

**Pennsylvania Opioid Misuse and Addiction Abatement Trust
Board of Trustees' Public Listening Session (August 21, 2025)
Seven Springs Mountain Resort | Zoom**

MINUTES

Board of Trustee Attendees (10):

- Chair Tom VanKirk (In person)
- Tumar Alexander (Zoom)
- Commissioner Kevin Boozel (In person)
- Secretary Latika Davis-Jones (In person)
- Commissioner Patrick Fabian (In person)
- Stuart Fisk (In person)
- Representative Jamie Flick (Zoom)
- Shea Madden (In person)
- Commissioner Robert Postal (Zoom)
- Senator Dawn Keefer (Zoom)

Board of Trustees Not Attending (2):

- Representative Danielle Friel-Otten
- Senator Christine Tartaglione

Other Attendees:

- Elizabeth Brindle, Representative Danielle Friel Otten's Office (Zoom)
- Nathan McClellan, Senator Christine Tartaglione's Office (Zoom)
- Joshua Walker, Senator Dawn Keefer's Office (Zoom)
- Jayson Wolfgang, Buchanan Ingersoll & Rooney (In person)
- Jordan Yeagley, Buchanan Ingersoll & Rooney (In person)
- Lisa Ritter, Maher Duessel (In person)
- Briana Anderson, Trust Administrator, CCAP (In person)
- Ashli Rudy, CCAP (In person)

Announcements by Chair Tom VanKirk

- This meeting of the Pennsylvania Opioid Misuse and Addiction Abatement Trust (“Trust”) has been duly advertised as a public meeting in accordance with the Sunshine Act and is therefore open to members of the public as observers.
- Participation in the meeting is limited to Trustees, representatives from their offices, invited guests from the Trust’s advisors and partners, and those members of the public who registered in advance to participate.
- This meeting is being recorded, and the video will be available on the Trust’s website along with the minutes from this meeting once approved by the Board of Trustees (“Board”).

Purpose of Public Listening Session

Chair Tom VanKirk explained that, while the Sunshine Act does not require public participation at public meetings of the Trust, the Board of Trustees (“Board”) recognizes the value of community engagement. Chair Tom VanKirk noted that the Board understands the impact of the opioid settlement funds (“OSF”) on communities and seeks to provide a forum for individuals to share concerns and suggestions through this public listening session.

Public Comment Guidelines

Chair Tom VanKirk informed attendees that each speaker would have five minutes to address the Trust. The purpose of the session is to receive public comments; it will not include dialogue, answers, or responses from Trustees at this time. He noted that the Board will consider responding to inquiries, to the extent any response is appropriate.

Participation at this Listening Session will be limited to those individuals that pre-registered as required. As each speaker approaches the end of their allotted time, Chair Tom VanKirk indicated he would raise his hand to signal that one minute remained.

Public Listening Session Participants:

1. **Andrew Capone, Public Defender Association of Pennsylvania (“PDAP”) (In person):**

Mr. Capone asked the Trust to consider revising its FAQ regarding public defenders not being considered an appropriate abatement strategy under Exhibit E, stating that it discourages Participating Subdivisions from using OSF to support public defender offices.
2. **Dr. Eric Hulsey, Institute for Research, Education, and Training in Addictions (“IRETA”) (In person):**

Dr. Hulsey offered to meet with the Trust and any Participating Subdivisions interested in learning more about the Opioid Settlement Principles Resource and Indicators (“OSPRI”) tool. He explained that the OSPRI tool is designed to assist Participating Subdivisions in implementing evidence-based and effective practices, grounded in the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health’s Principles for the Use of Funds from the Opioid Litigation.

3. Jeff Hanley, Commonwealth Prevention Alliance (“CPA”) (Zoom):

Mr. Hanley emphasized that OSF should support effective, evidence-based prevention programs. He shared data on the positive impact of prevention programs on youth and families and encouraged Participating Subdivisions to avoid ineffective strategies, such as one-time speakers or personal testimonies. He offered CPA’s assistance to any Participating Subdivisions seeking help implementing evidence-based prevention programs.

4. Marianne Sinisi, Families United for Change (“FUFC”) (In person):

Ms. Sinisi highlighted the importance of Participating Subdivisions supporting community-based organizations with OSF and incorporating the input of those with lived experience.

5. Carla Sofronski, PA Harm Reduction Network (“PAHRN”) (Zoom):

Ms. Sofronski raised concerns with Participating Subdivisions allocating OSF to harm-reduction efforts that are not aligned with current needs, lack effectiveness, or are purchased at retail cost. She cited evidence-based, harm-reduction strategies such as street outreach naloxone distribution, drug checking programs, public education, and syringe services programs. She called for public accountability, inclusion of individuals with lived experience in spending decisions by Participating Subdivisions, proof of effectiveness for funded initiatives, and funding for community-based nonprofits.

6. Commissioner Jeff Snyder, Clinton County (Zoom):

Commissioner Snyder stated that he was attending this session to listen and learn and thanked the Trust for providing this opportunity for public input.

7. Gail Groves Scott, Health Policy Network (Zoom):

Ms. Groves Scott emphasized the importance of including individuals with lived experience in Participating Subdivisions’ spending decisions and asked the Trust to consider allowing public input at future Trust meetings.

8. Sharon White, GRIP Dynamics (Zoom):

Ms. White acknowledged the positive impact OSF has had on individuals, families, and communities. She stated that, to continue saving lives, Participating Subdivisions must work across systems, include individuals with lived experience in their spending decisions, maintain accountability, collect data, invest in best practices, evidence-based programs, and prevention measures, and fill gaps to build a continuum of care.

9. Susan Ousterman (Zoom):

Ms. Ousterman emphasized the importance of involving individuals with lived experience in Participating Subdivisions' spending decisions, funding community-based organizations, and using OSF for bereavement support. She requested the Trust consider holding future public listening sessions in more locations, offering multiple sessions, and providing evening options to allow broader participation.

10. Kathleen Strain (Zoom):

Ms. Strain expressed that OSF should be directed toward evidence-based family approaches, services for children affected by the opioid crisis, and recovery programs that are not limited to abstinence-only models. She also stressed the importance of having individuals with lived experience serve as Trustees.

Adjournment

Chair Tom VanKirk thanked all speakers for their input and affirmed that their comments were heard and will be considered. He stated that the Trust intends to hold additional public listening sessions in the future.

Chair Tom VanKirk adjourned the session at 1:58 PM.