



Oklahoma Opioid Abatement Board  
*Regular Meeting Minutes*  
Wednesday, November 20, 2024 at 1:30pm

The Oklahoma Opioid Abatement Board held its meeting on Wednesday, November 20, 2024 at 1:30 p.m., located at the Oklahoma Attorney General's Office, 313 N.E. 21<sup>st</sup> Street, Oklahoma City, OK 73105. OAG staff provided proper notice of the meeting, as required under the Open Meeting Act, 25 O.S.2021, § 311, to the Secretary of State on December 7, 2023. OAG staff posted the agenda no less than twenty-four hours in advance of the public meeting in prominent public view at the Oklahoma Attorney General's Office.

Attorney General Gentner Drummond called the meeting to order at 1:35 p.m.

Ms. Jill Nichols called roll and recognized a quorum. At the time of calling roll, the following Board members were present:

AG Gentner Drummond	Mr. Scott Martin
Mr. Josh Cantwell	Ms. Lori Parish
Dr. Kelly Dunn	Dr. Atul Walia
Mr. Mike Hoskins	

Members Ms. Carol Bush and Dr. LeRoy Young were not in attendance.

Ms. Kristi Ice noted that the meeting notice and agenda were posted in accordance with the Open Meeting Act, and a majority of members were present.

Members of the OAG staff, including Ms. Kristi Ice, Ms. Jill Nichols, Ms. Macey Whitehouse, along with Mr. Terry Simonson, were present to assist the Board.

**Agenda Item 4. Review discussion, and possible action regarding minutes from the June 4, 2024 meeting**

The Board members reviewed the minutes from the June 4, 2024, meeting. Mr. Martin moved to approve the minutes of the June 4, 2024, meeting. Mr. Hoskins seconded the motion. The following members voted in favor of the motion:

AG Drummond	Mr. Martin
Mr. Cantwell	Ms. Parish
Dr. Dunn	Dr. Walia
Mr. Hoskins	

**Agenda Item 5. Update on the following matters:**

- A. Status of the current grant projects**
- B. Request for Proposal for Grant Closeout Services, Grantee Performance Measurement and Data Analysis**
- C. Legislative update for the 2025 Regular Session**

- (A) Ms. Nichols provided an update on the status of current grant projects. She informed members that: there are 69 subdivisions currently funded or awaiting funding, the current amount of awarded projects is at \$9,601,524.83, the balance available from the initial round of 2024 grants is \$13,398,475.17, and that the amount appropriated for 2025 is \$20,000,000.00.
- (B) Ms. Ice provided an update on the RFP for grant closeout services. She informed the members that the RFP was issued finally, that responses are due back on December 4<sup>th</sup>, and that it will look at grantee performance, auditing, etc. She advised that an update will be provided in January.
- (C) Ms. Whitehouse provided a legislative update for 2025. She informed the members that proposed legislation will include: amending the definition of “approved purpose” to include purposes that are included in Exhibit E; amending the definition of “political subdivision” to include colleges and universities; amending Title 74 Section 30.6 to allow the Attorney General to use up to 10% of Abatement Board funds for statewide opioid abatement partnerships; and clarify the use of data in the grant process.

No action was taken.

**Agenda Item 6. Discussion and possible action regarding the use of funds received by the Oklahoma Abatement Revolving Fund for administrative support as allowed by title 74 section 30.6**

Ms. Ice explained to the Board that prior staff interpreted the statute to read that it was necessary to have it specified to be able to spend funds on administrative purposes. After a review by current staff and consulting with the Attorney General, staff interprets the statute to allow for use of funding for administrative purposes. Staff will cap that at 5% and use the funding for technical support of the grant administration process. Attorney General Drummond quoted the section of the statute, noting that the permissive language therein allows for this use and that best practice calls for discussion by the Board, and would entertain a motion to allow the Board to use 5% of its funds appropriated for the Board’s administrative support consistent with the language of the statute and consistent with the settlement documents.

Mr. Cantwell moved to approve the recommended motion. Dr. Dunn seconded the motion. The following members voted in favor of the motion:

AG Drummond	Mr. Martin
Mr. Cantwell	Ms. Parish

Dr. Dunn  
Mr. Hoskins

Dr. Walia

**Agenda Item 7. Presentation, review, discussion, and possible action to accept the Subcommittee recommendations regarding awarding grants to Eligible Participants who resubmitted applications. 7A. Applications recommended for approval; 7B. Applications recommended for approval with conditions; 7C. Applications not recommended for approval**

Ms. Ice thanked the subcommittee for reviewing the applications and Healthy Minds for their technical assistance to the grantees. Ms. Ice noted that 21 of the 29 applicants resubmitted applications and that the subcommittee is recommending funding for all but 3.

**A. Applications recommended for approval:**

Beckham County  
Caddo County  
Comanche County  
Custer County  
Greer County  
Harmon County  
Haskell County  
Jefferson County  
Tillman County  
Lawton Public Schools

Attorney General Drummond recommended a motion to approve these as recommended at the amounts requested. Mr. Hoskins moved to approve this set of applications as recommended. Dr. Walia seconded the motion. The following members voted in favor of the motion:

AG Drummond      Mr. Martin  
Mr. Cantwell      Ms. Parish  
Dr. Dunn            Dr. Walia  
Mr. Hoskins

**B. Applications recommended for approval with conditions:**

Grady County  
Kiowa County  
Stephens County  
Latimer County  
Osage County  
Ponca City  
Warr Acres  
Owasso Public Schools

Ms. Ice explained that these applications were acceptable with the exception of some specific instruction or change to each one and examples were provided. With no discussion from the Board,

Attorney General Drummond offered to entertain a motion to approve this set of applications with the conditions and amounts requested. Mr. Martin made the recommended motion. Dr. Walia seconded the motion. The following members voted in favor of the motion, with Mr. Cantwell recused himself from voting on the following applications: Osage County, Ponca City, and Owasso Public Schools:

AG Drummond	Mr. Martin
Mr. Cantwell	Ms. Parish
Dr. Dunn	Dr. Walia
Mr. Hoskins	

**C. Applications not recommended for approval:**

Hughes County  
McCurtain County  
City of Guymon

Ms. Nichols advised that these three applicants were not recommended for approval because they either submitted incomplete applications or submitted proposals that did not comply with guidelines and were not willing to make recommended changes to come into compliance. Attorney General Drummond confirmed with members of the subcommittee, Ms. Ice, and Mr. Simonson that these applicants were given the opportunity for support of their proposals, and after that confirmation recommended a motion to accept the subcommittee's recommendation to not approve these applications. Mr. Cantwell made the recommended motion. Dr. Walia seconded the motion. The following members voted in favor of the motion:

AG Drummond	Mr. Martin
Mr. Cantwell	Ms. Parish
Dr. Dunn	Dr. Walia
Mr. Hoskins	

**Agenda Item 8. Review, discussion, and possible action on the following items pertaining to rulemaking under article I of the Administrative Procedures Act. 8A. Proposed permanent rules; 8B. notice of Rulemaking Intent; 8C. Initiating the permanent rulemaking process**

Ms. Ice informed the Board that the goal of the rule changes are to simplify the scoring and awarding process. Since the grants were not in a competitive posture, using the scoring rubric was an effort that was not a great use of time. The proposed rule changes are to delete the award amounts so that they can be set by policy, and eliminate the scoring rubric to allow the Board to set the scoring process by policy each time when the grants aren't in competitive posture. Members of the scoring subcommittee, Dr. Dunn, Mr. Hoskins, and Ms. Parish were in agreement that these rule changes would be a benefit to application reviewing. Attorney General Drummond commented that it was the legal opinion of staff that the proposed amendments would not be violative of the spirit of the statute and Ms. Ice confirmed. Attorney General Drummond proposed that there be a motion to approve the draft of the proposed permanent rules and allow staff to

proceed with the rulemaking process. Mr. Hoskins made the recommended motion. Dr. Walia seconded the motion. The following members voted in favor of the motion:

AG Drummond	Mr. Martin
Mr. Cantwell	Ms. Parish
Dr. Dunn	Dr. Walia
Mr. Hoskins	

### **Agenda Item 9. Update, discussion and possible action on the distribution and reporting of funds to the Non-Litigating Subdivisions**

Ms. Ice informed the Board that after the June meeting, the first distribution of funds were sent out to the Non-litigating Subdivisions and will be doing that again at subsequent meetings. The settlement documents do not have reporting requirements and with the amount of money that is going out, staff is recommending asking the subdivisions to report on how the funds are being spent twice a year so the Board has some oversight and be able to provide guidance. With no discussion from the Board members, Attorney General Drummond asked for a motion to require Non-Litigating Subdivisions to report expenditures of their settlement funds every six months on forms prescribed by the Attorney General's staff. Dr. Dunn made the recommended motion. Mr. Cantwell seconded the motion. The following members voted in favor of the motion:

AG Drummond	Mr. Martin
Mr. Cantwell	Ms. Parish
Dr. Dunn	Dr. Walia
Mr. Hoskins	

### **Agenda Item 10. Update, discussion and possible action on the second round of grant applications**

Ms. Ice spoke on the discussions that the Attorney General's office has had along with Dr. Dunn, Mr. Cantwell, Ms. Bush, Mr. Simonson, and Jessica Hawkins with Healthy Minds regarding the next round of grant funding, specifically ways in which staff can lower the burdens and increase the applicant pool to distribute as much funding as possible. Some suggestions are to increase the award amounts, introduce a "pick list" of projects, automatic renewals of current successful applications, eliminating data compilation burden from applicant and allowing Healthy Minds to compile and present that data to identify top needs, and increase grant cycle to three years. These ideas are presented for discussion to confirm at the next meeting. Dr. Dunn reviewed the proposed priority funding strategies, or "pick list" of projects, highlighting the need for higher level, evidence-based projects. Attorney General Drummond noted that we want the funds deployed appropriately and continuously. Ms. Ice advised that if anyone had input on the recommended items to notify Ms. Nichols and she would add them to the working groups. Attorney General Drummond thanked the subcommittee for their work and advised that there would be an action item at the next meeting for this. No action was taken.

**Agenda Item 11. Discussion and possible action to set the date, time, and place of regularly scheduled meetings of the Opioid Abatement Board for CY 2025**

Proposed dates and times were presented on an overhead slide. Mr. Martin observed that the March date would be during Spring Break and that we may want to change that to ensure participation availability among members. Ms. Ice advised that we need to approve the schedule for the year and can change the March date at a later time. Attorney General Drummond proposed a motion to approve the schedule as-is with the option to change the March date at a later time. Mr. Cantwell made the proposed motion. Mr. Hoskins seconded the motion. The following members voted in favor of the motion:

AG Drummond	Mr. Martin
Mr. Cantwell	Ms. Parish
Dr. Dunn	Dr. Walia
Mr. Hoskins	

**Agenda Item 12. Adjournment**

There being no further business before the Board, Attorney General Drummond motioned that in the absence of a vote he will stand the meeting in adjournment.

Meeting adjourned at 2:18 p.m.