

King County Regional Opioid Abatement Council (OAC) Meeting Minutes

Meeting Date: April 9, 2025 (Rescheduled from March 19, 2025)

Location: Microsoft Teams

Attendees:

- Brad Finegood, Public Health—Seattle & King County (OAC member representing King County)
- Jeff Sakuma, City of Seattle (OAC member representing the City of Seattle)
- Kent Hay, City of Auburn (OAC member representing Sound Cities Association)
- Dan Floyd, King County Department of Community and Human Services, Behavioral Health and Recovery Division (OAC member representing King County)
- Janine Joly, King County Prosecuting Attorney’s Office
- Addy Borges, Public Health—Seattle & King County (staff supporting OAC administration)
- Rica Navor Kuntze, Public Health—Seattle & King County (staff supporting OAC finance)
- Allora Esmero, Public Health—Seattle & King County (staff supporting OAC finance)

Meeting Minutes:

Presenter	Agenda Item	Discussion
All	Follow up items from last meeting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Finance staff will present expected OAC Budget and Revenue • Administrative staff will present county-wide program options for reallocation of Sammamish funds • Administrative staff will discuss internship project of cities’ usages of settlement funds
<p>A. Borges, B. Finegood, J. Joly</p>	OAC role/responsibilities in technical assistance requests	<p>Discussion of OAC roles/responsibilities regarding technical assistance requests from cities and pre-approval of cities’ proposed uses of settlement funds.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Administrative staff and the Prosecuting Attorney’s Office (PAO) reviewed recent requests from cities for OAC to approve their proposed uses of settlement funds prior to making allocations or expenditures, including a request from the City of Bothell to review a recent RFP. • PAO clarified that, while under the King County OAC Agreement and the One Washington MOU local governments maintain full discretion over the use and distribution of their allocations, both agreements also state that the Regional OACs are responsible for reviewing expenditure reports, hearing complaints, and taking remedial action, all related to compliance with the Approved Purposes. OAC therefore has a responsibility to determine if expenditures comply with the Approved Purposes. For this reason, it is

		<p>reasonable for the OAC to advise a city about Approved Uses if a city requests this.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • OAC determined that it will provide feedback directly to cities who request approvals or technical assistance. Following these requests, OAC will notify other Parties of the content of these discussions and any conclusions via email. • The process for requesting review of proposed funding uses and/or technical assistance will be as follows: 1) Cities should work with their legal counsel as a first step to determine if proposed uses are in line with the MOU; 2) If the city or its legal counsel has remaining doubt about alignment with Approved Uses, the city should submit a question via email to OAC with a short description of the proposed use; 3) OAC may then approve uses via email or invite the city to attend a meeting to discuss the matter further; 4) The request, OAC’s conclusion, and/or content of discussions will be emailed to cities as a final step. OAC will provide an email overview of this process to cities following this meeting. OAC will review section B and C of approved uses, RFP from Bothell, and communicate decision to Bothell and other Parties. • OAC and PAO also discussed law enforcement uses of settlement funds, following conversations with cities that suggested some Parties may be planning to use settlement funds on law enforcement. Specifically, Section I of the Approved Uses relates to first responders and lists the following as allowable: “Current and future law enforcement expenditures relating to the opioid epidemic.” While this category appears broad, the Settlement Agreement expresses the intent that all funds be used for “Opioid Remediation”, defined as: <i>Care, treatment, and other programs and expenditures (including reimbursement for past such programs or expenditures except where this Agreement restricts the use of funds solely to future Opioid Remediation) designed to (1) address the misuse and abuse of opioid products, (2) treat or mitigate opioid use or related disorders, or (3) mitigate other alleged effects of, including on those injured as a result of, the opioid epidemic.</i> <p>Exhibit E provides a non-exhaustive list of expenditures that qualify as being paid for Opioid</p>
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<p>A. Borges, OAC</p>	<p>Sammamish funds proposals</p>	<p>Administrative staff presented several options for county-wide program uses of Sammamish settlement fund reallocation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Youth Healing Project: Existing program providing mini grants to young people to create mental health supports for their peers. • Communications: Several options for communications projects, including 1) development and distribution of printed overdose materials (existing project); 2) re-running existing communications campaigns (existing project); 3) audience research (new project); 4) peer-to-peer overdose prevention and harm reduction education (new project) • County-wide mail-order naloxone program: Existing program to supply community organizations (inclusive of Eastside and organizations within the City of Sammamish) with naloxone by mail or delivery. <p>OAC discussed each option, including expected administrative requirements, timelines for rollout, and alignment with the disbursement schedule for Sammamish funds. OAC voted to reallocate funds as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Two OAC members voted to fund the Youth Healing Project • Two OAC members voted to fund the county-wide mail-order naloxone program <p>Based on the vote, OAC decided to allocate all funds accrued to date (approximately \$36,000) to the Youth Healing Project, and future funds to the mail order naloxone (approximately \$3,000-\$7,000 per year until 2038). Administrative staff and finance will work with programs to roll out this process.</p> <p>OAC will discuss updates to the Sammamish dashboard in the next OAC meeting</p>

R. Navorkuntze	OAC budget/revenue update	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Finance staff presented OAC budget and revenue projections through the end of the settlement disbursement period (2038), with two credit structure scenarios: 1) status quo, crediting cities back unspent funds yearly; or 2) holding back credits from “balloon payment years” (i.e. years with payments that were unforeseen at the time of the MOU) until the end of the settlement period. With current planned staffing levels necessary to administer OAC, Public Health – Seattle & King County will incur funding deficits starting in 2026, and significant deficits by 2033. Holding the current year’s credit would reduce deficit and likely allow for ~\$1 million returned at the end of the settlement period (2039). Without amortization of balloon payments, Public Health – Seattle & King County may be unable to facilitate the OAC. Administrative staff and PAO will discuss possible next steps, and OAC will discuss at the next meeting.
A. Borges	Intern Project and open meeting for cities	OAC will discuss Public Health settlement intern project, the next reporting period for cities, and opening the next meeting for cities in the May OAC meeting.
All	Schedule next OAC meeting and determine meeting cadence	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> OAC will begin meeting monthly, starting in May OAC will schedule the next meeting via email J. Sakuma is retiring 7/4/25, and the City of Seattle will appoint a new OAC member

Follow up items:

- OAC will provide an email overview of the process for cities to request review of proposed funding uses.
- OAC will review section B and C of approved uses, RFP from Bothell, and communicate decision to Bothell and other Parties.
- Administrative staff and finance staff will work with county-wide programs to roll out reallocation of Sammamish funds.
- OAC will discuss updates to the Sammamish dashboard in the next OAC meeting
- Administrative staff and PAO will discuss possible next steps for OAC budget, and OAC will discuss at the next meeting.
- OAC will discuss Sound Cities Association interest in attendance
- OAC will discuss Public Health settlement intern project, the next reporting period for cities, and opening next meeting for cities in the May OAC meeting.