


## Opioid Settlement Advisory Committee

**Date:** 4/22/2024  
**Location and Time:** 10 - noon  
**Present:** Caroline Butler, Senator Ruth Hardy, Monica Hutt, Jessica Kirby, Mark Levine, MD, Scott Pavek,, Representative Dane Whitman, Madeline Motta, Deb Wright, Chief Shawn Burke, Shayne Spence  
**Absent:** Michael Doenges, Heather Stein, MD, Stacey Sigmon  
**Meeting Facilitator and Note Taker:** Mark Levine, and Sarah Gregorek

<b>Meeting Objectives:</b>		
<b>Agenda Item</b>	<b>Discussion</b>	<b>Next Steps</b>
Committee recommendation memo to the legislature discussion and vote.	Discussed the memo and made final changes. Scott Pavek made a motion to approve the memo as discussed during the meeting and Chief Burke seconded the motion. All in favor, Scott Pavek, Shawn Burke, Jess Kirby, Shayne Spence, Caroline Butler, Deb Wright, and Monica Hutt (7 votes). Ruth Hardy and Dane Whitman abstained from the vote. The motion has been approved.	Monica will send the edited memo to Scott for final review and Sarah will send the memo to the legislature with the FY 2025 Recommendation tally.
Email Redaction Vote	Shayne Spence requested that the committee take a non-binding vote on the following:	

	<p>As members of the Opioid Settlement Advisory Committee, we formally call upon Commissioner Mark Levine to release his full, unredacted communications with other members of the Scott Administration regarding the Opioid Settlement Advisory Committee’s recommendations and overdose prevention sites.</p> <p>We believe that government work is best accomplished in the light of day, with all stakeholders given a seat at the table. Decisions made behind a curtain of secrecy can never be allowed to supersede those made in open, public meetings, or the will of a minority to supersede those of the clear majority. This is not just a matter of philosophy, but of state law, enshrined in Vermont’s Open Meeting Law.</p> <p>It is for these reasons that we, as members of the Opioid Settlement Advisory Committee, call upon Commissioner Levine to release the full, unredacted communications concerning our FY25 recommendations and overdose prevention sites.</p> <p>Scott made a motion to vote on this request and Shayne seconded the motion. All in favor, Scott Pavek, Shayne Spence, Jessica Kirby, Caroline Butler, Deb Wright. All against, Dane Whitman, Ruth Hardy, Shawn Burke, Monica Hutt, Judge Motta. This is a tie and because Dr. Levine is a nonvoting member, the motion was denied.</p>	
<p>Code of Ethics and formal recusal process.</p>	<p>Senator Hardy shared the following links to the State of Code of Ethics which this committee is subject to. Here are links to the following:          State Code of Ethics:  <a href="http://www.vermont.gov">Executive (vermont.gov)</a></p> <p>Conflict of Interest  <a href="http://www.vermont.gov">Executive (vermont.gov)</a></p>	<p>We will invite the Ethics Commission to a future meeting for assistance with this process.</p>

	<p>Code of Ethics FAQ  <a href="#">Conflict of Interest Quick Chart &amp; FAQ.pdf (vermont.gov)</a></p> <p>When voting on recommendations where a member may have a conflict of interest, they should recuse themselves. If they are not sure if there is a conflict, it should be discussed within the Committee to make sure that we are not providing the opportunity for anyone outside of the committee structure to criticize us based on any particular instance that could be construed as having a conflict of interest.</p>	
<p>Setting 2024 agenda and actively soliciting testimony on appropriate topics and initiatives  Mark Levine, MD</p>	<p>We have so much expertise on this committee and so many people with backgrounds in so many areas that we need to take a more active role in making sure that if people aren't coming to us with proposals that we reach out to get them on the meeting agenda.</p>	
<p>Remind the committee what the settlement money is funding  Monica Hutt</p>	<p>If you look back at the national settlement documents, Vermont's enabling legislation and the principles that we adopted as a group, we discussed that we want to spend money along the continuum of care through a broad range of strategies - prevention, treatment, harm reduction, and recovery. I feel like a lot of times we pit one strategy against another. We should be looking holistically at the various strategies to spread the funding through all of the buckets (prevention, treatment, harm reduction and recovery) and make sure that we are hearing from initiatives from each bucket.</p>	
<p>Establish a clear and standardized process for inviting applications, applying for settlement dollars, establish a formal</p>	<p>Kelly Dougherty presented a process for receiving proposals and. See attached document.</p> <p>Dane Whitman made a motion for the committee to adopt this process and Shayne Spence seconded the motion. All in favor, Jess Kirby, Caroline Butler,</p>	 <p>Funding Decision Making Process Proj</p>

<p>application review process, clear timelines</p>	<p>Dane Whitman, Shayne Spence, Ruth Hardy, and Shawn Burke, Judge Motta abstained. The motion has been approved.</p> <p>Scott left the meeting early, so we didn't discuss the Connecticut OSAC's public input portal. We will bring it up at the next meeting.</p>	
<p>Public Input</p>	<p>Ed Baker</p> <p>Mr. Baker praised the committee for the progress it had made during this meeting. However, he would like to see the emails unredacted for transparency and didn't agree with Monica Hutt voting on the email redaction due to conflict of interest.</p>	
<p>Next Meeting:</p>	<p>5/28/24, 10 - noon</p>	