

Opioid Settlement Advisory Committee

Date: 7/27/2026

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

Present: Rick Hildebrant, Daniel Franklin, Monica Hutt, Jess Kirby, Deb Wright, Madeline Motta, Stacy Sigmon, Amie Wunderlich, Shawn Burke, Ruth Hardy, Thomas Davis, Matt Prouty, Eric Maguire, Tim Tanner

Absent: Monica Hutt, Madeline Motta, Stacy Sigmon, Shawn Burke, Thoams Davis, Matt Prouty

Meeting Facilitator and Note Taker: Rick Hildebrant, MD, Sarah Gregorek

Agenda Item	Discussion	Next Steps
Approve May 22, 2026, and June 22 Minutes	Eric Maguire made a motion to approve the 5/22/26 minutes, and Amie Wunderlich seconded, the motion passed, Ruth Hardy abstained. Eric Maguire made a motion to approve the 6/22/26 minutes and Deb Wright seconded, the motion passed, Ruth Hardy abstained.	
Appreciation for members who are leaving – Dr. Hildebrant	I want to say a sincere thank you for all the hard work that has gone on with this committee over the years and the dedication you have all brought to it. I know it's not an easy committee to be on. These are tough topics and the time commitment is significant so thank you for the following members who are leaving: Jess Kirby Tim Tanner Madeline Motta Stacey Sigmon Ruth Hardy Senator Hardy – With many of the original members leaving, you're losing the only institutional memory from the beginning of this committee, and I think that that is sad. First of all, and also a little challenging for this committee because we did a lot of	

	hard work at the very beginning about what this committee was for and who it serves and understanding what opioid use disorder and harm reduction and services are and who they serve and how they serve? I learned a ton by participating in those early meetings. I just encourage you all to just to really do the hard work and the deep dive and challenge each other and challenge the people who are coming to ask for funding to make sure that it's being used appropriately and well for reducing the impact of this crisis in Vermont, and I just want to give a special shout out to Jess Kirby who has been great leader on this committee. Jess Kirby - Being one of the original members to this committee, I want to thank everyone for spending your time on this important issue. It has meant to me. When I was asked to be on this committee, it was really hard to talk about my experience with so much stigma in my life related to my opioid use disorder but I've always wanted to own my truth and being on this committee has taught me so much about getting comfortable sharing that I've had a lot of the same experiences with the people who are still dying today from opioid overdose. I told myself if I was going to accept this seat that I needed to be honest and raw and say the hard things and I'm glad that I did because it's helped me grow so much. I just wanted to say that I hope the committee will continue to focus on preventing overdose deaths.	
Substance Misuse Prevention Council and Health Equity Advisory Committee to preset at a future	On page 6 of this year's OSAC appropriation bill there is this statement that the Substance Misuse Prevention Council (SMPC) and the Health Equity Advisory Committee (HEAC) should be consulted by the OSAC to identify spending priorities as related to opioid use disorder prevention, intervention, treatment, and recovery services and harm reduction strategies for the purpose of providing	We will request these committees attend a future meeting.

date Discussion – Dr. Hildebrant	recommendations to the Governor, the Department of Health, and the General Assembly on prioritizing spending from the Opioid Abatement Special Fund.” Ruth Hardy thinks it’s a good idea to include these two committees. Tim Tanner, what is the reason for this? Dr. Hildebrant, the intent is to align SMPC and other funding sources toward substance use disorder. HEAC wants to make sure we have equitable services throughout the State and that people are getting the services they need.	
Sustainability Plan, Outcomes and Recommendations for Ongoing Funding Discussion – Dr. Hildebrant	The committee will only be funding four programs in FY 28, and we need to hear about their sustainability plans for the following: 1. outreach workers 2. syringe service programs, SSPs 3. recovery residences 4. overdose prevention center What else do you need to hear to assess effectiveness, sustainability of these funds and what do you want to fund next year, assessing FY 29 funding you may consider all previously funded programs and new programs. Need to be sure they have a sustainability plan. We need to determine a process for the FY 29 funding. It would be helpful to know what benchmarks we have both for process and outcomes compared to what would be expected, and national data to compare, and then a breakdown of their admin cost versus direct services. Rep Maguire offered to create a template for the sustainability plan to share with the committee. Include questions from the VDH grants. <i>Results Based Accountability (RBA): How much is happening? How well is it working? Are Vermonters better off as a result of this programming/service being provided?</i> Ask programs to provide a sustainability plan for the committee to evaluate the programs. Need to compare them equitably.	Rep Maguire will send Sarah the template by 8/3/26 and she will share with the committee to determine if they attest that this document will determine the sustainability, outcomes and effectiveness of a program.

	Continue creative investing in people who need help. It is important to consider from the service side as well, not just the financial side because It's important to understand what will happen to the people who receive the services from these organizations if they don't get the funding from the state. How do you know what the community impact will be? What will be the personal impact of not providing whatever it is, whether it's recovery housing, needle exchange or harm reduction services?	
Drug Testing Device Grants – Emily Trutor	Drug-checking in 18 V.S.A. § 4201 is defined as: “Drug-checking” means the testing of a substance to determine its chemical composition or assist in determining whether the substance contains contaminants, toxic substances, or hazardous compounds. Total OSAF Appropriation SFY 24-26: \$700,000 Obligated: \$699,788 Spent: \$408,106 Year 1 Data (September 2024 – August 2025) 381 samples were reported from the four drug checking programs. The portion of samples from each is: • 30% HIV/HCV Resource Center • 29% Vermont CARES • 26% AIDS Project of Southern VT • 15% Howard Center Safe Recovery The number of monthly samples received peaked in December through February. Common substances detected: Fentanyl, Cocaine/Crack Cocaine, Methamphetamines, Xylazine Year 2 data analysis will begin in October 2026.	Refer to DSU presentation for more information.
Recovery Housing Supports – Emily Trutor	The voucher program provides financial assistance to people in the early stages of recovery who may not have a stable income or employment. Vermonters can request assistance to help with room and board for a short period of time during the application process to a certified recovery home. Total OSAF Appropriation SFY 24-26: \$325,000 Obligated: \$325,000 Spent: \$295,744	Refer to DSU presentation for more information.

	292 Vouchers were issued between 10/24 and 6/26.	
Public Comment	Ed Baker Asked the committee members to write a bio that is available for the public. Review the RI press release on how they reduced overdose deaths five years earlier than planned. https://governor.ri.gov/press-releases/rhode-island-surpasses-2030-goal-overdose-deaths-continue-de... Overdose Awareness Day 8/31/26 in Burlington, please attend if you can. Asked that the committee focus on funding harm reduction and not prevention.	
Next Meeting	September 21, 2026, 10 - noon	