



Oklahoma Opioid Abatement Board  
*Regular Meeting Minutes*  
Thursday, March 27, 2025 at 1:30pm

The Oklahoma Opioid Abatement Board held its meeting on Thursday, March 27, 2025 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 November 21, 2024. 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 1:30 p.m.

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

AG Drummond	Mr. Scott Martin
Mr. Josh Cantwell	Ms. Lori Parish
Dr. Kelly Dunn	Dr. Atul Walia
	Dr. LeRoy Young

Members, Ms. Carol Bush and Mr. Mike Hoskins were not in attendance.

Ms. Nichols noted that the meeting notice and agenda were posted in accordance with the Open Meeting Act.

Members of the OAG staff, including Mr. Thomas Schneider, Ms. Jill Nichols, Mr. Brad Clark (joined at 1:38pm), along with Mr. Terry Simonson, were present to assist the Board. Attorney General Drummond recognized attending guests and introductions were made.

**Agenda Item 4. Review discussion, and possible action regarding minutes from the January 23, 2025 meeting**

The Board members reviewed the minutes from the January 23, 2025, meeting. Mr. Martin moved to approve the minutes of the January 23, 2025, meeting. Dr. Young seconded the motion. The following members voted in favor of the motion:

Mr. Cantwell	Mr. Martin
Dr. Dunn	Dr. Walia
	Dr. Young

Attorney General Drummond and Ms. Parish abstained due to being absent from the January 23, 2025 meeting.

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

- A. Request for Proposal for Grant Closeout Services, Grantee Performance Measurement and Data Analysis – Jill Nichols**
- B. Outreach and Collaborations – Terry Simonson**
- C. Legislative Update – Thomas Schneider**
- D. Grantee Project Spotlight – Creek County**

- (A) Ms. Nichols provided an update on the RFP for grant closeout services. She informed members that the RFP was awarded to The Steadman Group and that the kickoff meeting would be this week, with an update from that coming at the next meeting.
- (B) Terry Simonson provided an update on the collaborations and outreach initiatives with grant applicants and associations in the state. Mr. Simonson noted that needs assessment was a primary concern for applicants, lack of grantee staffing was also noted. He is meeting with communities to assist in finding ways to alleviate those concerns. Attorney General Drummond applauded those efforts.
- (C) Thomas Schneider provided a legislative update for 2025. Mr. Schneider informed the members that SB574 passed off the Senate floor with strong bipartisan support, 39-7, and has had its first reading in the House and will be assigned to committee shortly. Deadline is April 10<sup>th</sup> to pass. Mr. Martin had a question about the abatement funds drawing interest in this bill and Attorney General Drummond explained that piece was taken out of the bill.
- (D) Jennifer Mortazavi with Creek County introduced her team of partnership agencies that Creek County is working with on their abatement projects: Nick McMillin with Youth and Family Services, Ashley Ridge with CREOKS, Lonnie Bryce with Family and Childrens Services, Kevin Day with Lifegate Freedom Recovery Ministries. Each partner gave an overview of their part in the abatement projects of Creek County's grant and shared the successes they are seeing.  
No action was taken.

**Agenda Item 6. Presentation, Review, discussion and possible action on accepting grant applications for 2025**

- A. Review opening and closing dates**
- B. Review suggested updates to scoring rubric**

- (A) Ms. Nichols advised the members on the proposed estimated timeline for the 2025 grant opportunities, noting that the online portal would be ready for internal testing in April and that May 12<sup>th</sup> is the anticipated opening date for applications. Staff requests a 30-day application period, closing on June 12<sup>th</sup>, so that the subcommittee could have plenty of time to review and score applications for presentation of recommendations at the July 31<sup>st</sup> meeting. Ms. Nichols also noted that in the event that the opening date was moved due to technical difficulties, the application portal would remain open for 30 days regardless.

(B) Ms. Nichols presented the updated scoring rubric, noting that the original scoring rubric was taken out of rule to provide more flexibility for non-competitive grants. Dr. Dunn provided some background on how the updated scoring rubric was developed. Attorney General Drummond reviewed the timeframe requests from staff with the members and confirmed with Dr. Dunn that it was acceptable for the review committee and she agreed.

Mr. Cantwell moved to approve the opening and closing dates of the application for May 12 to June 11 and to approve the updated grading rubric for the 2025 round of grant applications. Dr. Young seconded the motion. The following members voted in favor of the motion:

Attorney General Drummond	Mr. Martin
Mr. Cantwell	Ms. Parish
Dr. Dunn	Dr. Walia
	Dr. Young

**Agenda Item 7. Presentation, review, discussion, and possible action on updating funding tier amounts for 2025 grant applications**

Ms. Nichols advised that there is an estimated \$29,000,000 available now for funding grants and that staff felt the population-based model was best to continue with. The Board previously agreed to a 3-year grant term and as such staff recommended raising the maximum award amounts by population tier times 3 to coincide with a 3-year award.

Mr. Martin made the motion to adopt the updated maximum funding amounts to 3x the original maximum allowable funding amounts for the 2025 grant awards. Dr. Young seconded the motion. The following members voted in favor of the motion:

Attorney General Drummond	Mr. Martin
Mr. Cantwell	Ms. Parish
Dr. Dunn	Dr. Walia
	Dr. Young

**Agenda Item 8. Presentation, review, discussion and possible action on a request for a material change in plan for Lincoln County's 2024 grant project**

Ms. Nichols introduced Lincoln County to discuss their plan change request. Ms. Alicia Wagon and Ms. Judy Smith from Lincoln County advised the members that another coalition in their community was awarded a grant to utilize the same prevention efforts that Lincoln County was awarded an opioid abatement grant for from the Board. As such, they are requesting a plan change to divert the funds from a prevention initiative to a sober parenting initiative that was also identified as a need in their county. Mr. Cantwell commented in appreciation of the change in scope. Dr. Dunn asked about the needs assessment done at the beginning of the project, to which Ms. Smith acknowledged the community work that was done prior to the application.

Mr. Cantwell made the motion approve the proposed plan amendments for Lincoln County. Ms. Parish seconded the motion. The following members voted in favor of the motion:

Attorney General Drummond	Mr. Martin
Mr. Cantwell	Ms. Parish
Dr. Dunn	Dr. Walia
	Dr. Young

### **Agenda Item 9. Adjournment**

There being no further business before the Board, Dr. Dunn motioned to adjourn. Dr. Young seconded the motion. Attorney General Drummond declared the meeting adjourned by acclamation.

Meeting adjourned at 2:33 p.m.