

Opioid Commission Minutes 9.10.20

The Oklahoma Commission on Opioid Abuse held its fifteenth meeting at 1:30pm via WebEx, and was held consistent with the amendments to the Open Meeting Act, 25 O.S. 2011, § 301 *et seq.*, signed into law by Gov. J. Kevin Stitt on Wednesday, March 18, 2020. *See* Senate Bill No. 661, 2020 O.S.L 3, §3. The agenda was posted on the Attorney General's website 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, and was date-stamped by that office on August 31, 2020 at 4:46am.

Members attending virtually: Attorney General Mike Hunter, Bob Howard, Bob Cook on behalf of Director Donnie Anderson, Dr. Scott Anthony, Dr. Ed Braly, Dr. Kevin Taubman, Jenny Schmitt, Jessica Hawkins on behalf of Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services Director Carrie Slatton-Hodges, Senator Roger Thompson, District Attorney Kevin Buchanan, and Teresa Green on behalf of Insurance Commissioner Glen Mulready.

Call to order: 1:31pm

Attorney General Mike Hunter called the meeting to order and welcomed the members.

Roll call: 1:33pm

Deputy Attorney General Lori Carter called roll and recognized a quorum. She noted that the meeting notice and agenda were posted in accordance with the applicable Oklahoma statute.

Approval of Minutes from Previous Meeting: 1:36pm

Mr. Bob Cook moved to approve the minutes from the Commission's last meeting on March 10, 2020. Mr. Bob Howard seconded the motion. It was then passed unanimously by the members.

Presentation and Discussion Regarding New Research and Work Being Done by the OSU National Center for Wellness and Recovery by Don Kyle, Ph.D: 1:37pm

Dr. Kyle, Adjunct Professor Adjunct Professor of Pharmacology and Physiology, OSU Center for Health Sciences, stated that he is excited to present research updates on the OSU Center for Wellness and Recovery in Tulsa. Focused on science-driven treatment, Dr. Kyle said he believes science will lead us to an ultimate cure for addiction and alternatives for chronic pain. He explained that discovery and approval of new, non-addictive pain medications has been disappointing. Addiction mechanisms are not well understood and that to end the opioid crisis, scientific research aimed at discovering alternatives to opioids and elucidating the mechanism of addiction is required. The Center for Wellness and Purdue Pharma created an agreement a year ago that gave OSU access to extensive amounts of biosamples that can be used to for research, which can have a broad and significant scientific impact. He explained that opioid chemistry was discovered and used from 1800-1965, but that the opioid biology was not discovered and researched until much later. They are currently looking at a different type of molecule that activates the cell receptors in a different way, limiting or lessening unwanted side effects. He showed graphs comparing morphine and NCWR-1 minimally effective analgesic doses, as well as side effects. He explained that this is the type of research they will be digging into moving forward. He stated that fentanyl has been driving deaths up greatly in the opioid crisis since 2013, and explained that fentanyl molecules are bound very tightly and the half-life is longer than that of narcan. He explained that fentanyl is easier to make than many other drugs, and is often blended with other drugs, possibly not with the knowledge of the end user, which can lead to accidental overdoses. He thinks there are opportunities to create drugs better crafted to combat the effects

of fentanyl overdoses. He stated that they are looking at research within the industry and talking to technology companies, looking at oral thin film formulations and high-sensitivity fentanyl bio-sensors, both of which could be helpful for patients, physicians, and law enforcement. He summarized by saying that there are new molecules, delivery systems, and analytical tools that could be used to combat the emerging fentanyl crisis. Attorney General Hunter thanked him for his time.

Presentation and Discussion of OBN Data Showing Decline of Prescribed Opioids by Chief Agent Craig Williams: 2:09pm

Chief Agent Williams explained that the Oklahoma Bureau of Narcotics and Dangerous Drugs does have a team that has training to work high-level labs and cases, including fentanyl projects. He stated that OD Mapping is going well, which allows us to look for hot spots as they are arising while working with local emergency services and other state agencies. OBNDD is working to update the interface on their website. Chief Agent Williams gave the Commission an update on integration and e-prescribing. He stated that 139 entities are in the process of integration, with over 5,300 prescribers being integrated. Currently, 88% of prescriptions are submitted electronically and 5.19% of prescriptions are written. He explained that e-prescribing and telemedicine have increased during COVID-19. He explained that we are still trending down based on total prescriptions per year. He clarified that the data presented was pulled yesterday, and that all the data was entered by pharmacies and errors could occur, and that the PMP is updated and corrected constantly. The PMP data scored 99.6% on accuracy, and OBN is proud of that accuracy. He explained that he was a founding member of the Human Trafficking Unit, where he heard of a speaker from Handle with Care, which attempts to limit ACES. He shared that law enforcement can make contact with the local schools if the child was on the scene of a police response, and advise the school that the child has been in that situation and advocate for the school to be aware and handle with care. He explained that this could be a chance to advocate for children, especially those impacted by the opioid crisis. Dr. Taubman said it was a great idea, and Jenny Schmitt agreed. Dr. Taubman explained that it could be a collaborative effort through pediatrics and local health departments. Attorney General Hunter thanked Chief Agent Williams for his presentation and emphasized that the PMP numbers show that this commission has done impactful work that is saving lives. Mr. Bob Howard asked if there is any way we can tie this to the death rate as well, Attorney General Hunter said it could be addressed and reported.

Legislative Report & Meetings Update by Deputy AG Lori Carter: 2:26pm

Deputy AG Carter explained that the impacts of COVID-19 limited the bills that passed during this session, but a few opioid bills did go through. She explained the provisions of HB4138, HB4140, SB1718, and SB1915. Deputy AG Carter stated that legislators had begun to hold Interim Studies, which conduct in depth research that can be used for future bills. Rep. Munson will be holding Interim Study on the availability of Loperamide (Imodium), which is an over-the-counter anti-diarrheal medication. She explained that Representative Munson has a constituent that overdosed on Imodium and died and she wants to take a closer look at that type of overdose. Deputy AG Carter stated that she will be monitoring that Interim Study. She explained that this legislative session starts over with all new bills. She mentioned that drafters of the sickle cell bill from last session have reached out and expressed interest in pursuing legislation again this year. Mr. Pat Hall stated that OSMA has asked Senator Rader to carry two cleanup bills, and is meeting with legislators regarding pain clinic legislation and a telemedicine parity bill, and he would want the support of the commission. He thinks that the sickle cell bill might become a piggyback on one of the cleanup bills, but there is concern that it will open the gates. Deputy AG Lori Carter shared that the Upcoming Meeting for Opioid Overdose Fatality Review Board will be on October 16, 2020 at 1pm virtual meeting.

Sector Announcements and Updates and Possible Discussion and/or Action: 2:39pm

Mr. Bob Cook, OBNDD

- No additional updates

Ms. Jessica Hawkins, DMHSAS

- Ms. Hawkins explained that DMHSAS continues to focus on overdose prevention during the pandemic, has continued to operate naloxone hubs, and has increased naloxone access to MAT clients. They have been operating hubs through community activities to be able to meet the communities where they are. They will also have an online platform where the general public can request naloxone or pill disposal packs. She explained that in terms of treatment, they have providers that are still in operation in-person or via telehealth. With Cares Act monies, they can expand access to more devices. They are working to bring 200 substance abuse treatment residential beds to the state. Their website will be changing this month, and will enable more Oklahomans to navigate more easily and gain access to care.

Scott Anthony, D.O.

- No update

Rep. Chris Kannady, HD91

- Not present

Sen. Roger Thompson, Dist. 8

- Senator Thompon explained that he has been working to tackle the issues created by McGirt

Kevin Taubman, M.D.

- Dr. Taubman said he is very proud of focus the on mental health. He expressed that he thought the virtual meeting went well, and encouraged use of this platform going forward.

Teresa Green, Oklahoma Insurance Dep't.

- Ms. Green stated that the Insurance Department is working with CMS on parity enforcement and reporting from insurers, and we are able to use resources from other states.

District Attorney Kevin Buchanan

- DA Buchanan stated that he has also been working on McGirt, but his district has seen a decline in opioid-involved cases since last year

Bob Howard

- Mr. Howard explained that he is working towards parity improvement and pain clinic legislation

Jenny Schmitt, MS, CRNA, APRN

- Ms. Schmitt stated that she is now working with a national association focusing on federal draft legislation which would create incentives for non-opioid alternatives.

Edmond Braley, D.D.S., FAACS

- No updates

Adjournment

Deputy AG Lori Carter stated that the next meeting of the Commission is scheduled for November 11, 2020 at the Attorney General's Office or possibly virtually. She explained that the Commission's final report is due on December 31st, 2020. Attorney General Hunter adjourned the meeting at 2:54pm with no objection.