



Oklahoma Opioid Abatement Board
Regular Meeting Minutes
Thursday, July 31, 2025 at 1:30pm

The Oklahoma Opioid Abatement Board held its meeting on Thursday, July 31, 2025 at 1:30 p.m., located at the Oklahoma Attorney General's Office, 313 N.E. 21st 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 1:31 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
Ms. Carol Bush	Ms. Lori Parish
Mr. Josh Cantwell	Dr. Atul Walia
Dr. Kelly Dunn	Dr. LeRoy Young
Mr. Mike Hoskins	

No members were absent.

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

Members of the OAG staff, including Ms. Traci Ballard, Ms. Jill Nichols, Ms. Carolyn Thompson, 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 March 27, 2025 meeting

The Board members reviewed the minutes from the March 27, 2025, meeting. Mr. Martin moved to approve the minutes of the March 27, 2025, meeting. Mr. Cantwell seconded the motion. The following members voted in favor of the motion:

AG Drummond
Ms. Carol Bush
Mr. Josh Cantwell
Dr. Dunn
Mr. Hoskins

Mr. Scott Martin
Ms. Lori Parish
Dr. Atul Walia
Dr. LeRoy Young

Agenda Item 5. Update on the following matters:

- A. Special meeting scheduled for August 19th at 9:00am at the Chief Medical Examiner's office to consider awards for all grant applicants other than School Districts – Jill Nichols
- B. Discussion and overview of Board duties and responsibilities – Traci Ballard
- C. Overview of contractual and employee supports to/for the Board and grantees – Traci Ballard
- D. Conditions, support, and mandatory training for all 2025 grantees – Traci Ballard
- E. Grantee Project Spotlight Presentation – Norman Public Schools

- (A) Ms. Nichols notified the Board that due to the short length of time between the review committee's meetings and the date of the Board meeting, that it would be better to divide the applications into groups to give the Board enough time to thoroughly review the applications and recommendations. School district applications will be reviewed at this meeting and a special meeting was scheduled at 9:00am on August 19, 2025 at the Chief Medical Examiner's office to review all other applications. Attorney General Drummond asked the members to confirm their attendance expectations with Ms. Nichols to confirm the likelihood of a quorum.
- (B) Ms. Ballard took a moment to review the duties and responsibilities of Board members, including creating application process, award process, and oversight of the program and that the duty of the OAG staff was to adequately staff the Board. Ms. Ballard also reviewed ethics rules that apply to members, as the program expands into statewide projects and higher education opportunities.
- (C) Ms. Ballard provided a reminder of the roles that OAG staff play in relation to the Board's work, including Mr. Brad Clark, herself, Ms. Jill Nichols, Mr. Thomas Schneider, Rob Johnson, and Terry Simonson, Carolyn Thompson, and Curt McMurphy. Ms. Ballard also provided a brief overview of the roles that The Steadman Group will have with the agency and that they will be visiting us at the September meeting to introduce themselves and give a presentation on their compliance and evaluation work for the Board and the OAG. Additionally, Ms. Ballard reviewed the support that Healthy Minds provides, and the intention to add support staff to the OAG office, as well. Ms. Bush about supports to ease the burden of the review process and Ms. Ballard noted that after this round of funding, that process would be under review.
- (D) Ms. Ballard advised the Board that with the addition of The Steadman Group and the continued dedication of Healthy Minds, changes are being made to this 2025 group of grantees to require mandatory training. Staff believes that this will put future applicants and grantees in a position to be as successful as possible.

- (E) Kitrena Hime, Director of Counseling at Norman Public Schools presented an overview of the successes they have had in implementing their 2024 opioid abatement grant, which is focused on reducing suspension for substance-involved student infractions.

No action was taken.

Agenda Item 6. Presentation, Review, and possible action on awarding School District grants for 2025

- A. Applications recommended for approval**
- B. Applications recommended for approval with conditions**
- C. Applications not recommended for funding**

Ms. Ballard advised the Board of the funding recommendations by the review subcommittee for each category. Dr. Dunn reinforced that schools are moving more towards evidence-based practices, which is an improvement over the last round of applications. Judge Kenneth Stoner, an outside appointed member of the review subcommittee, Dr. Walia, and Ms. Bush, noted how hard the subcommittee worked in reviewing the applications and setting applicants up for success. Mr. Simonson spoke to the reasons that some applicants were denied.

Mr. Hoskins moved to approve the funding recommendations of the subcommittee for the 2025 school district grant applications. Ms. Bush seconded the motion. The following members voted in favor of the motion:

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

Mr. Cantwell recused himself from votes on the following school districts: Glenpool PS, Adair PS, Stillwater PS, Jenks PS, Broken Arrow PS, Ponca City PS, Owasso PS, and Pawhuska PS. He voted in favor of the remaining recommendations.

Agenda Item 7. Review, discussion, and possible action relating to additional opportunities for grant awards, including opportunities for any board of regents or board of trustees of a state educational institution which is a member of the Oklahoma State System of Higher Education to apply and be eligible for an award pursuant to 74 O.S.2025, § 30.5 (effective November 1, 2025) as amended by SB 574 (2025) – Traci Ballard

Ms. Ballard provided an overview of the legislation change that allows eligibility of state colleges and universities for opioid abatement grants. Staff is seeking direction from the Board on how to implement this funding. Dr. Dunn asked how the funding would benefit the prospects, whether it would be allowed toward research or to the student body. Ms. Carolyn Thompson advised that the OAG office's interpretation of the statute was that it would be to directly benefit the student body population.

Attorney General Drummond suggested forming a subcommittee of 3 members to research and make recommendations on funding guidelines. Mr. Cantwell, Mr. Hoskins, Dr. Walia, and Dr. Young volunteered for the subcommittee. Dr. Young made a motion to form the subcommittee. Mr. Hoskins seconded the motion. The following members voted in favor of the motion:

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

Agenda Item 8. Review, discussion, and possible action relating to the Attorney General, with approval of the Board, using not more than ten percent (10%) of funds for statewide opioid abatement projects pursuant to 74 O.S.2025, § 30.5 (effective November 1, 2025) as amended by SB 574 (2025) – Traci Ballard

Ms. Ballard provided an overview of the legislation change that allows the Attorney General and staff to propose a larger-scale statewide project up to 10% of available funds for the OAB to review for funding. Attorney General Drummond noted that his objective for the remainder of his term is to lay out parameters, procedures, and processes that will allow the Board to continue to function efficiently into the future. Dr. Dunn wanted to ensure that the Priority Strategies would be used for these proposals, to which Attorney General was in agreement.

Attorney General Drummond suggested forming a subcommittee of 3 members to research and make recommendations on funding guidelines. Ms. Bush, Dr. Dunn, and Mr. Martin volunteered for the subcommittee. Mr. Cantwell made the motion to form the subcommittee. Dr. Young seconded the motion. The following members voted in favor of the motion:

Ms. Bush	Mr. Martin
Mr. Cantwell	Ms. Parish
Dr. Dunn	Dr. Walia
Mr. Hoskins	Dr. Young

Attorney General Drummond abstained from voting.

Agenda Item 9. Adjournment

There being no further business before the Board Attorney General Drummond declared the meeting adjourned by acclamation.

Meeting adjourned at 2:43 p.m.