

Tennessee Opioid Abatement Council

Date	June 23 rd , 2023
Time	12:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. CST
Location	West Tennessee Healthcare-City/County Boardroom; Jackson, TN 38301

Council Members Present in Person: Clay Jackson, Karen Pershing, Lisa Tipton, Mike Flynn, Shayne Sexton, Stephen Loyd, Tommy Farmer, Brian Buuck

Council Members Present via Teams: Timothy Fournet, Charme Allen, Wayne Wykoff, Stephanie Vanterpool, Armando Fontes

Guests: Richard Barber, Linda Pledge, Yarnell Beatty, Jeremy Davis, Holly Kirby, Addie Arbach, Nancy Barber, Toby Griffin

Guests Present via Microsoft Teams: Michael (Hunger First), Steve H.

Staff: Mary Shelton, Elizabeth Rickman-Vaden, Ella Reding, Marie Williams, Taryn Sloss, Jessica Youngblom, Wes Geminn, Sam Boukli, Kurt Hippel, Zach Griffin

Presenter	Topic	Discussion
S. Loyd M. Shelton	Welcome, Introductions & Check-in	<p>The meeting was called to order by S. Loyd, and he welcomed guests, presenters, and members.</p> <p>S. Loyd called for a moment of silence for Tennessee families who have suffered a loss from addiction and/or Opioid Use Disorder (OUD) and those who are still suffering.</p> <p>M. Shelton conducted roll call for attendance of Council members.</p>

S. Loyd M. Williams Z. Griffin	Ethics Discussion	<p>S. Loyd discussed that with the abatement funding being released to the State of Tennessee he wants to ensure that the Council remains transparent and non-conflicted.</p> <p>He noted that he is a business owner, who has private interest and wants to be transparent.</p> <p>S. Loyd further stated that he along with M. Shelton, Commissioner M. Williams, Z. Griffin and the Governor’s General Counsel, Erin Merrick met to discuss ethics before any allocation of funds begins through the grant process.</p>
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		<p>S. Loyd stated he wants to ensure that he does not benefit financially in any way from the decisions of this Council.</p> <p>M. Williams reiterated S. Loyd’s concern and agreed that she also wants to ensure that this Council is transparent and there are no conflicts as well.</p> <p>Z. Griffin, who is with the Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services’ Division of General Counsel (DGC) explained the <i>Opioid Abatement Council Legal Guidance</i> document as seen below:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Legal Services: DGC will provide legal services to this Council as needed. ➤ Ethics Guidelines: <i>Opioid Abatement Council Legal Guidance</i> document was drafted to provide the highest standards of State ethics and transparency, avoid the appearance of conflict or ethical question and notion of disclosing. ➤ Open Meetings Act: Discussed that meetings of the council must comply with the open meeting requirement of Title 8, Chapter 44 and notwithstanding the open meeting requirements of Title 8, Chapter 44, the council is permitted to meet in a closed executive session for the purpose of discussing personnel-related issues in addition to any other purpose allowed by Title 8, Chapter 44. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • C. Jackson questioned if the subcommittee meetings held by Council members were allowed to meet virtually to discuss concerns that will later be brought to the full council. • C. Williams noted that this was permissible so long as it is only
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		<p>the members that are on this Council.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Z. Griffin advised to notify the Division of General Counsel the plans and discussions for any subcommittee meetings so that they can provide guidance if needed. • M. Williams noted that S. Boukli will be aware of the discussions and if there is a concern, he will provide guidance. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Open Records Act: All records of the council are public records including any forms that are completed and signed by the Council. ➤ Privacy: Any information that would be protected by HIPPA 42 CFR and of the various privacy laws should be handled accordingly. Z. Griffin recommended not bringing this information forward unless necessary. ➤ Removal: If there are questions the final decision maker would be whomever the Council member was appointed by. <p>Z. Griffin explained that Executive Order No. 2 provides ethical guidance for this Council.</p> <p>Furthermore, it is an Order concerning ethics policies applicable to, and ethics disclosures required of, executive branch employees.</p> <p>The complete Executive Order can be found on the State of Tennessee website by searching Executive Order 2 (tn.gov)</p> <p>Z. Griffin provided a summary of Executive Order 2 for the Council and explained as follows:</p>
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<p>S. Loyd</p>	<p>Review & Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes Motion & Council Vote</p>	<p>S. Loyd requested for the Council to approve the following meeting minutes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ February 27th, 2023 ➤ March 9th, 2023 (virtual) ➤ April 3rd, 2023 (virtual) ➤ May 24th, 2023 (virtual) <p>M. Flynn made a motion for approval. K. Pershing seconded the motion.</p>

		Motion carried.
S. Loyd	Our Why	<p>S. Loyd shared a testimonial about one of his patients who gave permission for him to share. The individual attended a Drug Recovery Court program in the 4th Judicial District.</p> <p>The patient is still in the program, gainfully employed and doing well.</p>
M. Shelton	Administrative Updates	<p>M. Shelton discussed the following administrative updates:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Requested the Council to provide feedback on the website. ➤ Notified Council that the ‘Contact Us’ page has been published on the website. ➤ There is a community email list for the public to receive information about upcoming meetings including town hall meetings. ➤ Council members were advised to submit their travel expense forms. <p>Community Grants Application Update:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ M. Shelton advised the Announcement of Funding would be posted mid-July. ➤ Progress being made with the grants platform vendor SmartSimple and STS. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Opioid Abatement Office staff has been able to navigate within the platform and see the customizations. • M. Shelton and E. Rickman-Vaden plan to begin training council members on the platform in August.

		<p>County Payments and Reports Update:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ \$31.4 million was sent out to counties in February and March 2023 ➤ E. Reding emailed all 95 county mayors a copy of the semiannual report to notify them of information they will need to provide September 2023. ➤ County mayors will receive a live Formstack form that they will submit their information in by September 30th, 2023. ➤ October-December the Opioid Abatement Council Office should have information compiled from the counties of how funds were used. ➤ Opioid Abatement Council Office is working on a 3-year projection and then the next county payments are set to be released the first quarter of 2024 and should continue for the next 18 years.
<p>M. Shelton</p>	<p>State Employee vs. Contract Position</p>	<p>M. Shelton provided a comparison to the Council for feedback on hiring two Grants Analysts as state employees versus hiring as contracted positions.</p> <p>Below were her findings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Contracted Positions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Does not create a state employee position, but there is a higher cost. • Position could be hired sooner. • Still would go through interview process. • Contracted positions must go through a vendor that charges a fee in addition to the salary that is provided to the contracted individual.

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ State Employee: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Budgeted amount would be less. • Hiring process may be longer. • Interviewing process would be the same. <p>M. Williams highlighted the benefits of hiring individuals as state employees that you can call to accountability.</p> <p>M. Shelton advised she is certain she will need this position 12-months out of the year once production begins.</p> <p>T. Farmer noted that you can work with the vendors to tailor the positions to meet the needs of the state position and from his experience they seem very experienced.</p> <p>M. Williams recommended hiring the same quality, less cost so that more funding could be placed in the services.</p>
M. Shelton	Fiscal Update	<p>M. Shelton updated the Council on the April Opioid Abatement Trust Fund Statement:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ \$31,425,152.77 was sent out to the 95 counties in Tennessee. ➤ The April Opioid Abatement Trust Fund Statement balance that includes interest earned is \$78,815,564.88.
M. Shelton S. Loyd	Guidance on Web Postings Motion & Council Vote	<p>M. Shelton advised that to ensure that all relevant information and data posted on the Opioid Abatement Council’s website, the Office requested the Council to approve the development of a <i>Guidance for Web Postings Policy</i>.</p> <p>S. Loyd noted that this guidance would also assist with future council members and requested for a motion to be made for the development of this policy and for it to be presented to the Council for comment, further development, and approval.</p> <p>C. Jackson made a recommendation to rename the policy to <i>Communications Policy</i>.</p>

		<p>S. Sexton made a motion for approval. B. Buuck seconded the motion.</p> <p>M. Shelton conducted a roll call vote.</p> <p>Motion carried.</p>
L. Tipton	<p>Standards & Metrics Subcommittee Motion & Council Vote</p>	<p>L. Tipton provided an overview of the discussions from the Standards and Metrics Subcommittee meetings as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ This subcommittee met on 5/31/23 and 6/13/23. ➤ They developed a recovery housing working definition for the Council to review and discuss. <p>S. Loyd requested for a motion to be made to approve the definition of Recovery Housing for the Qualified Applicant List for the Community Grants Applications.</p> <p>C. Jackson made a motion for approval. K. Pershing seconded the motion.</p> <p>M. Shelton conducted a roll call vote for members.</p> <p>Motion carried.</p>
K. Hippel	<p>Needs Assessment Annual Report to the Opioid Abatement Council</p>	<p>K. Hippel presented the 2023 Needs Assessment Annual Report.</p> <p>Below are areas that were highlighted:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Discussed T.C.A. 33-11-105 (b), which states that the Council must receive input from the department’s statewide Planning and Policy Council’s Needs Assessment process before rendering decisions regarding the disbursement of funds. ➤ TDMHSAS completes an annual assessment of need to prioritize programming.

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ TDMHSAS ask Statewide and Regional Planning and Policy Council’s to complete an annual Needs Assessment. ➤ Each spring, the seven Regional Planning and Policy Councils as well as the Statewide Planning and Policy Council’s Committees work independently to identify and prioritize up to three mental health and three substance abuse needs. ➤ 2023 Needs Assessment Survey Summary and can be located on the State of Tennessee website at www.tn.gov <p>K. Hippel noted that the process helps in two ways:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Identifies regional needs and assets to influence the mental health and substance abuse; and, ➤ Provides a method for the Department to target limited state resources to meet the identified needs more effectively and efficiently. <p>K. Hippel discussed the 2023 Needs Assessment Multiple Region Needs.</p> <p>He advised that multiple regions identified identical and/or similar substance abuse-related needs as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Increase funding/number of and access to residential and detox beds for adults and children. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • K. Hippel informed the Council that in the FY24 budget there was approximately \$12 million in non-recurring funding that the legislature and Governor Lee
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		<p>directed to substance use residential treatment.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Increase prevention and school-based programs for at-risk youth. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • K. Hippel advised that the FY24 budget has allocated approximately \$80 million for the school based behavioral health liaison program to provide approximately 140 more liaisons in the schools. • The Gambling Fund was also expanded to serve at-risk youth. • FY24 budget provided funding for the Juvenile Justice Diversion Project. ➤ Increase recovery housing, including Medication Assisted Treatment (MAT) ➤ Transportation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • K. Hippel advised that Region 1 and the Advisory Board are working to reduce any barriers that anyone would have making appointments. <p>K. Hippel noted that the TDMHSAS Planning and Budget Committee of the Statewide Planning and Policy Council acknowledges that the department has created or expanded programs to address these needs in the past and on an ongoing basis.</p> <p>M. Shelton advised the Council that the Needs Assessment will be included in the community grants training manual for reference.</p>
<p>S. Loyd C. Jackson</p>	<p>Work of the Council: Educational Presentations</p>	<p>S. Loyd presented on the Recovery Ecosystem and Medication Assisted Treatment (MAT)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ S. Loyd discussed three medications used for standard of care for Opioid Use Disorder (OUD) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Naltrexone

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Buprenorphine • Methadone <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Recovery Ecosystem Referral Sources <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Criminal Justice • Treatment Providers • Counselors • Community Support Groups • Self-directed ➤ Treatment Process <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Case Management • Employment Support • Life Skills Development • Health-Physical and Mental • Education Support • Stable Housing • Peer Support ➤ Outcome <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Employment • Transportation • Housing • Social Support <p>S. Loyd credited his own success story to being able to step into a system of care designed for him to succeed and stated that this is the challenge of this Council.</p> <p>C. Jackson presented on Palliative Care and Pain Medicine.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Discussed strategies to reduce overprescribing opioids. ➤ Discussed management of symptoms in patients where medical recovery is not expected. ➤ Distinguished the difference in acute and chronic pain. ➤ Correlation between mental illness, chronic pain and how it is bidirectional. ➤ Mental illness increases risk of misuse and or overdose. ➤ Social determinants of health
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<p>S. Loyd</p>	<p>Public Comment</p>	<p>S. Loyd opened the floor for public comment:</p> <p>Public Comment Speakers:</p> <p>K. Duvall, Executive Director of Welcome Home Ministries introduced his organization. He advised that they provide hope, healing and recovery for men suffering from substance use disorder (SUD).</p> <p>He also advised he serves on the National Alliance for Recovery Residences Advocacy Committee (NARR), and he is the advocacy chair for the Tennessee Alliance of Recovery Residences.</p> <p>K. Duvall discussed the benefits of having a NARR certification and informed the Council that TN-NARR is willing to be an available resource for this Council.</p> <p>Addie Arbach spoke on behalf of Next Step Initiatives. She wanted to bring light to the need to bring more assistance to those suffering with addictions while they are in active use.</p> <p>She noted that her organization meets individuals where they are and assist them to get certifications and become marketable.</p> <p>Richard Barber thanked the Council and staff for serving.</p> <p>Steve H. (virtual guest) advised he was a Project Director for a rural community opioid response program. He is working on expanding MAT and MOUD workforce training, ensure regions have more transportation and expanding employment of Certified Peer Recovery Specialists.</p> <p>He noted that there is limited harm reduction in rural West Tennessee and hopes that is continues to be part of the ecosystem of recovery.</p> <p>Michael (virtual guest) with Hunger First in Kingsport, TN asked if there is a way to appeal a</p>
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		<p>harm reduction plan that was denied by local authorities.</p> <p>S. Loyd advised that this was out of the scope of this Council but directed the individual to send his question to the Opioid Abatement Council Office 'Contact Us' page.</p>
S. Loyd	Meeting Adjourned	<p>S. Loyd advised that the next Council quarterly meeting will be held in Chattanooga.</p> <p>The meeting was adjourned at 3:05 p.m.</p>