

Oklahoma Commission on Opioid Abuse 6.3.22 Minutes

The Oklahoma Commission on Opioid Abuse held a regular meeting at 1:30PM on June 3 at the Oklahoma Attorney General's Office, 313 N.E. 21st St, Oklahoma City, OK. The agenda was posted on the Attorney General's website and outside the meeting room 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.

Members present Samantha Guinn on behalf of Attorney General John O'Connor, Beau Ratke, Bob Howard, Commissioner Slatton-Hodges, Nicole Nash, Dr. Scott Anthony, Dr. Ed Braly, DA Kevin Buchanan.

Call to Order

Deputy Attorney General Samantha Guinn called the meeting to order and welcomed the members.

Roll Call

Director of Legislative Affairs Emma Sherry called roll. Deputy General Counsel Thomas Schneider recognized a quorum and noted that the meeting notice and agenda were posted in accordance with the applicable Oklahoma statute Open Meetings Act.

Approve Minutes from previous meeting

Dr. Anthony moved to approve the minutes from the Council's last meeting on December 8, 2021. Dr. Braly seconded the motion. It was passed unanimously by the members.

Presentation from Oklahoma Bureau of Narcotics

Mr. Ratke informed the group about electronic prescribing becoming effective in January 2020 and has helped cut down forgeries of drugs in Oklahoma and all CDS must be e-prescribes while all veterinarians are exempt from e-prescribing along with Rx being filled on federal property, compounds, and a waiver from boards. All CDS not e-prescribed must be issued on OBNDD prescription pads. Mr. Ratke gave an overview of opioid statistics in the past few years and announced there has been a decrease since 2017 due to legislation previously passed. He stated Oklahoma is sitting right under 200 million pills dispensed per year. Mr. Ratke states that Opioid data does not include buprenorphine and opioid data on pill count only includes tablets, capsules, and pills.

Mr. Ratke also gave an overview of drug related overdose death data. 2021 has not been completely updated but at this time there is an estimated 681 deaths in Oklahoma, and this includes Fentanyl related deaths. He stated in 2017, pharmaceutical related deaths were more likely and now it is trending the other way to a higher illicit rate. He states that the Fentanyl overdose deaths have been rising rapidly. He stated that other drugs such as heroin, marijuana and other illicit drugs have had fentanyl pressed into it as well.

Sector Announcements and Updates

Mr. Bob Howard gave an update on his background working with pain management to get legislation across the line. He stated that he would like to see the group be more engaged with legislation related to opioids. Mr. Howard highlighted legislation previously passed that helped the state of Oklahoma and saved a lot of lives.

Dr. Scott Anthony informed the group on CDC guidelines that was directed at primary care physicians. He stated there are multiple different pain management studies that are broken down. He stated there are a few takeaways: do not rapidly decrease and to taper down, understanding pain states, patient selection on opioids and appropriate steps to take prior. He believes patient selection is key depending on a person-by-person issue and how they respond to opioids.

Commissioner Carrie Slatton-Hodges confirmed that based on the work that the Commission did, Oklahoma overdose death rates dropped dramatically and persons seeking treatment for addiction increased. She stated that alcohol was originally the top reason people went into addiction treatment until 10 years ago when methamphetamine become the top. She also highlighted the top problem is fentanyl and believes the commission may need to spend time studying moving forward and finding a practical solution as it is the highest overdose death issue.

District Attorney Kevin Buchanan announced his retirement and that a fellow DA will step in next meeting. He stressed to the group that the state does not only have an opioid problem, it is an addiction problem including fentanyl, methamphetamine, etc.. DA Buchanan stated that they are arresting people everyday for trafficking fentanyl and it is mainly other drugs disguised as fentanyl. He stated tribes do not have statutes on trafficking fentanyl, so Native Americans trafficking do not exist.

Nicole Nash on behalf of the Oklahoma Insurance Department informed the group there was not a lot of opioid legislation that impacted the Insurance Department. She states that she has personally been involved in opioid issues and is open to helping the Commission in any way she can.

Dr. Ed Braly states that he would be welcome to form a group to help for legislative ideas that would continue be beneficial. He applauded the help of agencies including the Department of Mental Health being able to decrease the number of prescriptions. He believes prescribing is an education issue that needs to be taught more in depth across the board for incoming physicians.

Legislative Report

Emma Sherry gave a legislative report on opioid related legislation including SB 1275, SB 1516, SB 1151 and SB 888. She stated that if there are any legislative suggestions to let the policy team know so there can be discussion to develop good policies that can come from the commission.

Adjournment 1:35PM

DA Buchanan moved to adjourn the meeting. Dr. Braly seconded. The meeting was adjourned.

