OPIOID ABATEMENT COMMISSION
OFFICIAL PUBLIC MEETING
DRAFT MINUTES
OCTOBER 25, 2023

The First meeting of the Opioid Abatement Commission was held at 64 New York Avenue, NE, Second Floor, Washington, DC 20002 on Wednesday, October 25, 2023. Members of the public were also invited to attend virtually via WebEx: Opioid Abatement Advisory Committee-20231025 1301-1 - OCTO WebEx Enterprise Site.

ATTENDEES
Present
1. Barbara Bazron, PhD, Director, DC Department of Behavioral Health
2. Ayanna Bennett, MD, Director, DC Health
3. Melisa Byrd, Interim Director, DC Department of Health Care Finance
4. Ciana Creighton, Deputy Mayor for Health and Human Services
5. Brian Schwalb, Attorney General of the District of Columbia
6. The Honorable Christina Henderson Chair, DC Council Committee on Health
7. Edwin Chapman, MD, President Designee, Medical Society of the District of Columbia
8. Jacqueline Bowens, Chief Executive Officer (CEO), District of Columbia Hospital Association
9. Mark LeVota, Executive Director, District of Columbia Behavioral Health Association
10. Tiye Kinlow, Designated Representative, District of Columbia Primary Care Association
11. Senora Simpson, PTMPH, DrPH, Chair DC Behavioral Health Council
12. LaVerne Adams, DMin, Chief Executive Coach, Total Life Consultancy LLC
13. Demetrius Jones, Certified Peer Recovery Specialist, Wards 7 & 8 DC Prevention Center/DC Recovery Community Alliance
14. Larry Bing, Certified Peer Recovery Specialist, Leadership Council for Healthy Communities
15. Larry Gourdine, Program Manager, Psychiatric Institute of Washington
16. J. Chad Jackson, MS, CEO, Ardan Community Living, LLC
17. Beverly Settles-Reaves, PhD, Program Manager, Howard University
18. Jennifer Porter, MPH MCHES, Designee, Deputy Mayor for Public Safety and Justice
19. Nnemdi Elias, MD, Internal Medicine

Absent
20. Franciso Diaz, MD, FACP, DC Chief Medical Examiner
21. Juanita Price, M.Ed, CEO, Hillcrest Children and Family Center

Dr. Barbara J. Bazron called the meeting to order at 9:00 AM.

Dr. Bazron presented the agenda for the meeting.

The present Commission members introduced themselves.

Mayor of Talent and Appointments representative conducted the swearing in of the Commission members.

Dr. Barbara Bazron presented an overview of the purpose, duties, and structure of the Opioid Abatement Advisory Commission and the Office of Opioid Abatement.

Dr. Bazron introduced Dr. Orlando Barker to the Commission as the interim Director of the Office of Opioid Abatement.

The report of Brian Schwalb, Attorney General of District of Columbia, titled "Overview of the Opioid Abatement Fund" was received. The full report is available.

Dr. Jean Moise, Deputy Director of Adult Services at the Department of Behavioral Health presented the Live.Long.DC report. The full report is available.

New Business

Items to be discussed and addressed in upcoming meetings:
- How conflicts of interest will be addressed among commission members;
- Define "evidence-based" and incorporate more academic leaders in developing needs assessments and strategies;
- Discuss the report approval process;
- Further evaluate what initiatives and strategies have been implement and where they have been implemented;
- Further evaluate where we have been failing;
- Review operating procedures for the commission;
- Elect a chair next meeting;
- How can the 1115 waiver in Medicaid help address the opioid crisis and how can we educate more providers on its existence;
- Will technical assistance be provided for grant writing;
- Should commission votes be weighted in favor for members with lived experience
- How will services continue for grantees post- Opioid Abatement funds?

Public comments
Linda Coplin, Ambrose Lane, Heidi Ellis, Adaku Ofoegbu, Judy Ashburn, and Ralph Williams, made comments in person.

Nura Green Lane, Adriane Fugh Berman, and Walter Faggett made verbal comments through the teleconference, WebEx system.

Adjournment
At 11:10 AM, Dr. Bazron adjourned the meeting.