

## **Fall River Opioid Settlement Funds Advisory Committee Meeting**

**Location:** Fall River Government Center \*REDACTED\* (with Zoom remote video option)

**Date:** Tuesday, February 27<sup>th</sup>, 2024

**Time:** 4:15 PM

**Attendees:** Brianna Raposo, Tess Curran, Seth Aitken, Michael Coughlin, Trott Lee, Maria Ferreira-Bedard, Father Rob Nemkovich, Kim Smith, Lynn Iadicola, Keith Parker, Ashley Simons-Rudolph (PIRE)

**Absent:** Raquel Pellerin

### **Minutes:**

- **Meeting opened by Brianna Raposo:** 9 members attended the meeting in person and Ashley from PIRE joined via Zoom. Reviewed the meeting agenda.
- **Attendee Introductions:** Attendees provided a brief introduction to the group.
- **Reviewed Community Engagement Survey:** The Committee was provided a walk-through of a new survey titled “Fall River Opioid Settlement Funds Community Survey” that was created by Brianna Raposo (with assistance from Makayla Petty, HHS Epidemiologist).
  - The survey is intended to be released to the public on March 1, 2024, or as soon as possible. The goal of the survey is to request citizen input into Fall River’s use of opioid settlement funds. This survey will be one way we are collecting feedback from residents, in addition to the already completed evaluation report and a future public/open meeting (details TBD).
  - Committee members were given the opportunity to provide feedback on the survey questions and provide edits and/or improvements. Specifically, notes were given to increase clarity and readability of the questions by replacing some jargon with more user-friendly language. The need for the survey to be translated into multiple languages, including Portuguese and Spanish was voiced. Brianna will integrate these suggestions into the survey and continue final edits over the next few days. She will investigate the process of getting it translated and follow up with the Committee on when the survey is going live.
  - Review of this survey took longer than expected so the agenda was shifted in the moment to accommodate this conversation.
- **Presentation by PIRE Team on Evaluation Rubric:** Ashley Simons-Rudolph from the Pacific Institute for Research and Evaluation (PIRE) was intended to present a draft of the Evaluation Rubric that they created for the Committee.
  - However, it was decided that the Committee will take time outside of the Meeting to read over the report and submit responses (comments, questions, etc.) via email to Brianna before the next Meeting.
  - Brianna will work with the PIRE team to integrate any edits or suggestions and keep the Committee up to date on subsequent drafts if work progresses before the next in-person Meeting.

- **Committee Discussion Points:**
  - On behalf of the Mayor, Seth Aitken relayed to the Committee new information on the Mayor's priorities when it comes to spending and City needs. As proposals are being received and considered for recommendations by the Committee there will likely be internal City departments who will submit requests for funding. These departments could be Fall River Public Schools, EMS, Health & Human Services, etc. The Mayor has an administrative priority to decide on those internal spending requests first.
    - Members of the Committee expressed concern about the spending terms and conditions laid out by the State and want to ensure that their recommendations and those approved by the Administration fall within the agreed terms. Seth assured the Committee that all decisions by the Mayor and City Council will abide by all terms and limitations.
    - Seth will try to get a list of the top five funding priorities from the Mayor so the Committee can evaluate those and compare them to previously identified spending priorities.
    - Tess Curran will invite Mayor Coogan to join the next Committee meeting so the Committee can discuss this with the Mayor directly.
- **Future Meeting Schedule:** Meetings will be held **\*REDACTED\*every month.**
  - Barring any conflicts, future dates will include:
    - **\*REDACTED\***
    - All meetings will be held **\*REDACTED\***
    - Members are encouraged to attend the meetings in-person; however, we will have a Zoom video call option for those unable to meet at **\*REDACTED\***
    - Below is the **standing Zoom link** that should work for every upcoming meeting:  
Join Zoom Meeting  
**\*REDACTED\***
- **Important Links:**
  - [Guidance for Municipalities Utilizing Opioid Settlement Abatement Payments](#)
  - [Frequently Asked Questions About the AG's Statewide Opioid Settlements](#)
  - [Learn about the AG's Statewide Opioid Settlements with Opioid Industry Defendants | Mass.gov](#)
  - [Massachusetts Abatement Terms document \(mass.gov\)](#)
  - [Municipal Abatement Payments | Mass.gov](#)
  - [3.7.2023 MA Statement Opioid Settlement Funds Forum.pdf \(mass.gov\)](#)
  - [Appropriation of Opioid Settlement Funds - MAHB](#)
  - [Municipal Opioid Abatement Funds Data Dashboard](#)