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| *Date:* | 8/4/2022 |
| *Location and Time:* | 2 – 3 p.m. Via Teams |
| *Present:* | Mayor David Allaire, Chief Shawn Burke, Caroline Butler, David Englander, Monica Hutt, Jessica Kirby, Mark Levine, MD, Scott Pavek, Judge Madeline Motta, Rocket, Stacey Sigmon, Heather Stein, MD, Mayor Miro Weinberger, Representative Dane Whitman, Deb Wright, Gwynn Zakov, Cindy Seivwright, Kelly Dougherty |
| *Absent:* | Representative Ruth Hardy |
| *Meeting Facilitator and Note Taker:* | Mark Levine, David Englander and Sarah Gregorek |

**Opioid Settlement Advisory Committee**

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| **Meeting Objectives:** First meeting of the Opioid Settlement Advisory Committee | | |
| **Agenda Item**  Introductions and Welcome | **Discussion** | **Next Steps** |
| Overview | The Legislature created this committee to provide advice and recommendations regarding the Opioid Abatement Special Fund.  The opioid problem is greater than it’s ever been. We are hearing about a new company, Israel based opioid company, that will be held accountable in the near future for millions of dollars.  We currently focus Federal money on treatment, recovery, prevention, harm reduction and evaluation activities. At our next meeting we will provide more in depth understanding on the amount and utilization of both federal grant monies and state funds. It is important that the committee have this context so as to not be duplicative of ongoing programs in its recommendations, and to allow for expansion of worthy initiatives that require additional funds for scaling of efforts. and thereby make the best use of this settlement money. We need to be educated on how to do that well using the same principles we use in any other exercise within public health; guided by the evidence and data and come to consensus regarding potential avenues where future funding should be dedicated. | **Next meeting:**  Provide more in depth understanding on the amount and utilization of both federal grant monies and state funds. |
| Review our charge, [Act 118](https://legislature.vermont.gov/Documents/2022/Docs/ACTS/ACT118/ACT118%20As%20Enacted.pdf) | This settlement that was agreed for Act 118 is very broad.  Charge – Advise /recommend the spending of the opioid abatement special fund.  It exists but no money has been received yet, should be dispersed in the coming months, it will vary may increase in time due to additional settlements.  The first settlement is an 18-year commitment for payments towards substance use treatment and prevention.  Page 7 of Act 118, the spending plan is broad and comprehensive  Page 9 Spending should prioritize preventing deaths from Opioids, see 9 priories [HERE](https://legislature.vermont.gov/Documents/2022/Docs/ACTS/ACT118/ACT118%20As%20Enacted.pdf)  The Advisory committee will meet at least quarterly but no more than six times per year.  Write recommendations and submit an annual report  To the House Committees on Appropriations and Human Services and the Senate Committees on Appropriations and Health & Welfare  Administrative and legal burden will be handled by the Department of Health. Communications with legal are privileged. The meetings are public meetings and are not considered privileged. |  |
| Rules of order | Roberts rule of procedure is proposed.  Vote – Agree to the Roberts Rule of Procedure  Dr. Levine all those in favor in adopting this rule, 13 people approved, no objections  David will be the parliamentarian |  |
| Current State of Affairs Regarding Grants and Programming | Do not operate in a vacuum there are a number of programs already in place for prevention, treatment, etc. and VDH primarily receives a tremendous amount of federal funding to carry out many of these programs.  We recently received state funding for Prevention (millions of dollars) and we have some programs like use of naloxone via a tax through pharmaceutical companies. We want to be creative but not duplicative.  Maybe expand existing programs.  When we meet in the next 2-3 months, we will have members from the Division of Substance Use present the current funding in place as a foundation. |  |
| Committee Discussion on Testimony and Subject Matter Experts (SME) | Where’s the evidence?  Is the evidence strong, medium, week?  Who’s an expert within the committee and where can we draw from to include SME’s in our future meetings?  There are SME within and outside the Department of Health. |  |
| Discussion | Ground us in evidence-based practices – Stacy S.  Rep Whitman –How do we request a witness? David – you would propose it to the group and if the committee agrees the Department will arrange the witness.  Mayor Weinberger – Last six years, he’s struck by how much has changed, academic studies, policy and innovation that different states have taken on. Is there a staff capacity to generate a report that would proceed every meeting to capture updates, new state or federal legislation, studies, etc. Dr. Levine - will discuss this with the Division of Substance Use since they will have the latest data and we’ll have them present at an upcoming meeting.  Rep Whitman – Coming months will we have a better sense of the funds, do we have ballpark number? When will get that info? David – Told it’s going to be $3M per year for 18 years. Office of Attorney General will notify us when the funding is available. |  |
| Public Input | None |  |
| Next Meeting: | October 5, 2022, 3 – 4 p.m. |  |