



Georgia Opioid Settlement Advisory Commission

Meeting Summary

Monday, August 11, 2025, 3:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m. (Hybrid Meeting)

Georgia Sheriffs' Association

1000 Sheriffs Way

Madison, GA 30650

Chairman Sam Hatcher called the meeting to order at 3:05 P.M. The hybrid meeting was held at the Georgia Sheriffs' Association Headquarters at 1000 Sheriffs Way, Madison, GA 30650 and online via Zoom; the following GOSAC members participated:

Commission members Attending in Person: Cassandra Price (*DBHDD*), Trey Bennett (*Governor's Office of Planning and Budget*), David Kidd (*Georgia Association of Community Service Boards*)

Commission Members Attending via WebEx: Chairman Sam Hatcher (*Office of the Governor*), Mayor Betty Cason (*Carrollton, GA*), Sheriff Gary Sisk (*Catoosa County*), Clay Davis (*Spalding County BOC, joined following approval of the meeting minutes*),

Commission Members Absent: Dr. Chris Rustin (*DPH*), Mayor Ed Reynolds (*Bainbridge, GA*)

DBHDD Staff in Attendance: Holly Lynde (*GOCAT Executive Director*), Melissa Malcom (*Opioid Litigation Attorney*)

Meeting Summary:

Chairman Sam Hatcher welcomed each of the members to the Georgia Opioid Settlement Advisory Commission's (GOSAC) August meeting.

Chairman Hatcher brought the first order of business of approving the minutes from the March 24, 2025, meeting. After giving the members, a chance to review the minutes, the members unanimously voted to approve the minutes from the June 26, 2025, meeting.

Chairman Hatcher invited Mrs. Holly Lynde to run through the items on the meeting agenda. Mrs. Lynde started by introducing the meeting's recovery speaker who was invited to share their story of recovery. Mrs. Lynde introduced Mr. Lewis Ponzo, Substance Misuse and Mental Health Promotion Director at the Georgia Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities (DBHDD). Mr. Ponzo shared his father's story of substance abuse and explained how it motivated him to become a recovery ally that advocates for positive outcomes for those who experience issues relating to mental health and substance abuse.



Georgia Opioid Settlement Advisory Commission

Meeting Summary

Monday, August 11, 2025, 3:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m. (Hybrid Meeting)

Georgia Sheriffs' Association

1000 Sheriffs Way

Madison, GA 30650

Chairman Hatcher thanked the recovery speaker for his willingness to participate, and asked Mrs. Lynde to introduce the next speaker. Mrs. Lynde introduced Mat Jeanius from Black Boys Better – Creative Connections who discussed how the organization was utilizing its grant money received last funding cycle to fund and support outreach programs aimed at black male wellness in the next generation.

Next, Chairman Hatcher invited Holly Lynde to provide an update on the 2025 application process. Mrs. Lynde reported that GOCAT staff had finished completeness checks on all 460 applications received this funding cycle, and that 421 had been deemed complete. She then provided an updated breakdown on the complete applications by region and project category. She also noted that all complete applications had been sent to the respective Regional Advisory Councils and Interagency Workgroup members.

Chairman Hatcher thanked Mrs. Lynde and asked that the Commission set dates for the final 2025 meeting. Chairman Hatcher reminded the members that the meeting was originally scheduled for October 9th. He asked the members if there were any conflicts. Multiple members identified that October 9th no longer worked for their schedules, so Chairman Hatcher asked that scheduling poll be sent around, and the next meeting date be decided later.

Chairman Hatcher then invited those wishing to make public comment to do so. One individual from Randox Toxicology spoke to advocate for a postmortem toxicology machine.

Chairman Hatcher thanked those that participated in public comment and adjourned the meeting.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 3:47 p.m.