



Rhode Island Executive Office of Health and Human Services

3 West Road, Virks Building, Cranston, RI 02920

phone: 401.462.5274 fax: 401.462.3677

February 16, 2022

Name, Title

Agency

Address 1

Address 2

RE: Opioid Settlement Agreement || Advisory Committee Membership

Dear Partner:

I am writing on behalf of the Executive Office of Health and Human Services (EOHHS) to welcome your agency's participation in the Opioid Settlement Agreement Advisory Committee. This legal agreement has been reached between the State and Rhode Island's 39 cities and towns. The Advisory Committee will recommend how the recoveries will be shared and committed to opioid abatement efforts throughout Rhode Island.

The opioid crisis has touched every corner of Rhode Island, impacting far too many loved ones, friends, and neighbors. This opportunity provides much-needed funding to the state and all 39 municipalities to respond to the challenges brought on by this epidemic, which have grown particularly acute during the COVID-19 pandemic. Please see the [Overdose Prevention & Intervention Task Force Strategic Plan](#) and the recent EOHHS [Overdose Evidence Update](#) for additional information on this epidemic in Rhode Island.

Under the settlement agreement, EOHHS is serving as the coordinating state agency for the planning related to and the use of these settlement funds. The Advisory Committee that will advise the Secretary of EOHHS on the use and distribution of the funds will be scheduled for an initial public meeting in the coming weeks. In preparation, the Core State and City/Towns Members of the Advisory Committee must meet to ensure the State and participating Cities and Towns have equal input into the selection of the remaining three experts and two community members who also will serve on this Committee. The following six state and six city/towns Advisory Committee members have been named as Core Members:

Core State Members:

- *Attorney General or Designee*
- *Speaker of the House or Designee*
- *Senate President or Designee*
- *Chief Justice of the Rhode Island Supreme Court or Designee*
- *Director, Rhode Island Department of Health*



- *Director, Rhode Island Department of Behavioral Health, Developmental Disabilities, and Hospitals*

Core Local Members:

- *Mayor of the City of Providence or Designee*
- *Representative from a city or town in Bristol County*
- *Representative from a city or town in Kent County*
- *Representative from a city or town in Newport County*
- *Representative from a city or town in Providence County (other than the City of Providence)*
- *Representative from a city or town in Washington County*

As EOHHS works to prepare for and support the formation of the Advisory Committee and ensure that its important work is informed by a diverse and wide range of voices and perspectives, we are asking for you to **confirm you or your designee's participation** (as applicable) no later than February 25, 2022 via email to James.C.Rajotte@ohhs.ri.gov. Please remember, the individual selected must be able to represent the agency and have the authority to make immediate decisions. The identified individual will be unable to send a designee on a meeting-by-meeting basis.

The success of Rhode Island's opioid abatement efforts depends on close and continued collaboration between the State, Rhode Island's cities and towns, and the many community-based organizations that are on the front lines of this crisis. Please confirm this information with my Chief Strategy Officer, James Rajotte, by reaching out to him directly at James.C.Rajotte@ohhs.ri.gov no later than February 25, 2022. He can be reached at (401) 479-8218 for any questions and concerns.

Thank you in advance for your support.

Sincerely,



Womazetta Jones
Secretary, Executive Office of Health and Human Services

