

## Opiod Settlement Advisory Committee

*Date:* 1/12/2026

*Location and Time:* Via Microsoft Teams 10:00 - noon

*Present:* Kelly Dougherty, Shawn Burke, Jess Kirby, Monica Hutt, Deb Wright, Daniel Franklin, Liz McLoughlin, Madeline Motta, Stacy Sigmon

*Absent:* Ruth Hardy, Eric Maguire, Thomas Davis, Matt Prouty, Tim Tanner, Amie Wunderlich

*Meeting Facilitator and Note Taker:* Kelly Dougherty, Sarah Gregorek

Agenda Item	Discussion	Next Steps
Approve January 5, 2026, Minutes	Deb Wright made a motion to approve the 1/5/2026 minutes, and Liz McLoughlin seconded, the motion passed unanimously.	
Recommendation Letter for the Legislature discussion and vote	<p>Kelly reviewed the draft recommendation letter for the legislature with the committee. Jess Kirby suggested that we add the Burlington Overdose Prevention Center in the section at the end to remind folks that that funding is not needed in FY2027 but once it's operational, it will require funding from the Opioid Abatement Special Fund in the future.</p> <p>Chief Burke made a motion to approve the letter with the addition of the Burlington Overdose Prevention Center and Deb Wright seconded, the motion passed unanimously.</p>	The final letter will be posted on the web site.
Public Comment	<p>Ed Baker</p> <p>Requested that the bios of the committee members be available on the OSAC web page.</p> <p>In the coming year, he will be encouraging more public input from others and asked that the public comments be held during the meeting, not when the meeting runs over time because some members drop off.</p>	

	<p>He suggested that we hold trainings on addiction and harm reduction strategies. Also, look at the social autopsy report and focus harm reduction services on the food service and construction population.</p>	
	<p>Sarah Launderville, Vermont Center for Independent Living</p> <p>I wanted to share how genuinely concerned I am that the opioid recovery employment project proposal at HireAbility did not make it past the initial round. It's a proven high impact program that was not recommended for continued funding and I fully recognize that there are many excellent programs and only so many dollars to go around. That really does demand, though, that we look closely at where investments create the greatest and most lasting impact, especially for Vermonters who have been historically marginalized.</p> <p>The program is one of those investments. Hundreds of individuals have already been reached directly in their communities. People are securing jobs, earning credentials, stabilizing their lives and finding long term recovery because these teams meet them where they are. And they're not just outcomes, they're transformation and yet, we too often see a pattern when a program is finally building momentum and demonstrates real traction, the funding disappears.</p> <p>That cycle undermines process and sends a message that even when marginalized communities achieve measurable successes, it isn't enough to sustain support. Employment is recovery by helping people re-enter the workforce, we help reduce relapse, support treatment completion and prevent costly acute intervention.</p> <p>This program fills a gap, and it strengthens our communities, our workforce, in our economy. Without this funding, we will lose specialty teams that have become a lifeline for hundreds of Vermonters. If we are serious about equity recovery and supporting marginalized communities, then we must continue investing in what clearly works.</p>	

	So, and I urge you in the future to really look a little bit more closely and listen to stories and consider the real cost that are human and economic when we choose to let go of programming and strong outcomes.	
Next Meeting	February 23, 2026, 10 - noon	