

final minutes

Opioid Advisory Commission (OAC) Meeting

10:00 a.m. • July 10, 2025

Legislative Conference Room • 3rd Floor Boji Tower Building

124 W. Allegan Street • Lansing, MI

Members Present:

Dr. Amy Bohnert

Ricardo Bowden

Judge Linda Davis (ret)

Sheriff Chuck Heit

Katharine Hude

Mona Makki

Dr. Cara Poland, Chair

Dr. Sarah Stoddard

Jamie Stuck

Members Excused:

Dr. Chad Audi

Patrick Patterson, Vice Chair

Representative Mary Whiteford (fmr.)

Representative Thomas Stallworth serving as a designee of MDHHS was in attendance.

Jennifer Dettloff serving as ex-officio to the Commission was in attendance.

I. Call to Order

The Chair called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.

II. Roll Call

The Chair asked the clerk to take roll. The clerk reported a quorum was present. The Chair asked for absent members to be excused.

III. Approval of the May 8, 2025, Meeting Minutes

The Chair directed attention to the proposed minutes of the May 8, 2025, meeting and asked if there were any changes. **Mr. Stuck moved, supported by Judge Davis to approve the minutes of the May 8, 2025, meeting minutes. There was no further discussion and the Chair asked for a roll call vote. The motion passed and the May 8, 2025, meeting minutes were approved.**

IV. Public Comment

The Chair asked if there were any comments from the public.

The Chair recognized Ms. Taura Brown.

Ms. Brown, from Detroit, advocated for the immediate removal of Dr. Chad Audi from the Opioid Advisory Commission.

Ms. Dettloff noted appointments to the Commission are made by the legislature and asked for Ms. Brown's permission to share her comments with the legislative leadership. Ms. Brown granted permission with appreciation.

V. Activities of the Opioid Advisory Commission (OAC)

- General Updates
- Legislative Engagement
- National Landscape of Opioid Settlements
- Statewide Needs Assessment Discussion
- Acknowledgement of term endings

The Chair reported that there have been no updates from the House appropriations leadership. The Chair reported productive discussions have continued with Senator Hertel's office regarding the OAC-related bill package and noted that she provided testimony in support of the OAC-related bill package. The Chair reported that the OAC-related bill package passed the Senate and is now awaiting action from the House.

The Chair reported the OAC has not received funds for a needs assessment. The Chair reported there have been discussions with Senator Huizenga regarding the direction of the OAC noting Senator Huizenga sponsored legislation that created the OAC. Continued discussions indicated that Commission members wish to retain the needs assessment requirement in the OAC statute. Representative Stallworth noted MDHHS ability to share data to help identify gaps to assist with the Commission's recommendations.

The Chair opened discussions regarding legislative member outreach and talking points. Ms. Hude will gather appropriate contact information. Dr. Bohnert, Judge Davis, and the Chair will revise talking points.

The Chair reported that there may be impacts resulting from federal budget cuts. Representative Stallworth noted that the MDHHS can evaluate where these cuts are occurring and determine how opioid settlement funds could be used to address the effects of the federal cuts.

The Chair announced 5 members of the Commission whose terms expire in July 2025 to include herself, Patrick Patterson, Judge Davis, Sheriff Heit, and Ms. Hude and noted the clerk will let members know when updates are received from legislative leadership.

The Chair opened discussion to an August meeting date, noting that a separate communication will be sent to Commission members to confirm their availability.

VI. Commission Member Comment

The Chair asked if there were any comments from Commission members.

The Chair recognized Mr. Stuck.

Mr. Stuck reported that he has been appointed to the Office of the Tribal Legislative Liaison, which is a new office in Michigan and the first of its kind in the nation.

VII. Next Meeting Date: Thursday, September 11, 2025

The Chair reminded Commission members a separate communication will be sent to Commission members to confirm availability for an August meeting date.

The Chair announced if an August meeting cannot take place, the next scheduled meeting is Thursday, September 11, 2025, at 10:00 a.m. in the Legislative Council's conference room.

VIII. Adjournment

There being no further business before the Commission the Chair adjourned the meeting at 11:12 a.m. with unanimous support.