 31, 2023 Meeting Minutes

Members returned from lunch joined by Member Israel. Member Dr. Waldman made a motion to approve October 31, 2023, Meeting Minutes with a second from Member Dr. T. Smith, abstentions from OASAS, DOH, OMH, DOB and Member Livingston.

Public Comment

The Board received comments from the public highlighting Black History Month and the challenges still faced by people of color seeking addiction related services and the need for state funded Overdose Prevention Centers.

Board Accomplishments and Future Direction

Members Marquesano, J. Rivera ,and Israel discussed prevention and the need for equity and innovation to truly address the pathways to addictions and the need for more than generic prevention. Member Israel noted that treatment has also been stagnant without needed innovation.

Member Dr. T. Smith highlighted that the creation of the Board and its work is a historical moment to right historical wrongs and focus on the historically underserved. Member Livingston concurred that Board recommendations should focus on equity, utilize an anti-racist lens, and innovation to address stimulant use.

DOB Designee Peggy O'Shea advised members that while DOB was informed of additional settlements to be received in FY 2025, expected payments will decrease in FY 2025 from FY 2024. She further explained that Mallinckrodt had filed for bankruptcy and that the fund would not receive any further payment from the Mallinckrodt settlement. Members and Designee O'Shea briefly discussed the Purdue bankruptcy and agreed that additional information would be shared at the May Meeting after the state budget had passed.

Commissioner Cunningham and Member Lavigne discussed the need to focus on board priority spending for FY 2025. Member Lavigne suggested that the board needs to revisit the charter and drill down on priorities.

Members discussed the need to replace the representative on the Board for New York City and Chair Pantin advised that she is reaching out to New York City for a replacement of their representative. Members also discussed the possibility of establishing a meeting location in NYC but concluded that staffing for the site may be an issue.

Member J. Rivera requested that NYC DOHMH present expenditure of LGU funds.

Chair Pantin opened meeting for other issues. Members Lavigne and Dr. Giordano discussed the creation of subcommittees or workgroups within the board.

Member Marquesano discussed the need for an enhanced Request for Application (RFA) process and better understanding of the process to allow for innovation and added value because of the decreasing dollars in future settlement payments into the Fund.

Chair Pantin suggested that the State pivot from the RFA process and mirror what other states have done instead. Commissioner Cunningham advised the board to focus on recommendations and not the state selection process. DOB Designee O’Shea advised the Board that any new process established to replace the RFA process must comply with state finance law. Member Israel indicated that the State Finance Law may need to be changed to disburse settlement funds more efficiently.

Members made a motion to adjourned, motion passed.

Meeting Adjourned

Attendees

Board Members:

Chair Debra Pantin, Dr. Stephen Giordano, Dr. Lawrence Brown (absent), Anne Constantino (virtual appearance), Suzanne Lavigne, Ashley Livingston, Stephanie Marquesano, Cheryll Moore (Buffalo location), Carmen Rivera (virtual appearance), Dr. Tisha M. Smith, Joyce Rivera (virtual appearance) Vice Chair Dr. Justine Waldman, Dr. Kevin Watkins (absent), William M. McGoldrick, Ray Ganoe (Buffalo location), Avi Israel (virtual appearance).

Agency Representatives:

Dr. Chinazo Cunningham, OASAS Commissioner

Peggy O’Shea, DOB (Designee)

Joelle Foskett, OASAS Director of Government Affairs, (Executive Secretary of the Board)

Johanne Morne, DOH (Designee)

Dr. Ann Sullivan, OMH Commissioner, (virtual appearance)

Dr. Thomas Smith, OMH (Designee) virtual appearance)