OPIOID RESTITUTION FUND

ADVISORY COUNCIL

Meeting Minutes

October 2, 2023

3:00 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.

I. Welcome and Introductions ORF Council Chair, Tiffinee Scott, welcomed advisory council members and those viewing the meeting as members of the public.

Members present: Emily Keller, Brian Edmunds, Tiffinee Scott, Howard Ashkin, Marcus Webster, Meghan Westwood, Carlos Hardy, Lauren Levy

Members not in attendance: Ryan Moran, Erin McMullen, Carlos Hardy, Senator Gile, Delegate Rosenberg, David Myles

II. Motion to Approve August Minutes

ORFAC approves minutes

III. Discussion: Recommendations to the Governor and Secretary of Health

The council reviewed the feedback from members and walked through the recommendations one-by-one to discuss proposed edits.

The council voted unanimously to approve the recommendations. The council's recommendations will be posted on the OOCC's website: https://beforeitstoolate.maryland.gov/orf/

V. Questions & Comments

Q: If other states are using opioid settlement money for certain activities, does that mean that MD can use ORF funds for the same activities?
A: Not necessarily. A lawyer would need to review to ensure alignment with MD statute.

Q: Buprenorphine was mentioned, are there efforts to also increase access to methadone?
A: Yes. All evidence-based treatments for OUD are supported.

Q: Will the recommendations memo be made available publicly? If so, when?

A: Yes. It will be posted on the OOCC's website at the same time it's submitted to the Governor and Secretary of Health.

Comment: Gratitude for including funding for naloxone as a recommendation.

Comment: More needs to be done to ensure that individuals being released from incarceration have access to MOUD in the community.

Comment: Need to be able to hire staff with funding.