# Spokane County Regional Behavioral Health (Administrative Services Organization) Division, SCRBH (ASO)

## Opioid Abatement Council Meeting

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Meeting Date: Thursday, January 11, 2024</th>
<th>Location: Zoom Meeting ID: 856 4237 4042</th>
<th>Start Time: 10:00 a.m.</th>
<th>Adjourn Time: 11:00 a.m.</th>
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### Attendance:
- **X** = Present
- **E** = Excused
- **U** = Unexcused

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Representing</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Jessica Thompson (Facilitator)</td>
<td>Spokane County, Integrated Care Coordinator/Program Administrator Spokane County Regional BH-ASO</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ashely Magee (Backup Facilitator)</td>
<td>Spokane County, Integrated Behavioral Healthcare Manager Spokane County Regional BH-ASO</td>
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<td>Vicki Guse</td>
<td>Adams County, Director of Adams County Integrated Behavioral Health</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ed Dzedzy</td>
<td>Lincoln County, Director of Public Health</td>
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<td>Justin Johnson</td>
<td>Spokane County, Director of Spokane County Community Services Dept.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Laura Schultz</td>
<td>Spokane County, Fiscal Operations Manager, Spokane County Community Services Dept.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Terrance Robins</td>
<td>Ferry County, Pend Oreille &amp; Stevens, Substance Use &amp; Housing Resource Coordinator, Northeast Tri County Health District</td>
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<td>Chris Grover</td>
<td>City of Cheney, Mayor</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mark McAvoy</td>
<td>City of Liberty Lake, City Administrator</td>
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<tr>
<td>TBD</td>
<td>City of Spokane</td>
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<tr>
<td>Albert (Al) Merkel</td>
<td>Spokane Valley, Spokane Valley City Council</td>
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### AGENDA / MINUTES:

1. **Welcome and Introductions – Jessica Thompson, Facilitator**
   - Roll call by Participating Local Governments (PLG) in attendance. PLGs not in attendance include the City of Spokane.
   - New Member – Albert (Al) Merkel, City of Spokane Valley
Terrance Robbins announced that he will be representing Pend Oreille and Stevens County, in addition to Ferry County.

2) Annual Expenditure Reports
   a. Jessica Thompson reminded the group that 2023 Annual Expenditure Reports are due to be posted on the OAC website. Additionally, Jessica reminded the group that Annual Expenditure reports should be on the PLG’s letterhead and may describe actual funds spent in 2023 and/or priorities, plans and actions taken as well as any additional information that they want shared with the public. It was also clarified that these reports are for calendar year 2023.

3) Opioid Settlement Spending Updates – OAC Members
   a. 5% Administrative Expenditure Confirmation Discussion – For new members, Justin Johnson explained reasoning behind the five (5) percent Administrative Cost determination. According to the One Washington Memorandum of Understanding (MOU), PLGs must establish an OAC to oversee the funding distribution. When this occurred each PLG signed the regional MOU, agreeing to the allocation of ten (10) percent of each PLG’s opioid settlement funding allotment to the OAC, not including the PLG’s own administrative costs, to support the SCRBH ASO’s undertaking the OAC’s administration burden. Justin Johnson also identified One WA MOU’s allowance for each PLG to determine their own administrative and legal ten (10) percent allocation, determined by actual need, from their respective disbursements. At this time the ASO is requesting the PLG’s provide five (5) percent of the each PLG’s disbursement for 2023 for administrative costs associated with leading and facilitating the OAC. As we move into 2024, the SCRBH ASO will work to identify actual costs and revisit the administrative costs discussion as need.
      - Ed Dzedzy confirmed that Lincoln County is comfortable with the 5%.
      - Mark McAvoy confirmed that Liberty Lake is comfortable with the 5%
      - Terrance Robbins confirmed that Ferry and Pend Oreille County are comfortable with the 5%. Terrance Robbins shared that Stevens County is still in open discussion regarding the 5% administrative costs, however does not see there being an issue due to the request amount being less that was has been designated in the Spokane Regional (SR) OAC MOU.
      - Vicki Guse confirmed that Adams County is comfortable with the 5%.
      - Al Merkel with the City of Spokane Valley asked to reserve the right to review the request as it is his first OAC meeting and give a more detailed response at our next OAC meeting.
   b. Process Updates – Each participating local government present was asked to give a brief update on current use, process update, and their areas of focus for opioid funds in their jurisdiction.
      - City of Cheney, Chris Grover
        o Cheney is still in the planning phase and is working to gather community input. No Opioid Settlement Funds have been spent at this time. Cheney is working to bring all stakeholders together and come up with a plan. Chris expressed curiosity as to what other PLG’s are doing with their funds to help generate ideas.
      - Lincoln County, Ed Dzedzy
        o Lincoln County is still in the planning stages and is working with community partners, county departments and schools to generate ideas on how to best utilize the funds. Some current ideas include; making naloxone available to high risk individuals, Medication Assisted Treatment services, community education and school-based education related to drug free living and positive social norms.
      - City of Liberty Lake, Mark McAvoy
        o The City of Liberty Lake received $9,400 in Opioid Settlement Funding in 2023. The plan is for this to fund replacement Narcan. Other ideas that the City of Liberty Lake
is also considering, if funding allows, includes crisis intervention programs and partnering with school districts to implement drug prevention programs in both the middle school and high school.

- **Adams County, Vicki Guse**  
  - No new updates, Adams County will continue to provide Narcan for emergency personnel, as well as support Substance Use Disorder Treatment Services in 2024.

- **City of Spokane Valley, Al Merkel**  
  - The City of Spokane is still in the beginning stages of planning and due to this being his first meeting, did not have much of an update to provide. *Al Merkel* shared that he will get familiar with the topic and have an update at our next meeting.

- **Spokane County, Justin Johnson**  
  - At the direction of the Spokane County BoCC, the SCRBH ASO put out a public feedback survey for 30 days to elicit feedback on how our community feels the Opioid Settlement Funding should be used. Once the survey closed, the SCRBH worked to collate and analyze the feedback. To assist in narrowing down priorities and collating public feedback, the SCRBH ASO put together a priority review committee made up of subject matter experts throughout the county, including representation of advocacy organizations, behavioral health advisory board members, law enforcement, the Family, Youth, System Partner Roundtable and internal subject matter experts. Legal was invited to participate but was unable to, due to conflicting appointments.  
    - On January 16, 2024, The SCRBH ASO will be presenting the results of the survey, priorities identified by the priority review committee and overall recommendations. In creating these priorities, the SCRBH ASO has taken into account the sustainability of the funding as disbursements are still pending. Spokane County is looking at funding both ongoing projects as well as one-time enhancements.  
    - Some of the priorities include housing support, support for first responder education and prevention as well as community education and engagement. The SCRBH ASO has worked to identify gap areas that are not currently funded that will best serve the community.  
    - *Al Merkel* asked if *Justin Johnson* is able to share the results of the survey. *Justin Johnson* indicated Spokane county would be able to share out the results at the time Spokane County Board of County Commissioners are briefed on January 16th. All briefing documents and meetings are available to the public and can be viewed once uploaded on Spokane County’s website.

- **Ferry County, Terrance Robbins**  
  - Ferry County plans to align closely with Steven’s County on the priorities for the use of Opioid Settlement Funding. A meeting is planned for next week to start identifying what the priority areas will be.

- **Stevens County, Terrance Robbins**  
  - Ferry County and Steven’s County plans to align closely on the priorities for the use of Opioid Settlement Funding. A meeting is planned for next week to start figuring out what the priority areas will be.

- **Pend Orielle County, Terrance Robbins**  
  - Pend Orielle has drafted a plan for the use of Opioid Settlement Funds and will discuss it in the meeting next week with Ferry and Stevens County to see if there is any overlap on priority areas. More updates to come at our next OAC meeting.

4) **Complaint Review Process**
Justin Johnson, Initiated discussion of the role of the OAC in hearing complaints from PLGs and how they are reported and resolved. Per the One Washington MOU, the OAC is responsible for, “Hearing complaints by Participating Local Governments within the Allocation Region regarding alleged failure to (1) use Opioid Funds for Approved Purposes or (2) comply with reporting requirements” (One WA MOU, Section C, (4) (J) (vii)). Additionally, the One Washington MOU states, “If any OAC concludes that a Participating Local Government’s expenditure of its allocation of Opioid Funds did not comply with the Approved Purposes listed in Exhibit A, or the terms of this MOU, or that the Participating Local Government otherwise misused its allocation of Opioid Funds, the OAC may take remedial action against the alleged offending Participating Local Government. Such remedial action is left to the discretion of the OAC and may include withholding future Opioid Funds owed to the offending Participating Local Government or requiring the offending Participating Local Government to reimburse improperly expended Opioid Funds back to the OAC to be reallocated to the remaining Participating Local Governments within that Region” (One WA MOU Section C (8)).

Justin Johnson shared Spokane County interprets this as if there is a complaint about the use any of Opioid Settlement Funds by one of the PLG’s, the OAC will review that complaint if submitted to the OAC, and provide a determination on the appropriate use of funds under the One Washington and SR OAC MOU. If determined by the majority vote of the OAC, official notification to the PLG will be provided, and corresponding public notice via meeting minutes would be officially posted via the OAC website. Discussion regarding remedial action from the OAC also occurred however recognition that the OAC has not distributed or received any funds from any PLG limits any official capacity. In summary, the OAC determined the process, at minimum, will include review of the complaint, report the findings, and notification to the applicable PLG representative or authoritative body.

Ed Dzedzy pointed out that one of the ways to report out the OAC position on complaints could be to post them on the OAC website. Additionally, Ed shared that as the OAC will be receiving funding from each PLG to support administrative functions, that funding could be withheld if it is determined that the administrative costs paid out to the OAC were more than what was needed, any PLG that had a complaint that was considered to fall outside of what is approved in the One Washington MOU, that PLG would not get re-imburse.

Justin Johnson, If there is a complaint that is brought forward from one (1) PLG about another, the complaint will be handled at our regularly scheduled OAC meetings if needed.

Ed Dzedzy, shared that he hopes that if PLGs had concerns about how other PLG were spending Opioid Settlement Funds, that we are able to talk about it at OAC meetings rather than it needing to submit a formal complaint. He stated that we all have the same goals and want to do what is best with the Opioid Settlement Funds received and that hopefully we can work through things without it needing to be a formal complaint.

5) Open Forum Discussion – OAC Members
a. Mark McAvoy, asked for clarification on the timeline in which Spokane County will be able to share survey results with OAC members. Justin Johnson shared that the Spokane BoCC will be briefed on January 16, 2024 and that presentation documents, which include an overview of survey results will be posted publicly on the Spokane County website.

6) Open Comment (5 Min)
a. Members of the public were present but did not have any additional comment.

7) Next Meeting – Jessica Thompson, Facilitator
a. Jessica proposed a reoccurring OAC meeting be held every second (2nd) Thursday of each month. Every PLG in attendance agreed to this reoccurring meeting. Next meeting will be held on February 8, 2024, 10:00am – 11:00am.
Meeting was adjourned.

**DECISIONS:**

**ACTIONS:** Each PLG is asked to send their opioid settlement spending updates, via email to Jessica Thompson. That information will be uploaded to the website per the One Washington MOU agreement. The website is projected to be available at the next meeting.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Next Meeting:</th>
<th>Name of recorder(s):</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>February 8, 2024, at 10:00 am - Zoom Meeting</strong></td>
<td>Ashley Magee &amp; Jessica Thompson</td>
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