

# OKLAHOMA OPIOID OVERDOSE FATALITY REVIEW BOARD

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT 2020\*

DR. JASON BEAMAN, CHAIRMAN

JANUARY 31, 2021

\*Due to health concerns as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic and due to the expiration of the amendments to the Oklahoma Open Meeting Act which allowed virtual meetings, the Board was unable to assemble a quorum to meet in-person in December 2020 to conduct business. As a result, the Chairman submits this report only to document the meetings of the Board for 2020. This report will be presented to the members in 2021 for approval and possible amendment. An adopted final report will be supplied as soon as the group is able to safely conduct business.

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## BOARD MEMBERS

Mike Hunter Lori Carter ( <i>Designee</i> )	Attorney General
Eric Pfeifer, M.D.	Chief Medical Examiner
Lance Frye, M.D. Buffy Heater ( <i>Designee</i> )	Commissioner, Oklahoma State Department of Health
Tracy Wendling, Ph.D.	Chief of Injury Prevention Services, Oklahoma State Department of Health
Jean Hausheer, M.D.	President, Oklahoma State Medical Association (Immediate past president)
Bob Cook (July, 2019 to June 2020) Donnie Anderson (July 2020 to present)	Director, Oklahoma Bureau of Narcotics Dangerous Drugs Control
Carrie Slatton-Hodges, M.S., L.P.C. Jessica Hawkins ( <i>Designee</i> ) Andrea Hamor Edmondson ( <i>Alt. Designee</i> )	Commissioner, Oklahoma Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services
Timothy Moser, D.O.	President, Oklahoma Osteopathic Association
Justin Brown Debi Knecht ( <i>Designee</i> ) Jennifer Postlewait ( <i>Alt. Designee</i> )	Director, Oklahoma Department of Human Services
Rick Adams	Director, Oklahoma State Bureau of Investigation
Derek Manning	County Sheriff, Beckham County Sheriff's Office
Brandon Clabes (Co-Vice Chair)	Chief of Municipal Police Department, Midwest City Police Department
Linda Scoggins	Private Practice Attorney licensed in the state of Oklahoma
Chris Boring	District Attorney, District 26
Kevin Taubman, M.D. (Co-Vice Chair)	Physician with emergency medical training
Jason Beaman, D.O. (Chair)	Physician with experience in drug addiction treatment and recovery
Sheila St. Cyr, M.S., R.N., N.P.D.-B.C.	Nurse
Paul Hesse	Member of the Judiciary
Lance Lang	Individual who currently receives or has been a consumer of addiction recovery services related to opioid use
Mike Maddox	Individual who currently receives or has been a consumer of addiction recovery services related to opioid use
Oklahoma Opioid Overdose Fatality Review Board Staff: Megan Wurzer, Senior Prevention Field Representative, Oklahoma Department of Mental Health & Substance Abuse Services; Alexandra Adkins, Assistant Attorney General, Office of Attorney General Mike Hunter.	

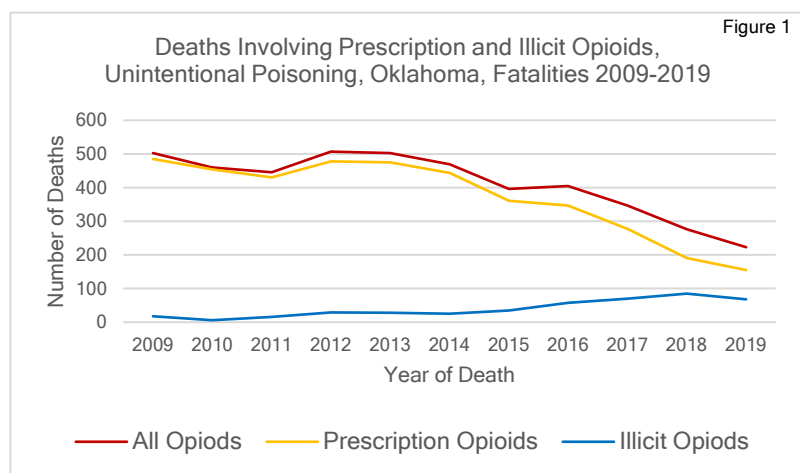
## Background

The Oklahoma Opioid Overdose Fatality Review Board was developed from a recommendation by the Oklahoma Commission on Opioid Abuse through House Bill 2798 in 2018. The 20-member Board, chaired by Dr. Jason Beaman, is comprised of a multidisciplinary team of subject matter experts in the following areas: forensic medicine, law enforcement, criminal justice, emergency medical services, public health, drug addiction treatment and recovery, and lived experience. Members meet quarterly to review cases and develop strategies to improve the state's response to opioid overdose.

Due to health concerns as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic and due to the expiration of the amendments to the Oklahoma Open Meeting Act which allowed virtual meetings, the Board was unable to convene a quorum of members in December in order to adopt a final report. As a result, I am submitting this document to report on the work of the Board for 2020. An adopted final report offering recommendations regarding legislation and other preventative measures based on case review findings will be supplied as soon as the group is able to safely conduct business. Until then, this remains only a Chairman's Report.

## Unintentional Opioid Overdose Fatality in Oklahoma

Data from the Oklahoma State Department of Health, Injury Prevention Services show that in 2019 there were 570 drug overdose fatalities in Oklahoma; of those, 155 involved prescription opioids and 68 involved illicit opioids. From 2012-2019, unintentional prescription opioid overdose fatalities steadily declined (Figure 1). While these data show an overall decrease in fatal opioid overdoses, the steady number of fatalities from illicit opioids emphasizes the need for addiction prevention and treatment services, overdose prevention efforts and research.



Source: OSDH, Injury Prevention Service, Fatal Unintentional Poisoning Surveillance System (Abstracted from Medical Examiner reports)

## Overview

The Oklahoma Opioid Overdose Fatality Review Board held two public meetings in 2020. The Board met in person in January 2020, however, due to health concerns presented by the COVID-19 pandemic in March 2020, the Board was unable to meet in person for the remainder of the year. Changes to the Oklahoma Open Meeting Act allowed the Board to convene virtually in November 2020 for a special meeting. The following is a brief summary of the 2020 meetings.

## Board Activities & Findings 2020

During the January and November meetings, the Board conducted follow-up reviews of previous cases after additional documentation requested was received, discussed proposed legislation and conducted two case reviews. The Board discussed and voted to: adopt the 2019 Annual Report; support Senate Bill 1277, granting the Board access to the Prescription Drug Monitoring Program; support Senate Bill 1843, adding the President of AONE to the Board; support legislation to add the Chair of the Oklahoma State Board of Pharmacy or designee to the Board; and designate the Chairman of the Board as a non-voting member except in the case of a tie.

The Board reviewed two cases of individuals who died from unintentional opioid overdose between January 2019 and January 2020. Due to the limited number of cases reviewed, the demographic information contained in this report will be limited to protect the confidentiality of the deceased.

Of the cases reviewed, one was female and one was male. Decedents from the cases reviewed fell within the 36-45 and 46-55 years age groups and resided in the Central and Northeast

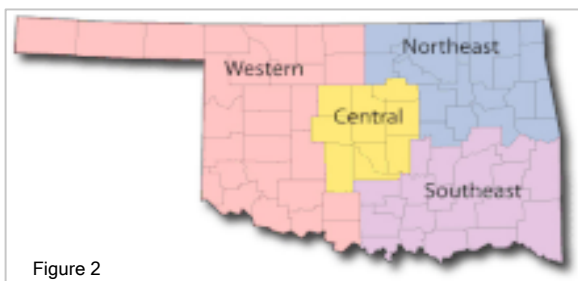


Figure 2

regions (Figure 2). Prescription opioids were listed as the primary cause of death in both cases and in one case methamphetamine was also listed. There was no documentation of the administration of naloxone in either case.

## Conclusion

The COVID-19 pandemic limited the Oklahoma Opioid Overdose Fatality Review Board's ability to safely conduct in-person business, nevertheless, the Board quickly adapted its strategy to continue the work of developing recommendations informed by data obtained through case review to improve opioid policies, procedures, and practices in the state of Oklahoma. I look forward to continuing this work in 2021.

Jason Beaman D.O., M.S., M.P.H., FAPA

Assistant Clinical Professor

Chair, Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences

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