

Opioid Commission Minutes 3.11.21

The Oklahoma Commission on Opioid Abuse held its sixteenth meeting on March 11, 2021 at 1:30pm via WebEx, and was held consistent with the amendments to the Open Meeting Act, 25 O.S. 2011, §301 *et seq.*, signed into law by Gov. J. Kevin Stitt on February 10, 2021. *See* Senate Bill No. 1031, 2021 O.S.L 3, §2. The agenda was posted on the Attorney General's website 24 hours in advance in accordance with 25 O.S. §311. The meeting notice was sent to the office of the Oklahoma Secretary of State, also pursuant to 25 O.S. §311, and was date-stamped by that office on March 8, 2021 at 4:48pm.

Members attending virtually: Attorney General Mike Hunter, Bob Howard, Chief Agent Craig Williams on behalf of OBNDD Director Donnie Anderson, Dr. Scott Anthony, Dr. Ed Braly, Dr. Kevin Taubman, Jenny Schmitt, ODMHSAS Director Slatton-Hodges, District Attorney Kevin Buchanan, Shonda Lassiter, and Teresa Green on behalf of Insurance Commissioner Glen Mulready.

Call to order: 1:31pm

Attorney General Mike Hunter called the meeting to order and welcomed the members. He introduced Associate Attorney General Tim Downing.

Roll call: 1:33pm

Assistant Attorney General Alexandra Adkins called roll and recognized a quorum. She noted that the meeting notice and agenda were posted in accordance with the applicable Oklahoma statute.

Approval of Minutes from Previous Meeting: 1:34pm

DA Kevin Buchanan moved to approve the minutes from the Council's last meeting on September 10, 2020. Dr. Ed Braly seconded the motion. It was then passed unanimously by the members.

Discussion and Adoption of Chairman's Report: 1:36pm

AG Hunter explained that the report was submitted to the Legislature on December 31st as required by statute, and it was sent to members as well. He opened the floor for discussion or debate, but no discussion or debate took place. Dr. Braly moved to adopt the Chairman's Report as a Council, and Ms. Teresa Green seconded. It passed unanimously by the members at 1:37pm.

Legislative Update: 1:38pm

Deputy AG Lori Carter provided a presentation regarding opioid legislation from the 2021 legislative session, including HB1567, HB2510, HB2676, SB57, SB58, SB94, SB241, SB605, SB610, and SB888. She also presented on H.R.1384/S.445, the FIGHT Fentanyl Act, and the SUPPORT Act. Dr. Braly emphasized SB605, and Attorney General Hunter said he is reassured as long as the provider is required to check the PMP. Commissioner Slatton-Hodges said the bill encourages everyone involved to have meaningful discussions regarding opioid dosage and usage. Attorney General Hunter asked if there were any questions, and there were none.

Update on Pandemic and Increased Overdose Deaths: 2:03pm

Dr. Jason Beaman recognized impact that the pandemic has had on overdose deaths. He explained that people are staying home, making it easier to abuse substances in the middle of the day. Combined with the stress and anxiety of a global pandemic, and including financial and health-related factors, substance use has increased. He stated that while overdoses have increased nationwide, Oklahoma has seen the number remain relatively stable, which he credits to Oklahoma's strong agency efforts and naloxone programs both before and during the pandemic. He believes that the most lasting health impacts from the pandemic related to substance use will be due to increased alcohol consumption. He highlighted the importance of mental health parity.

Sector Announcements and Updates: 2:10pm

A. Director Donnie Anderson, OBNDD

- Chief Agent Craig Williams emphasized the continuing progress of PMP integration. He explained that almost all CDS prescriptions are electronically prescribed, with the number fluctuating around 89%, and many of the written prescriptions are related to exceptions such as filling the prescription on base. He looks forward to full reporting and highlighted that 15 other states already have such reporting requirements. He thinks increased reporting will create a much clearer picture of drugs coming into Oklahoma. He explained that OBN is seeing an increase of cases involving counterfeit pharmaceuticals.

B. Commissioner Carrie Slatton-Hodges, DMHSAS

- Commissioner Slatton-Hodges highlighted that the amount of work done on prescription opiates has been amazing, and that all of the work done ahead of the pandemic has served the state well. She explained that DMHSAS is seeing overdoses related to heroin and fentanyl, and that it is crucial to get the word out that drugs purchased on the streets may be laced with fentanyl. She also emphasized the need to continue the naloxone distribution, especially to underserved areas and through non-traditional means of access.

C. Scott Anthony, D.O.

- Dr. Anthony shared that his pain management practice is incorporating low doses of naltrexone. He explained he is now working through Utica Park Clinic in Tulsa, and he is encouraging general practitioners to stay below 90MMEs per day while also highlighting the importance of Narcan. He is seeing less high-dose patients that refer into his care, but he still sees some come in from out-of-state with around 350MMEs per day. He does have some legacy patients that he has been seeing for as long as 20 years, and some have been receptive and have reduced dosage or been able to come off opioids entirely. He is seeing less opioids being prescribed overall. He explained that when he sees a patient, he views the PMP, drug screen results, ORT scores, updated PPA, if Narcan has been prescribed, and highlight prescriptions for additional opioids or benzodiazepines. He thinks integration is extremely helpful.

D. Rep. Chris Kannady, HD91

- Not present

E. Sen. Roger Thompson, Dist. 8

- Not present

F. Kevin Taubman, M.D.

- No report

G. Commissioner Glen Mulready, Oklahoma Insurance Dep't.

- No report

H. District Attorney Kevin Buchanan

- DA Buchanan explained that his current focus, and the focus of most DAs, is the impacts of *McGirt*. He is interested to see how it will impact drug enforcement, especially trafficking cases, and he explained that federal prosecutors do not always take smaller drug or trafficking cases, especially with the overwhelming number of severe crimes they are dealing with currently. Attorney General Hunter stated that he shares that concern. He stated that the federal prosecutors are handling cases the best they can, but it is tragic. He stated that tribes are expected to start prosecuting, but Oklahoma is not safer following *McGirt*. He explained that compacting is the only avenue available, and he will continue to appeal to tribal leadership.

I. Bob Howard

- No report

J. Jenny Schmitt, MS, CRNA, APRN

- Ms. Schmitt explained that for many people, their first exposure to opioids is following an elective surgery. She is focusing on education and is sending out information regarding opioid-free anesthetic techniques and other ways to decrease opioid use for elective surgeries.

K. Edmond Braly, D.D.S., FAACS

- Dr. Braly explained that dentistry has recognized the role they played in opioid prescribing around 10 years ago, but there has been a shift in rational, especially since wisdom teeth removal is a common first elective surgery. He explained that all dental students are taught e-prescribing, and he sees oral surgery residents prescribing less MMEs than most practicing oral surgeons. He stated that they have turned a corner with young adults and opioids in dentistry.

L. Shonda Lassiter

- Ms. Lassiter introduced herself. She is a pharmacist in Dell City, and her pharmacy is both a retail and hospice pharmacy in the same building. She is the past president of the OPA.

Adjournment

Assistant Attorney General Alexandra Adkins announced that the next meeting is scheduled for 6/17/21 at 1:30pm at the Attorney General's Office. The meeting may also be virtual is permitted and necessary. Ms. Schmitt moved to adjourn the meeting. Dr. Braly seconded. The meeting adjourned at 2:32pm.