LOCAL OPIOID SETTLEMENT SPENDING LEARNING COLLABORATIVE

Meeting Summary

May 1, 2025

INTRODUCTION

Approximately 39 people attended the May Local Opioid Settlement Learning Collaborative session. Annaliese Dolph from the Alcohol and Drug Policy Commission and Lisa Shields from the Oregon Health Authority (OHA) provided updates on the Opioid Settlement Prevention, Treatment and Recovery (OSPTR) Board's plan for 2025-2027. Adria Decker from the Oregon Department of Justice (DOJ) provided updates on national and state opioid settlements. Stephanie Pustejovsky from Comagine Health and Michelle Frizzell from OHA shared how opioid settlement funds can be used for housing. Edward Smith from the Oxford House shared how they are using state-level opioid settlement funds. Eric Rasor and Victoria Meredith from Soaring Heights Recovery Homes discussed how they are utilizing opioid settlement funds through Marion County.

A recording of the May session can be found **here**.

OPIOID SETTLEMENT LEARNING COLLABORATIVE QUESTIONS

Question	Answer
What are the projected allocations of state opioid settlement funds for the next biennium?	During the current biennium, funding to jurisdictions was frontloaded. For the upcoming biennium (July 2025 – June 2027), a smaller amount is expected. The total revenue for the state is $23,405,594. This figure is the amount available after deducting the 30% Tribal set-aside ($10,802,582) and 5% administrative costs ($1,800,430). The OSPTR Board has decided to allocate $5.1 million to Save Lives Oregon. The OSPTR Board is still deciding how to allocate the remaining portion of the state's opioid settlement funds, including spending for two buckets: (i) Research and Evaluation and (ii) Emerging Issues. The OSPTR Board is taking into consideration the changing landscape at the federal level and how it impacts Oregon and its jurisdictions.

Question	Answer
What is the opioid settlement spending summary spreadsheet?	OHA is creating an Opioid Settlement Spending Summary spreadsheet that includes statewide and local investments by county. The spreadsheet provides a summary of spending by different jurisdictions across Oregon as well as grantees awarded funding and the counties they serve. Information on Tribal set-aside funding and opioid treatment program expansion funding allocations will be added. Note, some of the programs are funded in multiple counties. On the spreadsheet, the dollar amount is listed with the county where the fiscal agent is located, but funds may serve multiple counties. Any suggestions or feedback on the spreadsheet should be sent to Lisa Shields at lisa.m.shields@oha.oregon.gov. Once the spreadsheet is finalized, it will be posted on OHA's website as a living document for anyone to view.
How frequently will the Opioid Settlement Spending Summary spreadsheet be updated?	At a minimum, the spreadsheet will be updated annually to meet the reporting expenditure requirements for DOJ. Lisa Shields will also update it as allocations are made.
When is the annual spending reporting period?	Annual reporting to DOJ occurs from July 1 to September 1.
How long do subdivisions have to spend or encumber their direct opioid settlement funds?	Subdivisions must spend or encumber opioid settlement payments within 5 years of receipt, or the funds will be reallocated to the OSPTR Board.
What are the updates on settlement payments?	**Kroger Settlement:** Payment notices were sent. Two payments will be sent in late May. **Purdue Pharma Settlement:** This settlement is still in review by the DOJ. **Smaller settlements:** The DOJ is reviewing smaller settlements and will be arranging them as a package sign-on.

Question	Answer
What are strategies for supporting housing initiatives with opioid settlement funds?	**Exhibit E** allows several pathways for opioid settlement funds to support housing initiatives: ▶ Housing for people with substance use disorder (SUD) (This includes people with co-occurring substance use and mental health disorders as well as people in recovery) ▶ Residential treatment ▶ Recovery housing, supportive housing, and housing assistance programs ▶ Training for housing providers ▶ Medications for opioid use disorder, peer support, and other services within residential settings ▶ Positions and residential services relating to children being removed from the home or placed in foster care due to custodial opioid use
What recommendation for housing is made by authors of the Oregon SUD Services Inventory and Gap Analysis?	A key recommendation from the Oregon SUD Services Inventory and Gap Analysis is to prioritize strategies that target affordable housing to support long-term recovery. The report estimates that Oregon currently has 3,219 residential recovery beds but requires approximately 3,859 more to meet the need within the state. For more information, visit: https://www.oregon.gov/oha/HSD/AMH/DataReports/SUD-Gap-Analysis-Inventory-Report.pdf

Question	Answer
What is the National Alliance for Recovery Residences (NARR)?	NARR is a non-profit organization founded in 2011 that sets and maintains standards for recovery housing across the country. NARR certification for recovery residences is based on the social model of recovery. This model includes four domains on which residences are evaluated: ▶ Administrative Operations ▶ Physical Environment ▶ Recovery Support ▶ Good Neighbor Policy There are four types of NARR-certified housing based on the level of supervision and decision-making by the residents: ▶ Level 1/Type P (Peer-run): Decisions are made democratically by the residents ▶ Level 2/Type M (Managed): A managed environment with house rules and an appointed resident leader ▶ Level 3/Type S (Supervised): Delivers structured programming, including supervised activities, staffing, and life skills development ▶ Level 4/Type C (Clinical): Clinical services are provided
How can a recovery residence become certified through NARR?	NARR certification is conducted by a state affiliate. Oregon's NARR affiliate is the Mental Health & Addiction Certification Board of Oregon (MHACBO). MHACBO provides technical support and assists in the development of policies, procedures, training, and education to align with NARR standards.
What is Oxford House?	Oxford House is a recovery housing provider that meets the NARR Level 4/Type C (Clinical) domain, which means they provide a combination of supervised peer-based recovery support and clinical addiction treatment. Oxford House has been operating in Oregon since 1996.

Question	Answer
How has Oxford House of Oregon used opioid settlement funds?	Oxford House of Oregon was allocated funding for one year to hire three new positions: 1. Re-entry Coordinator: Helped 25 individuals transition from detention centers into housing; 22 remain at Oxford House. 2. Training & Education Coordinator: Provides training on overdose prevention, naloxone use, and medication-assisted recovery; tracks related data and promotes the Oxford House model to providers statewide. 3. Outreach Services Coordinator: Focused on rural expansion and conducts outreach to treatment, behavioral health, and corrections facilities. Thirty-two residential recovery beds in Klamath County were added, and two new houses in Jackson and Douglas counties were opened, adding 18 beds. Wasco County's first Oxford House opens by the end of June.
How many people does Oxford House of Oregon serve today?	Oxford House of Oregon operates 236 houses across 22 counties, providing 1,960 recovery beds.
Does Oxford House track the naloxone quantities dispensed?	Oxford House conducts a monthly survey of how much naloxone they have in the houses and when they expire, which helps them coordinate resupplying houses with naloxone.
Where can I find out more information about Oxford Houses?	▶ For general information about Oxford Houses, visit: oxfordhouse.org ▶ For information about Oxford Houses of Oregon, visit: oxfordoregon.wordpress.com ▶ To find vacancies at an Oxford House, visit: oxfordvacancies.com ▶ Contact Edward Smith, Regional Coordinator at ed.smith@oxfordhouse.org or 503-307-2214.
What is Soaring Heights Recovery Homes?	Soaring Heights Recovery Homes (Soaring Heights) has operated in Marion County since 2018, offering transitional housing for people recovering from SUD for up to 18 months, including those with minor children. As a NARR-certified Level 3/Type S (Supervised) recovery residence, they provide structured support services and life skills programming, helping residents find employment, develop self-sufficiency, and reunify families. With four houses totaling 34 beds (23 for women, 11 for men) and a fifth house recently acquired, Soaring Heights has served over 200 individuals with over 70% of residents maintaining substance abstinence one year after program completion.

Question	Answer
How has Soaring Heights worked with leadership in Marion County?	Through applying for community grants, Soaring Heights has established strong relationships with Marion County commissioners and leadership. When block grant funding proved insufficient for Soaring Heights to purchase a new house last year, county officials specifically directed them to apply for opioid settlement funds.
How is Soaring Heights using opioid settlement funds?	Soaring Heights ensures program sustainability by owning the houses where they operate their recovery programs. This May, they purchased a new home using opioid settlement funds. The house will serve women with and without children, with an estimated 20 new recovery beds already reserved. Through these opioid settlement funds, Soaring Heights is expanding Marion County's transitional housing capacity.
How has Soaring Heights addressed barriers like "not in my back yard" (NIMBY) attitudes?	Before opening each recovery house, Soaring Heights staff discuss their work and processes with neighbors, including sharing information about the Soaring Heights recovery model, the good neighbor policy, and NARR certification. Soaring Heights also conducts outreach by speaking at neighborhood associations. This transparency helps build rapport with the neighbors. Staff members are at the houses daily, so if issues do arise, Soaring Heights leadership can address them immediately.
Where can I find out more information about Soaring Heights?	▶ For more information on Soaring Heights: soaringheightsrecoveryhomes.com ▶ Contact Eric Rasor, Executive Director: eric@soaringheights.life or call 971-719-4963

LINKS TO RESOURCES

- Here is a link to the Oregon SUD Services Inventory and Gap Analysis: https://www.oregon.gov/oha/HSD/AMH/DataReports/SUD-Gap-Analysis-Inventory-Report.pdf
- For general information about Oxford Houses, visit: oxfordhouse.org
- For information about Oxford Houses of Oregon, visit: oxfordoregon.wordpress.com
- To find vacancies at an Oxford House, visit: oxfordvacancies.com
- For more information on Soaring Heights: soaringheightsrecoveryhomes.com
- Oregon's Opioid Settlement Prevention, Treatment and Recovery Board: https://www.oregon.gov/oha/ph/preventionwellness/substanceuse/opioids/pages/osptr-board.aspx
- To access Exhibit E, visit: https://nationalopioidsettlement.com/wp-content/uploads/2023/02/TEVA-Exhibit-E.pdf

- For more information about nationally recognized guidance for the use of opioid settlement funds, visit: https://opioidprinciples.jhsph.edu/?ref=header-logo
- For more information about Oregon's settlement and the OSPTR Board, visit: www.oregon.gov/opioidsettlement