

Due to audio equipment issues at the host location, this transcription is provided for the July 16, 2024 Behavioral Health Consortium Quarterly Meeting to the consortium members and the public.

00:00:00 Lt. Governor Bethany Hall-Long: We'll see if we can hear you here and in the room.

00:00:03 Rev. Dr. Carol Boggerty: Okay, great. So we we recently held our unity dinner here in.

00:00:08 Lt. Governor Bethany Hall-Long: Okay. Can you guys hear her as well online as she's speaking?

00:00:12 Multiple Responses: Yes, yes, yeah.

00:00:13 Lt. Governor Bethany Hall-Long: The zoom can hear her, but in the room can the room hear her?

00:00:14 Male Voice: If we're quiet, yeah.

00:00:18 Lt. Governor Bethany Hall-Long: Can you talk Reverend Boggerty?

00:00:23 Rev. Dr. Carol Boggerty: Absolutely. Did you want me to start the presentation?

00:00:24 Lt. Governor Bethany Hall-Long: I don't need you to start completely over if you tell us, but you're very hard to hear. Can you all hear her at all?

00:00:30 Rev. Dr. Carol Boggerty: Okay, I'm all the way up on my end. Can you guys hear me well now? Hello?

00:00:38 Mail Voice: On the screen up there.

00:00:39 Lt. Governor Bethany Hall-Long: Yeah, why don't we do this. We'll put in the minutes when the unity dinner is. When is the unity dinner?

00:00:45 Rev. Dr. Carol Boggerty: We held it already, Lieutenant Governor.

00:00:48 Lt. Governor Bethany Hall-Long: Your your update, I thought another one was coming. Okay, great. So you gave the update. Thank you. Was the one we were with you. Okay, got it. Beautiful.

00:00:53 Rev. Dr. Carol Boggerty: Yeah, I think the next one is the one in Middletown next week, if I'm not mistaken.

00:00:58 Lt. Governor Bethany Hall-Long: Okay, Yeah, and it's just hard to hear you. Like your volume is hard to hear, can you guys hear?

00:01:02 Rev. Dr. Carol Boggerty: Yeah, I'm all.

00:01:04 Lt. Governor Bethany Hall-Long: You guys can hear her fine. Okay. And the room can hear her as well, Drew?

00:01:10 Drew: That's if everybody's quiet, yes.

00:01:10 Lt. Governor Bethany Hall-Long : Okay. All right. Perfect. All right, we're going to proceed then. All right. And if we don't get an alternative, we will get an alternate time. We're supposed to go to public comment now. The room can hear me, and if not, we're going to have to come up with an alternate here. Bear with us. We're not going to keep you all doing this for an hour.

00:01:50 Alexia Wolf: Can you hear me? You hear me?

00:02:04-00:03:33 Calvin Davis Jr.: *Please see **Appendix 1** for Calvin Davis Jr.'s public comments, provided by Mr. Davis, due to the Zoom recording quality captured.*

00:03:34 Alexia Wolf: Thank you Calvin. Anyone else in the room for public comment before we move to comment online? And we just received a message that there is audience difficulty between the public comment in your room and the people online, and Calvin, we're very happy to reflect what you said in the minutes and rest assured it will be shared with all the participants.

00:04:02 Lt. Governor Bethany Hall-Long: And I thank you. I mean (*unclear due to recording*) So Alexa, you can hear me clearly now in the room as well? Because I know online they can hear me. So we've got it rectified?

00:04:19 Alexia Wolf: We can hear you in the room Lt. Governor.

00:04:21 Lt. Governor Bethany Hall-Long: Great. Okay. So we're rectifying again, Bishop, thank you for that wonderful event. And we know it was very impactful. I know you're in the middle of public comment, we'll let you be able to continue to do so. We appreciate everybody's patience today with the technology. Did you want to continue public comment or go into the Minutes and have these items off the agenda now that we are back to fully hearing one another, what would you like to do, Alexia?

00:04:52 Alexia Wolf: Lt. Governor, I suggest we continue with public comment.

00:04:56 Lt Governor Bethany Hall-Long: Okay, that's fine if we want to continue, go ahead. That's perfect. Go ahead.

00:05:03 Alexia Wolf: Thank you. So with that, we have people online for public comment. Oh, we have someone else in the room. Thank you for raising your hand.

00:05:17- 00:08:44 Rebecca Nuttall: *Please see **Appendix 2**, for comments read by Rebecca Nuttall on behalf of Domenica Personti.*

00:08:45 Alexia Wolf: Thank you for that and are there any other public comments before we transition to online?

00:08:54 Dr. Cheresse Godwin: Hi would I be able to do a public comment?

00:08:56 Lt. Governor Bethany Hall-Long: Yeah. Yeah, we're going to go in order. Hi, Cheresse, we're glad to have you. Hi David Humes and Senator Hansen and a couple others had their hands up, but that's fine. I just wanted to check. I can hear everything perfectly now. I just heard the last speaker okay. If you are not able to still hear Alexia, do you have the traditional dial in number for the zoom that you could just share? If there is individuals online who can't hear. Can you do that in the chat? Can everyone else give a thumbs up? Okay. So why don't we go in the order in which people's hands went up and Alexia I'll let you go in that order. I know that David Hume had a question, but I think he wanted to call in. David, do you want to speak because we can't tell if your audio is working correctly?

00:09:58 David Humes: Yeah, excuse me, I'd like to speak. Can everybody hear me okay?

00:10:02 Lt. Governor Bethany Hall-Long: We hear you perfectly fine. Yeah, perfect, perfect.

00:10:05 David Humes: Okay.

00:10:07 Lt. Governor Bethany Hall-Long: And we have Senator Hansen.

00:10:08 David Humes: Well, right. I'd like to speak in favor of releasing these funds or having them approved rather. On May 28th, 2024, we held a special meeting of the POSDC and we passed a motion to release 15,000,000 more dollars. Of that 15 there were bridge grants in the amount of \$1.9 million. Okay, so we had 50 grantees, none of which have any alleged fraud, and during that meeting there was a vote of nine in favor and there were three abstentions, three people not present. Nobody voted to oppose this, not one vote to oppose. So, the 1A grant that was approved last March for the amount of \$3.8 million, there were 41 awards. Of those Code Purple Kent got \$70,000 in in grants. 1B, there were 136 applications, 98 were valid. 38 were recommended, and one was withdrawn. Code Purple received \$500,000 in that process. So they've been approved for \$570,000, they've received \$290,000. So, when we talk about the system and everything, the system caught the fraud. And we will, we will try as best as possible to, you know, to recover that \$290,000. And when we talk about, you know, "rife being rife with potential fraud", there's always potential for fraud in any government spending anywhere. So, of the \$15 million that's already been approved, less than two percent is alleged fraud. So, you know, I really think that we need to to continue forward with these and get these get these grants out. So, Greg Humes and Tyler Keister were two of 126 people who died opioid deaths in 2012. Since then, 4,198 overdose deaths have occurred in Delaware. 2023 was the first decrease since 2012, and as of April 2024 there has been a 31% decrease, according to DHSS in overdose deaths from the prior April. Okay, so we don't have any subjective evidence that these grants have saved lives, but I reiterate, because 498 Delawareans have died, this is why we have this money to begin with. And I think what we have to do is get some of these funds out. We want to the the primary purpose of the fund should be to keep people alive and to help people recover. So, you know, I really think we need to move forward here. Again, as far as any fraud is concerned, the system worked. We caught the alleged fraud and we will do everything to get that money back. So, I ask the members of the BHC to please approve this bridge funding. Thank you.

00:13:46 Aleixa Wolf: Thank you, Dave.

00:13:49 Lt. Governor Bethany Hall-Long: Thank you, Dave. Alexia, do you want to go through the next list of individuals that have submitted their hand up?

00:13:59 Alexia Wolf: We'd like to proceed with additional people online for public comment. I know we're going in order. The next person I saw was Peggy Geisler. Unless there's someone else who was prior?

00:14:15 Lt. Governor Bethany Hall-Long: Actually, Senator Hansen was first, then Cherese, and then Peggy Geisler.

00:14:20 Alexia Wolf: Okay, we have Senator Hansen, and then we'll go to Peggy.

00:14:26 Senator Stephanie Hansen: All right, was I called?

00:14:29 Lt. Governor Bethany Hall-Long: Yep, Senator Hansen.

00:14:31 Senator Stephanie Hansen: Okay, great, thank you. I just wanted to bring up the issue, really the elephant in the room, which is this June 28th letter from the Attorney General's Office that I don't know who received it because it just says "dear colleagues" and you can't tell who it was sent to. But it is the letter that I think that Dave Humes was just referring to and I think was referred to previously and that I received it. And I was shocked. I got to tell you, I was, I was shocked and very

surprised to read what was in this letter because I've been on this Commission since its inception and a level of concern of waste, fraud and abuse with regard to the way this Commission operates has never been raised to the Commission level for us to have this discussion. And so, to get a letter like this, not more than three hours after the Commission met, and in executive session as well, has just incensed me because I worked really hard to get the Opioid Impact Fee in place. It was the 1st, and I think the only, Opioid Impact Fee in the country. And then we've got money coming into this Commission to spend that wisely to help people. And if we're not doing things correctly and if we are so far off track, which is what this letter says from the Co-chair? And we're just now hearing about it? Something's wrong. Something's wrong with this. I really want to have a discussion about many of the things that are that are in this letter. It mentions we're rubber stamping, that we're sitting in inactivity in adopting a strategic plan rather than rubber stamping spending on a first come first serve basis. Is that what we're doing here? That's not what I've seen we're doing. So I mean, are we rubber stamping applications willy nilly, no thought into them, not looking at them, no follow up? I think if that were the case, we probably wouldn't have found the one particular case that we're looking at right now. But that's what's alleged in this letter. And that "this this project is rife with potential for waste, fraud and abuse." You know, I missed the last meeting because I'm on JFC, and we were JFC was meeting. And so, I needed to be there. So, I pulled the minutes. I asked for the minutes of the last meeting, which was on May 28th. So, I thought, well, maybe all of this was brought up there. So, I pulled the minutes and I looked at them, and yes, the attorney general does say, "concerned as a regulator, this money must be carefully scrutinized to avoid misuse and abuse of funds. Susan Holloway has been really good about checking that in partnerships with other organizations." And then we go on to vote on the fifteen million dollars, which this letter says we didn't vote on. And the attorney general voted in favor of the release of the fifteen million. This letter that we got, says, "On March the 4th we met with Social Contract to begin the project, agreeing that they would review the landscape of services available to Delawareans and make strategic recommendations on how the Commission can maximize the spending. Social Contract does not expect to complete this report until September. Despite that, the Commission attempted to release another fifteen million in grant funding before it was reduced to the current 1.9 million in recommended funding. None of these applications were reviewed by the Commission." Well, that's not what happened. That is not what is in the minutes. This is a mess. This letter is a mess. I want to know, I want to know a lot more. I want to have a better discussion about what this is based on because I can't even tell who it went to. And if it's coming from the chair of this Commission, why is it sent to...is it sent to the Commission members? I don't know. You can't tell. It just says, "Dear Colleagues", everybody else is blind copied. Why? Why is that? You cannot be the co-chair of the Commission, and the chief prosecutor of the Commission, at the same time. We need our Attorney General as the co-chair. And if things have gotten to such a level that an incendiary letter like this has to come out accusing everyone on the Commission of somehow being in cahoots and sending out money willy nilly, that's not going to work for anybody. That's not why we all worked so hard, and continue to work so hard, to get these dollars out to the people that need them. That's my public comment for today. I want to have a lot deeper discussion about what is going on behind this letter here because it makes no sense to me. Thank you.

00:20:19 Alexia Wolf: Thank you, Senator. Next, we have Peggy Geisler.

00:20:25 Peggy Geisler: So, a lot of what I might have said actually has been said. I think David Hume is way more articulate than I am on most days and put out a lot of facts. And the comments by Senator Hansen are spot on, to allude to give us some insight from the community. What I'm going to say is that this issue, from my perspective, and this is me speaking not just as getting funds

from Sussex County Health Coalition, but just somebody who's been in the landscape of Delaware for 35 years working, is fraught with a lot of issues. One, your process worked. You did, according to David and others, you know, catch an individual or leader which often unfortunately sometimes happens where there may be a misuse of dollars. And then systems are usually not often times put into this level of scrutiny. But it is confusing to me, and then again not confusing to me, that you know this is a political year. There's an election coming up and I really feel like there is a misuse of, or an opportunity for others, to want to utilize this. And shame on them as an opportunity to undermine people's leadership and at the same time create collateral damage for people like myself and others who work in the community and are getting calls from our board and asking questions about, "How do we respond to this? Do we work?" I mean, it's scary. We're out there, people are trying to save people's lives. And I feel like this is almost, I hate to use the word a witch hunt, but a witch hunt. And I don't think anybody wants to just call it out, but I'm at a place in my career, which in the future I'll probably be retiring soon, but I'm in a place in my career where I just feel like this is not about public good, but about political will. And I think that's unfortunate. And I think people are scared to say that. And I'm really not. Most of these people who are spending their time volunteering, being on these Commissions and this work, and what they're really trying to do is get access to dollars, in the community, in ways, that save people's lives. And they're doing it the best way they can within the systems that are here. And those systems are set up. Those systems have been working, and then all of a sudden this occurs. And then news articles are going out and all kinds of stuff that's damaging small nonprofits and groups that are down on the front lines trying to save people's lives. I agree with Senator Hansen that I think, where did the letter originate? How did it come out? What was the purpose for it? Where, you know, I think there needs to be a deeper dive here. Because this just sounds like, to me, and it feels like to me, that the purpose of this wasn't really to scrutinize the dollars with regards to who's being served, but really to try to undermine our work and put doubt in people's minds about how money is handled in the state. And I think that is a sad commentary on what we are willing to use as collateral damage to get certain political views and needs across. And I think that that is a travesty in our state. And I will come out and say I do not live in Delaware, but I have worked tirelessly in Delaware for 30 years. And it is unfortunate. And that's my only comment, because everything else has been stated. I just think that the albatross in the room is that there are other machinations behind the scenes that are making this more about something other than process, due process, and the way the work is being done. And that's just my thought.

00:24:39 Alexia Wolf: Thank you, Peggy Geisler. Other public comment? Jill Fredel, confirming if she's online for public comment?

00:24:51 Jill Fredel: Good morning. I'm going to add a little bit of a level of complexity. I'm recovering from COVID, so I don't have my normal voice and my normal volume. So, I'm going to try to get through this as best I can. AtTack addiction was a grantee in the second round of funding. We have applied for bridge funding. Our Board of Directors was disappointed to read the Attorney General's criticism of the grant compliance and monitoring process, including these two particular lines from her June 28th.

00:25:22 Alexia Wolf: Excuse me, Jill. Jill, we are having difficulty hearing in the room, and because you provided me with your written statement this morning, in the event that you couldn't join, I'm happy to read this statement to allow for better audio.

00:25:37 Jill Fredel: Oh, thank you, Alexa. I appreciate that.

00:25:41 Alexia Wolf: Thank you. This is a statement on behalf of atTack addiction.

On behalf of atTAcK addiction, we offer this response to Attorney General Kathleen Jennings' letter about the monitoring of community grants through the Prescription Opioid Settlement Distribution Commission. As a grantee in the second round of funding through the Prescription Opioid Settlement Distribution Commission, the Board Members of atTAcK addiction were disappointed to read the Attorney General's criticism of the grant compliance and monitoring process, including these two lines from her June 28th, 2024, letter: "This project is rife with potential for fraud, waste, and abuse ..." and "... this severely exacerbates my already serious misgivings that our Commission has woefully inadequate guardrails in place to protect the public's best interests." As a small nonprofit, we understand the awesome responsibility and accountability that we accept when we receive any outside funding, whether it's from a legal settlement fund, a government agency, a foundation, or a charitable donation. We also take it personally when the Attorney General of our state says that a project we are involved with is "rife with potential for fraud, waste, and abuse." We have accounted for every penny we have spent in our \$300,000 prevention marketing grant. As part of the Commission's monitoring and compliance process, atTAcK addiction - and all other grantees - had to agree to a signed Scope of Work, which included quarterly milestones. The monitoring process has been one of the most stringent we have seen. When we did not reach all of our first-quarter milestones, we had to meet with our monitor to update him on the reasons for our delay and provide our plan to get current. Our second-quarter distribution was withheld until we met those milestones, which we did. As part of that accountability, Jill Fredel, who has spearheaded our grant efforts, presented our We've Got You marketing campaign at the Commission's April 29, 2024, meeting. Commissioners saw for themselves how and where the grant funding has been spent. During the public comment period, Fredel also said the application process was so rigorous that it might have dissuaded small nonprofits from applying. She suggested that previous grantees help those who might apply in the future. Finally - and most importantly - the grants that the Commission has and will award are about supporting individuals across our state who are suffering from opioid use disorder and their families, and helping to reduce the crisis over the years to come. Several weeks ago, a young man walked into our Resource Center in Peoples Plaza after seeing one of our campaign's ads in a bus shelter. He said he needed help. Our program manager got him into treatment that day. Tragically, Delaware lost 527 people to overdoses last year, a number that is almost four times greater than the number of people who died in traffic fatalities in 2023. We all understand the urgent call to get the next Delawarean the care they deserve; we have lost more than 4,000 Delawareans to this epidemic since 2012. This compliance process works. For the sake of the people we serve, let's move forward.

*Letter attached at end of transcript, **Appendix 3.***

00:29:15 Aleixa Wolf: I thought I'd bring one additional person online for public comment. Senator Buckson.

00:29:29 Senator Eric Buckson: Yes, Hi. So, I'm free to speak?

00:29:36 Lt. Governor Bethany Hall-Long: Yes, we can hear you.

00:29:38 Senator Eric Buckson: Thank you. Thank you, Lieutenant Governor. So, I've been online the whole morning. I know we have technical difficulties. That's fine. But what I missed, I think, was, looking like we jump right into the public comments, so my apologies if I missed something that led up to that. But we're here now. And I do want to speak on some of the things. I keep them simple. I actually wrote them down. I stated during my first meeting two years ago, when I was at the Del Tech, that I'd vote yes out of respect for the folks that were here before me, but I had reservations. My reservations were sent around, and we verify that the funds are going to groups that don't just

look good on paper, but actually do what they're saying they're going to do. My second concern was that this group, the group we're in, we'll burn through the cash in 17 years and have very little in the way of long-term benefits for Delawareans. That was just my concern. I was the lone no vote in the second round of funding. As a symbolic gesture to this group and to the state, because I continue to be concerned about verifying how the money was being spent, and again my concerns about the lack of focus on lasting, long-term solutions in our band aids. Not all spending is band aids. I get it. But a lot of it, and my concerns are, that it is. Again, these are my thoughts. I'll not support this next round of funding, and it has nothing to do with the majority of groups included in the funding, who have their hearts and efforts in the right place. It's because we need to have a much deeper discussion about how this funding is being handled and what the spending looks like 15 years from now when we're all done. Your response might be, maybe it already has. Maybe we've already had those discussions. I can only speak to what I know. I'll end with this one. If I was king for a day, what would I do? I'd freeze it all. And I would get serious about a long-term large-scale campus in the center of the state. That focuses on full treatment. For those on the streets, that are dealing with addiction, and those in the homes whose family members are out on the streets. Because I believe that we need to have a one-stop, large scale facility, that deals with the acute nature of addiction and the long-term rehabilitation and recovery, similar to programs like The Key Program that was once a very successful model, to name a few. I appreciate the time speaking to this. I appreciate the efforts of those folks who are in this space. These are just my words. Thank you.

00:32:13 Aleixa Wolf: Thank you, Senator Buckson. We do have additional comment in the room. Representative Johnson.

00:32:19 Representative Kendra Johnson: Thank you.

00:32:20 -00:32:24 [overlapping speakers, unable to distinguish words]

00:32:26 Rep. Kendra Johnson: I came here today to listen, specifically because I wanted to hear what the comments were as it relates to the bridge funding. I like, Senator Hansen and Dave Humes, are a part of the larger group. I didn't speak earlier and I'm having a hard time now because I'm still really angry. And I wanted to be able to control my emotions as it relates to the letter, as it relates to the people, as it relates to the first time that we are experiencing a decrease in overdose deaths. I will say this to this committee: Please release the funding. It works. We have seen it. Additionally, I will offer this. If only life was like this: While we worked to try and figure out our conflict, that all overdose deaths would stop while we work to get our crap together. It doesn't go that way. It is our responsibility to do the right thing and the right thing is to make sure the bridge funding is approved. We have one potential bad actor. One. Are we willing to let the allegations of one bring down all of the great work that all of these entities have done? I am not. I will stand with providers. I will stand with those individuals who are out here on the street making a difference in the lives of Delawareans. The letter was wrong. The context was wrong. News flash people: Guess what? Our systems work. Why do we know they work? Because we have one alleged bad apple. Now, if that's not telling you a system's actually working, I don't know what it is. And I will offer this as Representative Johnson. In a previous role I worked for another agency. I went to work this one day and oh my goodness, and I actually shared this in in one of our meetings. The meeting was with an individual who works to do the monitoring of the funds and the projects. Can you imagine how I felt sitting there, as a worker, and they're going through the sheet and in the back of my mind, I'm like, "yes, it works." And that was my... I was elated to see that. So, I say the systems work. It found a potential bad player. Overdose deaths don't stop because we gotta figure crap out. So I ask every committee member here do the right thing for Delawareans who are suffering and their families and

release the funds. Thank you for the opportunity to speak. I'm, I'm sorry I'm still really feeling all of this. But I had to share.

00:36:02 Alexia Wolf: Thank you, Representative Johnson. And I believe Chereese, online, has public comment. We could put it back to online public comment if you're still available.

00:36:11 Dr. Chereese Godwin: Hi, good morning. Hello members of BHC of Delaware. My name is Dr. Chereese Godwin and I'm the policy and legislation manager of New Jersey and Delaware for the National Association of Social Work, deeply committed to advancing the field of social work and ensuring that our professions and professionals can provide the highest quality of care to those in need. So today I'm here to advocate for the support and the passing of the social work compact bill in Delaware. The social work compact bill represents a significant step forward in addressing the growing demand of social work services across our state and beyond, by allowing social work and social workers licensed in one compact member state, to practice in another compact member state, without needing additional licenses. This bill will greatly enhance the mobility and flexibility of our workforce. This is particularly crucial for Delaware. A state often sees professionals commuting from neighboring states to provide essential services. So the passing of this bill would increase access to service, support workforce development, enhance public safety and accountability, and promote economic growth. I urge our legislators to recognize a profound impact this bill will have on the well-being of our residents and the professional lives of our social workers. The social work compact bill is not just a piece of legislation. It is a commitment to improving the lives of countless individuals and families who rely on social work services every day. Social work is sustainable. Social work is society's safety net. Thank you for your time and consideration. And let's work together to pass this vital bill and take a meaningful step towards a stronger and healthier Delaware. Thank you.

00:38:05 Alexia Wolf: Thank you, Doctor Goodwin. I believe that is the end of our public comment.

00:38:13-00:38:16 [overlapping speakers, unable to distinguish words]

00:38:18 Alexia Wolf: Distribution Commission Executive Director Susan Holloway, of the recommendations for three months for existing Phase 1A and Phase 1B grantees.

00:38:31 Lt. Governor Bethany Hall-Long: Alexia, can you hear me at all before we go there or no?

00:38:38 Cathy Bedenbaugh: Lt Governor is asking if you can hear.

00:38:39 Lt. Governor Bethany Hall-Long: Think you can hear? Not really?

00:38:40 Alexia Wolf: Yes, we can if people are very quiet.

00:38:43 Lt. Governor Bethany Hall-Long: Can you hear? You can. Okay, yeah. Before we go to Susan. Alright. You know, maybe I'll dial that number. I just wanted to answer or give a couple quick comments to the couple of the public comments that were provided. [Freeze in Lt. Governor's transmission] ...leading out the meeting today. Can you hear me now okay? Or do I need to use that dial in number?

00:39:08 Alexia Wolf: I think [overlapping speakers, unable to distinguish words]

00:39:08 Lt. Governor Bethany Hall-Long: Can you hear me? I'll do the dial in real quick, okay?

00:39:13 Alexia Wolf: We can hear you but it's faint. And the dial the number is 302-323-4403.

00:39:18 Lt. Governor Bethany Hall-Long: Yeah, okay I'm dialing in. Can you hear me now?

00:39:31 Alexia Wolf: Yeah, yes.

00:39:32 Lt. Governor Bethany Hall-Long: I think you can hear me then. Yes, because I know you are going to be taking over the meeting. Hence why the first time in eight years I've been online. Usually I'm there in person, because of conflict. But I just wanted to answer a couple quick things. One for Senator Buckson, Thank you for joining, Sir. I'll let you know that a lot of the concerns you addressed, we have not gotten to, we have technical difficulties, so you are not late on items. And can you continue to hear me there because there was a weird beeping in my phone? Alexa, do you hear me?

00:40:02 Dr. Cherese Godwin: We hear you fine.

00:40:03 Lt. Governor Bethany Hall-Long: Hey, Alexia, I don't know. Bottom line for Senator Buckson and that comment wanted him to hear that. I also wanted to make sure that individuals are aware that in the beginning today, should we have had our normal audio, we were going to make it very clear that we were doing things a little different, that we were starting with public comment, because a lot of times people felt they hadn't been heard and should we not get to all the committee reports, we were going to provide those electronically later if the meeting did run delayed. I also wanted to mention that, as Senator Hansen and others had inquired, who were not at the May meeting, that there was a special May meeting, where there was an agreement of fifteen million, of which we had an agreement there would be a follow up in June with the understanding that there was no date set for new funding, but there would be the conversation that would include bridge funds. Hence there was a follow up meeting, and I am not going to get into the Commission's work today, because, as a consortium, we have a full agenda before us, but I have had conversations with our co-chair who is aware that the BHC today is working and voting on very vital important Bridge dollars for the three-month extension that is necessary. And that, again, we had no new dates set for new funding that there were going to be feedback items provided to us by Social Contract. So, I just wanted to make that clear and say that you know today I am here to be supportive. I have my proxy prepared should I have to go offline for the bridge vote, but I wanted you all to know that, again for clarification purposes, there will be in the future opportunity once we have levels that answered questions for future new funds, but for today, we are focused on the bridge items that came to us from the Commission. And I'm sure the Attorney General's Office and others, to the Senator and those who had specific questions, I'm sure would be happy to answer those when it's the appropriate time. So again, that is something I would have said in the beginning of the meeting. With technology, that did not happen. And I really appreciate that we have the opportunity now to hear from Susan Holloway, the Executive Director of the Opioid Prescription Grant. And thank you all for your hard work. You've made a difference. For the first time, we've had a dip in our overdose death rates. You're all so appreciated. And I just wanted you to know that. So, Alexia, I'm going to have you be leading the meeting given the technical issues here and, you can turn this now to Susan. So, Alexia?

00:43:06 Susan Holloway: Okay. Can everyone hear me?

00:43:11 Unknown speaker: No, but there's feedback. So what did they do?

00:43:18 Susan Holloway: Yes. Can you hear me? Is that better?

00:43:26 Unknown speaker: She was just there.

00:43:28 Susan Hollaway: How about now?

00:43:30 Unknow speaker: Yeah, yeah.

00:43:31 Alexia Wolf: Okay, can you turn down your computer volume.

00:43:40 Susan Hollaway: All right. Is that reducing the feedback?

00:43:43 Unknown speaker: That's better.

00:43:49 Susan Hollaway: Okay. All right. So there is feedback. In the interest of time, I'll go through this quickly. If we could go to the next slide please. Okay. And this is just some background information. As many of you know and have heard in 2023 it was the first time in 10 years that we actually saw a reduction in the number of overdoses in Delaware. During that time, there was a 1.8% decrease overall. Public Health is reported between 2014 and 2019 that there was a 147% increase in Black and Brown communities. That number has continued to go up. We're coming up on another reporting period for five years, so we could actually see that number increased significantly, but again the numbers have gone up. And 2024 reported number suspected overdoses has actually been decreasing and it's expected to be lower than in previous year. So you can go to the next slide please. Okay, so the slide looks a little busy, but I'll break it down. So blue it's 2022 yellow 2023, and green the line is 2024. If I can point you or direct you to October. I'm getting really bad feedback. I'm not sure if you guys are experiencing that also? But if you look at October, September / October where you'll see the numbers start to drop from 38 to 31, that correlates with the time that the funds hit the street from the opioid Settlement awards. And then if you go back to the left and the green line, I put in a green line because these are suspected overdoses, which means these numbers could actually be lower once toxicology reports are confirmed. But you'll see, again, we're consistently being lower. The dotted line is a trend line. We continue as we are now, we'll continue to see a decrease. And you can note that in April, there were 24, which has been the lowest month of overdoses in at least two years. Next slide please.

And this is just another way to look at the data in quarters. So the first column, the far left, you have 2022, 2023 and 24 showing that the first quarter of 24 is obviously lower. You went from 156, we shot up to 173 and now we landed at 133. On second quarter Public Health is still finalizing the numbers, but we're expecting, based on the information I just showed you, to see the trend again continuing to decrease. Next slide.

We can skip this one other than to say, as a subcommittee of the BHC, we're really I'm thankful to have been included in the partnership of the other events that we're just highlighted on the screen. Okay, so the fund balances as of April 30th, 2024, we had 31.5 million in our settlement fund balance and 3.3 million in our impact fee balance. Next slide.

Okay, so what you're voting on today are the bridge grant awards. So essentially on May 28th, the Commission voted and approved fifteen million dollars for two grant cycles. One would be restricted or exclusive just for individuals who were awarded in 1A and 1B, who are in good standing. And that simply means that they're up to date with all their data submissions as well as they have participated in mandatory on-site visits as was described earlier, and that all of their data line and if there were any concerns that they would take recommendations and and follow through with those. So out of the 74, we had 54 that qualified for continued funding. So again, the bridge funding is continued funding. There are no new initiatives that were allowed. It's essentially a three-month extension to what was already previously voted on. Next slide.

Oh, and at this time, as you'll see before you, there's 1.9 million in requests and then the phase 1C grant awards cycle, again during the May 28th meeting, fifteen million was voted on and approved for future grant cycles; a bridge cycle and then one that will be open to the to the entire public. And so what needs to happen for that to actually be launched is all of our subcommittees always vote on the allowable uses, the application structure, then it goes before the full Commission for vote, and once that happens, we'll be able to set a date as to when the next grant cycle will take place. Next slide.

Alright. And then just always send us an update, our next full quarterly meeting is July 29th at 1:00 PM. Okay so. Discussion? Questions? And Alexia, I understand that the BHC has received the requests for extensions before this meeting, so at this point again I'll take any questions and discussion can ensue.

00:48:59 - 00:49:39 [overlapping speakers, unable to distinguish words]

00:49:48 Judge Jerome Herlihy: [unclear due to overlapping speakers] ... and the three documents are not in any context. [unable to distinguish words] Okay. What's the content of approving or holding this report, which I think should be done, but I think that can be done on a parallel track with [unclear] setting complete [unclear] confusion about what's in detail.

00:50:26 -00:50:42 [overlapping speakers, unable to distinguish words]

00:50:44 Unknown speaker: And just confirm online, you can hear us now.

00:50:47 Unknown speaker: No one can hear.

00:50:51 Unknown speaker: Nothing's coming.

00:51:08 Cathy Bedenbaugh: And everyone online hear me?

00:51:11 Susan Holloway: Yes, very well.

00:51:13 Cathy Bedenbaugh: Okay, great.

00:51:19 Alexia Wolf: Senator Hansen has her hand up.

00:51:24 Unknown speaker: Senator Hansen?

00:51:27 Senator Stephanie Hansen: Yep. Thank you. I just wanted to check the letter from the AG, the specific ask in there. Well, first of all, is the AG here? Is our co-chair here to talk about this, because I want to make sure that I know specifically what's being asked for in this letter.

00:51:48 Patty Davis: Senator Hansen, can you hear me?

00:51:50 Senator Stephanie Hansen: Yes.

00:51:51 Patty Davis: Hi, this is Patty Davis. I'm the states solicitor. Julia Lawes is here today as the AG's proxy. The AG has other matters that she had to attend to this morning. But we are both here. This wasn't on the agenda, so I may not be able to answer your question specifically as I wasn't quite prepared, but I'm happy to help in any way that I can.

00:52:11 Senator Stephanie Hansen: Thank you. I'm glad that you're here. I'm glad that there's someone here that can answer some of these questions, because given the fact that this letter was sent out just a few weeks ago and it's caused a lot of conversation. I'm surprised that no one would have anticipated a discussion about this. The specific ask in the letter is, I'll read it, "I'm therefore

strongly recommending an immediate and complete freeze on new grants by the Commission, until Social Contract completes the recommendations it was hired to produce.” And so, it earlier, it looks like Social Contract is anticipating having that work done by September, our September coming up. So, strongly recommending an immediate and complete freeze on new grants. So, does that mean that the bridge grants are new grants? Or does it mean that because there are continuation of previous applications to get them to the end of the year that they're not new grants?

00:53:33 Patty Davis: Sure. So, the attorney general at the POSDC meeting did abstain from voting in favor of the bridge grants. And my understanding is today as her proxy, Julia will also be abstaining from any vote. We aren't supporting the award of these bridge grants at this time. We again, are really hoping for Social Contract's report to come out so that we can plan how this money is getting spent in the most effective way possible.

00:54:05 Senator Stephanie Hansen: So what meeting was that? Because the meeting minutes I have from May 28th has the attorney general voting in favor to deploy the \$15 million for this 2024 cycle. There were no abstentions.

00:54:23 Patty Davis: The most, I'm sorry, the most recent meeting, Senator, with the executive session when we came out of executive session of the POSDC, that was the vote, where she abstained. I believe that was the special meeting that was called at the end of June.

00:54:39 Senator Stephanie Hansen: So by that am I to understand then that she believes that a complete freeze on new grants is appropriate and new grants includes bridge funding? Or she is just not, not saying one way or the other, just leaving that discussion to the Commission?

00:55:03 Patty Davis: Thank you. I think you put it much more succinctly. For anything new beyond bridge grants, we obviously are asking for the Social Contract to wait with these particular bridge grants. Again, like a lot of the people that we heard from today, the Attorney General recognizes that there is some good work that's getting done and it's important and it needs to get done. What we don't have though, is we at the time we were asked to make this decision at the end of June, we're not comfortable taking a position one way or the other. And so that question is being left to this board.

00:55:41 Senator Stephanie Hansen: Okay. All right. I understand. I have so many questions about so many things that are in here that I'm going to be voting in favor of the bridge grant.

00:56:48 Unknown speaker: Oh no, she said we can't hear you online.

00:56:52 Susan Hollaway: Dave is on mute. I think that's why we can't hear him.

00:57:00 Dave Humes: Okay. Okay. Can people hear me now? Okay, so the we have all the... The Distribution Commission Settlement Commission has already voted to approve these funds. 1.9 of 15,000,000 is for bridge funds, the balance has been approved to be spent in a grant cycle C. What remains, to the best of of my knowledge, is for the Behavioral Health Consortium, they can either approve or disapprove as it stands. So, whether anybody wants to freeze these funds, unless they bring it up in a Commission meeting and bring up a motion to rescind, then it doesn't seem to me it's even a question at this point in time. It's been approved, this has been approved.

00:57:55 Unknown speaker: Here I need to wash my hands. I've got Clorox on them.

00:57:57 Dave Humes: Thank you.

00:58:42 Unknown speaker: Okay.

00:58:43 Unknown speaker: And make sure they can hear you open up your camera, and make sure you're unmuted.

00:58:55 Cathy Bedenbaugh: Can everyone hear me online?

00:58:58 Unknown speaker: Yes.

00:58:58 Unknown speaker: It's a thumbs up online.

00:59:00 Cathy Bedenbaugh: If you can hear me.

00:59:04 Unknown speaker: Can you hear us online? Okay, I see. Okay. Thank you.

00:59:06 Cathy Bedenbaugh: We're getting right. Thank you, everyone.

00:59:14 Cathy Bedenbaugh: We're going to start with, we're going to start with the Prescription Opioid Settlement Distribution Commissions recommendation for three months of bridge funding for grant recipients from Phase 1A. Copies of the recommendations were provided to voting members ahead of this meeting. There are additional copies here in the room, and there should be information in the chat for those joining online. If it's unfortunately, I'm not driving that computer at the moment, I can't attach that file, so please bear with us. Hopefully one of my colleagues can put that online for us. Phase 1A has recommendations for bridge funding applications from 27 organizations totaling \$573,201.66. We ask that any member of the BHC with a conflict of interest with any specific item up for the Phase 1A vote please indicate by raised hand in person or online. You'll need to acknowledge your conflict of interest and the item to address.

01:00:30 Joanan Champney: DSAMH Application.

01:00:34 Cathy Bedenbaugh: Okay, and just a second. Joanna Champney has indicated a conflict of interest for, excuse me, got to turn to the right page, for DSAMH, they have items on both phases. We're acknowledging that we will pull forward the DSAMH to vote ahead of the block vote for Phase 1A. I see a hand online.

01:01:12 Erin Booker: Hi, it's Erin Booker. I am President of the Board of Impact Life. So, need to have just identify that conflict.

01:01:23 Cathy Bedenbaugh: Okay, Impact Life will be pulled forward for a separate vote. Give me just a second. Thank you, Erin Booker, for acknowledging that. Are there any other conflicts of interest that need to be acknowledged at this time for Phase 1A? Alright, will proceed with a individual vote for the DSAMH funding for Phase 1A. Give me just a second. The vote will be conducted by roll call. DSAMH's application for bridge funding for Phase 1A in the amount of \$25,000, if you would please indicate your votes by unmuting yourself when your name is called, or if you are here in the room.

01:02:50 Cathy Bedenbaugh: Lieutenant Governor Bethany Hall-Long?

01:02:52 Lt Governor Bethany Hall-Long : Yes.

01:02:56 Cathy Bedenbaugh: Attorney General Kathleen Jennings Proxy Julia Lawes?

[Julia Lawes present in room, answer was not captured by zoom audio recording.]

01:03:04 Cathy Bedenbaugh: Joanna Champney?

01:03:11 Cathy Bedenbaugh: Matthew Swanson?

01:03:21 Cathy Bedenbaugh: Matthew, I see that you've unmuted, but I didn't hear your answer.

01:03:26 Matthew Swanson: The answer is yes. Can you hear me?

01:03:28 Cathy Bedenbaugh: Thank you.

01:03:33 Cathy Bedenbaugh: Jennifer Smolowitz?

01:03:36 Jennifer Smolowitz: Yes.

01:03:40 Cathy Bedenbaugh: Erin Booker?

01:03:44 Erin Booker: Yes.

01:03:47 Alexia Wolf: And to maximize audio, we're asking if you could repeat the vote.

01:03:54 Cathy Bedenbaugh: Erin Brooker. I'm sorry. Erin Brooker, Erin could you confirm your vote again?

01:04:00 Erin Booker: Sure, it's Booker. Booker, but it's yes.

01:04:04 Cathy Bedenbaugh: Thank you. I apologize for mispronouncing your name.

01:04:07 Cathy Bedenbaugh: Patrick Ogden?

01:04:10: Yes.

01:04:13 Cathy Bedenbaugh: Patrick Ogden is yes. Emily Vera?

01:04:17 Emily Vera: Yes

01:04:18 Cathy Bedenbaugh: Emily Vera is, yes. Carolyn Petrak?

[Carolyn Petrak present in room, answer was not captured by zoom audio recording.]

01:04:24 Cathy Bedenbaugh: Carolyn Petrak is yes. Ken Branner?

01:04:27 Ken Branner: Yes.

01:04:29 Cathy Bedenbaugh: Ken Branner is yes. Doctor Sandra Gibney?

01:04:36 Dr. Sandra Gibney: Yes.

01:04:38 Cathy Bedenbaugh: Sandra is yes. Doctor James Ellison? Doctor Mason is Doctor Ellison's proxy.

[Dr. Deborah Mason present in room, answer was not captured by zoom audio recording.]

01:04:52 Cathy Bedenbaugh: Doctor Ellison Proxy has said yes. Doctor Jennifer Graber?

01:05:00 Cathy Bedenbaugh: Yes.

01:05:02 Cathy Bedenbaugh: Doctor Jennifer Graber is yes. Doctor Avani Virani?

01:05:10 Dr. Avani Virani: Yes.

01:05:12 Cathy Bedenbaugh: Doctor Virani is yes. Annie Slease?

01:05:24 Annie Slease: Yes.

01:05:25 Cathy Bedenbaugh: Annie Slease is Yes. Doctor Deborah Mason?

01:05:27 Dr. Deborah Mason: Yes

01:05:29 Cathy Bedenbaugh: Doctor Deborah Mason is yes. Rebecca Walker?

01:05:34 Rebecca Walker: Yes.

01:05:36 Cathy Bedenbaugh: Rebecca Walker is yes. Rebecca King?

01:05:44 Sandy Syglowski: This is Sandy Syglowski. I am Rebecca King's proxy for today. Rebecca King abstains to vote.

01:05:54 Cathy Bedenbaugh: Rebecca King's proxy represents that she is abstaining the vote. Reverend Carol Boggerty?

01:06:15 Cathy Bedenbaugh: You're unmuted, Dr. Boggerty. You could talk. I can hear you typing.

01:06:28 Rev. Dr. Carol Boggerty: Are you are you able to hear me now?

01:06:30 Cathy Bedenbaugh: We can, thank you.

01:06:32 Rev. Dr. Carol Boggerty: I'm sorry, I've been trying to speak from the beginning to tell you I have a conflict because I do sit on the board for Dover Interfaith.

01:06:34 Cathy Bedenbaugh: Okay.

01:06:39 Lt. Governor Bethany Hall-Long: And she is Bishop. She is Bishop as well, so.

01:06:46 Cathy Bedenbaugh: Thank you.

01:06:48 Rev. Dr. Carol Boggerty: And I, I do apologize. I've been talking since the beginning for the conflict.

01:06:54 Cathy Bedenbaugh: Okay.

01:06:57 Cathy Bedenbaugh: Bishop Boggerty, what is your vote for DSAMH's funding for Phase 1A?

01:07:03 Rev. Dr. Carol Boggerty: Yes.

01:07:04 Cathy Bedenbaugh: Thank you. Bishop Boggerty votes yes. Wade Jones proxy Deborah Mason?

01:07:17 Dr. Deborah Mason: Yes

01:07:18 Cathy Bedenbaugh: Deborah Mason votes yes on behalf of Wade Jones. Senator Hansen?

01:07:27 Senator Stephanie Hansen: Yes.

01:07:28 Cathy Bedenbaugh: Senator Hansen votes yes. Senator Buckson?

01:07:34 Senator Eric Buckson: No.

01:07:35 Cathy Bedenbaugh: Senator Buckson votes no. Representative Minor-Brown?

01:07:47 Cathy Bedenbaugh: Representative Minor-Brown?

01:07:53 Cathy Bedenbaugh: Does not seem she's with us today.

01:07:56 Cathy Bedenbaugh: Representative Jones Giltner.

01:07:59 Rep. Valerie Jones Giltner: Yes.

01:08:01 Cathy Bedenbaugh: Representative Jones Giltner votes yes.

01:08:08 Cathy Bedenbaugh: To repeat a few earlier votes, Lieutenant Governor Bethany Hall-Long voted yes. Attorney General Kathleen Jennings's proxy Julia Lawes abstained. Joanna Champney abstains. Matthew Swanson voted yes. Jennifer Smolowitz voted yes. Erin Booker voted yes. And I believe everyone could clearly hear the vote for the following.

01:08:47 Cathy Bedenbaugh: Having received 19 yes votes the funding for DSAMH passes.

01:09:17 Cathy Bedenbaugh: Reverend Boggerty, could you tell me again what your conflict of interest was?

01:09:23 Rev. Dr. Carol Boggerty: Can you hear me?

01:09:25 Cathy Bedenbaugh: Yes, I can.

01:09:26 Rev. Dr. Carol Boggerty: Dover Interfaith Mission for Housing.

01:09:30 Cathy Bedenbaugh: Thank you.

01:09:41 Cathy Bedenbaugh: At this time, we will proceed with...

01:09:56 Cathy Bedenbaugh: At this time, we'll go ahead and proceed with a separate vote for Dover Interfaith Mission Housing for the amount of \$25,000.

01:10:10 Cathy Bedenbaugh: Lieutenant Governor Bethany Hall-Long.

01:10:16 Lt Governor Bethany Hall-Long: Yes. 01:10:27

Cathy Bedenbaugh: Julia Lawes, on behalf of AG Kathleen Jennings? Thank you. Thank you. Bethany Hall-Long votes yes.

[Julia Lawes present in room, answer was not captured by zoom audio recording.]

01:10:35 Cathy Bedenbaugh: Julia Lawes, on behalf of, of AG Jennings, abstains. Joanna Champney?

[Joanna Champney present in room, answer was not captured by zoom audio recording.]

01:10:43 Cathy Bedenbaugh: Joanna Champney votes yes. Matthew Swanson?

01:10:48 Matthew Swanson: Yes.

01:10:49 Cathy Bedenbaugh: Matthew Swanson votes yes. Jennifer Smolowitz?

[Jennifer Smolowitz present in room, answer was not captured by zoom audio recording.]

01:10:54 Cathy Bedenbaugh: Jennifer Smolowitz votes yes. Erin Booker?

01:10:01 Erin Booker: Yes.

01:11:02 Cathy Bedenbaugh: Erin Booker votes yes. Patrick Ogden?

01:11:07 Patrick Ogden: Yes.

01:11:10 Cathy Bedenbaugh: Patrick Ogden votes yes. Emily Vera?

[Emily Vera present in room, answer was not captured by zoom audio recording.]

01:11:14 Cathy Bedenbaugh: Emily Vera votes yes. Carolyn Petrak?

01:11:17 Carolyn Petrak: Yes.

01:11:18: Cathy Bedenbaugh: Carolyn Petrak votes yes. Ken Branner?

01:11:24 Ken Branner: Yes.

01:11:25 Cathy Bedenbaugh: Ken Branner votes yes. Doctor Sandra Gibney?

01:11:30 Dr. Sandra Gibney: Yes.

01:11:32 Cathy Bedenbaugh: Doctor Gibney votes yes. Doctor James Ellison?

[Dr. Deborah Mason present in room, answer was not captured by zoom audio recording.]

01:11:38 Cathy Bedenbaugh: Doctor James Ellison's proxy Deborah Mason votes yes. Doctor Jennifer Graber?

01:11:43 Dr. Jennifer Graber: Yes.

01:11:45 Cathy Bedenbaugh: Doctor Jennifer Graber votes yes. Doctor Avani Virani?

01:11:47 Dr. Avani Virani: Yes.

01:11:51 Cathy Bedenbaugh: Doctor Virani votes yes. Annie Slease?

01:11:58 Annie Slease: Yes.

01:12:00 Cathy Bedenbaugh: Annie Slease votes yes. Doctor Deborah Mason?

[Dr. Deborah Mason present in room, answer was not captured by zoom audio recording.]

01:12:05 Cathy Bedenbaugh: Doctor Mason votes yes. Rebecca Walker?

01:12:10 Rebecca Walker: Yes.

01:12:11 Cathy Bedenbaugh: Rebecca Walker votes yes. Rebecca King, Proxy Sandi Syl.... And I can't say your last name today. Sandi, I apologize.

01:12:20 Sandi Syglowski: That's okay. Not a problem. Becky King abstains to vote.

01:12:26 Cathy Bedenbaugh: Thank you, Rebecca King's proxy abstains to vote. Bishop Boggerty?

01:12:36 Rev. Dr. Carol Boggerty: I abstain the vote.

01:12:38 Cathy Bedenbaugh: She abstains the vote. Bishop Boggerty, she abstains. Thank you. Doctor Deborah Mason, on behalf of Wade Jones?

[Dr. Debora Mason present in room, answer was not captured by zoom audio recording.]

01:12:48 Cathy Bedenbaugh: On behalf of Wade Jones, it's a yes vote. Senator Hansen?

01:12:54 Sen. Stephanie Hansen: Yes.

01:12:56 Cathy Bedenbaugh: Senator Hansen votes yes. Senator Buckson?

01:13:02 Sen. Eric Buckson: Yes.

01:13:02 Cathy Bedenbaugh: Senator Buckson votes yes. Rep Minor-Brown?

01:13:07 Jennifer Graber: I'm acting as representative minor, Brown's proxy, and as she also votes yes.

01:13:13 Cathy Bedenbaugh: Thank you. That's Jennifer Graber, I believe?

01:13:18 Jennifer Graber: Yep, that was Jennifer Graber.

01:13:20 Cathy Bedenbaugh: Thank you, Jennifer. Rep Brown's proxy votes yes. Rep Jones Giltner?

01:13:32 Rep. Valerie Jones Giltner: Yes.

01:13:34 Cathy Bedenbaugh: Rep Jones Giltner votes yes.

01:13:48 Cathy Bedenbaugh: Having received 21 votes, funding for Dover Interfaith Mission for Housing passes.

01:14:02 Cathy Bedenbaugh: The next individual vote will be for Impact Life Recovery. Their application for bridge funding is \$25,000. Lieutenant Governor Bethany Hall-Long?

01:14:30 Cathy Bedenbaugh: Lieutenant Governor, we're ready for vote. Are you able to unmute?

01:14:39 Cathy Bedenbaugh: Okay, we'll move. We'll circle back around to the Lieutenant Governor.

01:14:42 Lt. Governor Bethany Hall-Long: Yes, yes, I'm sorry.

01:14:44 Cathy Bedenbaugh: She's there. She was able to join us. Thank you. Lieutenant Governor votes yes. Julia Lawes, on behalf of Attorney General Jennings?

[Julia Lawes present in room, answer was not captured by zoom audio recording.]

01:14:55 Cathy Bedenbaugh: Abstains. Joanna Champney?

[Joanna Champney present in room, answer was not captured by zoom audio recording.]

01:15:00 Cathy Bedenbaugh: Joanna Champney votes yes. Matthew Swanson?

01:15:06 Matthew Swanson: Yes.

01:15:07 Cathy Bedenbaugh: Matthew Swanson votes yes. Jennifer Smolowitz?

[Jennifer Smolowitz present in room, answer was not captured by zoom audio recording.]

01:15:13 Cathy Bedenbaugh: Jennifer Smolowitz votes yes. Erin Booker?

01:15:18 Erin Booker: Abstain.

01:15:20 Cathy Bedenbaugh: Erin Booker abstains. Patrick Ogden?

01:15:26 Patrick Ogden: Yes.

01:15:27 Cathy Bedenbaugh: Patrick Ogden votes yes. Emily Vera?

01:15:32 Emily Vera: Yes.

01:15:33 Cathy Bedenbaugh: Emily Vera votes yes. Carolyn Petrak?

[Carolyn Petrak present in room, answer was not captured by zoom audio recording.]

01:15:37 Cathy Bedenbaugh: Carolyn Petrak votes yes. Ken Branner?

01:15:42 Ken Branner: Yes.

01:15:43 Cathy Bedenbaugh: Ken Branner votes yes. Doctor Sandra Gibney?

01:15:49 Dr. Sandra Gibney: Yes.

01:15:50 Cathy Bedenbaugh: Doctor Gibney votes yes. Doctor James Ellison?

[Dr. James Ellison present in room, answer was not captured by zoom audio recording.]

01:15:56 Cathy Bedenbaugh: Doctor Ellison votes yes. Doctor Jennifer Graber?

01:16:01 Cathy Bedenbaugh: Yes.

01:16:02 Cathy Bedenbaugh: Doctor Graber votes yes. Doctor Avani Virani?

01:16:10 Dr. Avani Virani: Yes.

01:16:13 Cathy Bedenbaugh: Doctor Virani votes yes. Annie Slease?

[Annie Slease present in room, answer was not captured by zoom audio recording.]

01:16:20 Cathy Bedenbaugh: Annie votes yes, Thank you. Doctor Mason?

[Dr. Deborah Mason present in room, answer was not captured by zoom audio recording.]

01:16:29 Cathy Bedenbaugh: Dr. Mason votes yes. Doctor Rebecca Walker. I'm sorry, Rebecca Walker.

01:16:37 Cathy Bedenbaugh: Rebecca Walker votes yes. So many doctors in a row. Rebecca king?

01:16:46 Sandy Syglowski: Abstains to vote.

01:16:48 Cathy Bedenbaugh: Thank you. Bishop Boggerty?

01:16:53 Rev. Dr. Carol Boggerty: Yes.

01:16:55 Cathy Bedenbaugh: Bishop Boggerty votes yes. Doctor Mason, on behalf of Wade Jones?

[Dr. Deborah Mason present in room, answer was not captured by zoom audio recording.]

01:17:02 Cathy Bedenbaugh: Doctor Mason, on behalf of Wade Jones, votes yes. Senator Hansen?

01:17:07 Senator Hansen: Yes.

01:17:09 Cathy Bedenbaugh: Senator Hansen votes yes. Senator Buckson?

01:17:19 Cathy Bedenbaugh: Senator Buckson?

01:17:24 Cathy Bedenbaugh: We'll come back around in a moment. Rep Minor-Brown, Jennifer Graber as proxy?

01:17:31 Jennifer Graber: Yes.

01:17:36 Cathy Bedenbaugh: Rep Jones Giltner?

01:17:38 Rep. Valerie Jones Giltner: Yes.

01:17:40 Cathy Bedenbaugh: Rep Jones Giltner votes yes. Senator Buckson, are you still online with us?

01:18:05 Cathy Bedenbaugh: Having received 20 votes, funding for Impact Life Recovery has passed.

01:18:13 Cathy Bedenbaugh: At this time, we will vote on the balance of Phase 1A bridge funding as one block vote. Lieutenant Governor Bethany Hall-Long?

01:18:27 Lt. Governor Bethany Hall-Long: Yes.

01:18:28 Cathy Bedenbaugh: Lieutenant Governor votes yes. Julia Lawes, on behalf of AG Jennings?

[Julia Lawes present in room, answer was not captured by zoom audio recording.]

01:18:38 Cathy Bedenbaugh: AG Jennings abstains. Joanna Champney?

[Joanna Champney present in room, answer was not captured by zoom audio recording.]

01:18:43 Cathy Bedenbaugh: Joanna Champney votes yes. Matthew Swanson?

01:18:47 Matthew Swanson: Yes.

01:18:49 Cathy Bedenbaugh: Matthew Swanson votes yes. Jennifer Smolowitz?

[Jennifer Smolowitz present in room, answer was not captured by zoom audio recording.]

01:18:54 Cathy Bedenbaugh: Jennifer Smolowitz votes yes. Erin Booker?

01:18:59 Erin Booker: Yes.

01:19:00 Cathy Bedenbaugh: Erin Brooker votes yes. Patrick Ogden?

01:19:06 Patrick Ogden: Yes.

01:19:08 Cathy Bedenbaugh: Patrick Ogden votes yes. Emily Vera?

[Emily Vera present in room, answer was not captured by zoom audio recording.]

01:19:13 Cathy Bedenbaugh: Emily Vera votes yes. Carolyn Petrak?

01:19:18 Carolyn Petrak: Yes.

01:19:17 Cathy Bedenbaugh: Carolyn Petrak votes yes. Ken Branner?

01:19:22 Ken Branner: Yes.

01:19:22 Cathy Bedenbaugh: Ken Branner votes yes. Doctor Sandra Gibney?

01:19:28 Dr. Sandra Gibney: Yes.

01:19:29 Cathy Bedenbaugh: Doctor Gibney votes yes. Doctor James Ellison?

01:19:37 Dr. Deborah Mason: Yes

01:19:38 Cathy Bedenbaugh: Deborah Mason on behalf of Doctor James Ellison votes yes. Doctor Jennifer Graber?

01:19:44 Dr. Jennifer Graber: Yes.

01:19:45 Cathy Bedenbaugh: Doctor Graber votes yes. Doctor Avani Virani?

01:19:50 Dr. Avani Virani: Yes.

01:19:53 Cathy Bedenbaugh: Doctor Virani votes yes. Annie Slease?

[Annie Slease present in room, answer was not captured by zoom audio recording.]

01:20:05 Cathy Bedenbaugh: Annie Slease votes yes. Doctor Deborah Mason?

[Dr. Deborah Mason present in room, answer was not captured by zoom audio recording.]

Cathy Bedenbaugh: Doctor Deborah Mason votes yes. Rebecca Walker?

[Rebecca Walker present in room, answer was not captured by zoom audio recording.]

Cathy Bedenbaugh: Rebecca Walker votes yes. Rebecca King?

01:20:17 Sandy Syglowski: Abstains to vote.

01:20:19 Cathy Bedenbaugh: Rebecca King abstains. Bishop Boggerty?

01:20:25 Rev. Dr. Carol Boggerty: Yes.

01:20:27 Cathy Bedenbaugh: Bishop Boggerty votes yes. Doctor Deborah Mason, on behalf of Wade Jones?

[Dr. Deborah Mason present in room, answer was not captured by zoom audio recording.]

01:20:35 Cathy Bedenbaugh: On behalf of Wade Jones, yes. Senator Hansen?

01:20:41 Sen. Stephanie Hansen: Yes.

01:20:42 Cathy Bedenbaugh: Senator Hansen votes yes. Senator Buckson?

01:20:54 Cathy Bedenbaugh: Senator Buckson?

01:20:58 Cathy Bedenbaugh: Rep Minor-Brown?

01:21:00: Dr. Jennifer Graber: Yes.

01:21:02 Cathy Bedenbaugh: Thank you, Doctor Graber on behalf of Representative Minor-Brown votes yes. Representative Jones Giltner?

01:21:13 Rep. Valerie Jones Giltner: Yes.

01:21:15 Cathy Bedenbaugh: Representative Jones Giltner votes yes.

01:21:27 Cathy Bedenbaugh: Having received 21 votes, the balance of bridge funding for Phase 1A has passed for a total amount of funding for bridge funding for Phase 1A is \$573,201.66.

01:21:48 Cathy Bedenbaugh: We will now move on to Phase 1B.

01:21:57 Cathy Bedenbaugh: I believe Joanna Champney already called out that DSAMH in Phase 1B has a conflict of interest, so we'll pull that one forward. Are there any additional conflicts of interest for Phase 1B at this time?

01:22:26 Unknow Speaker: Sussex County Health Coalition.

01:22:29 [Unknow speaker, unclear what is said in recording]

01:22:34 Unknow speaker: It's your second to the last.

01:22:36 Cathy Bedenbaugh: Found it.

01:22:40 Cathy Bedenbaugh: On behalf of Bethany Hall-Long, she will be abstaining from Sussex County Health Coalition, so we'll pull that one forward as well for individual vote.

01:22:49 Cathy Bedenbaugh: And the DSAMH vote will be pulled forward. Is there any other conflicts of interest that need to be addressed individually from the block vote?

01:23:01 Lt. Governor Bethany Hall-Long: Did somebody say my name? I'm so sorry, it's Lieutenant Governor Hall-Long.

01:23:06 Cathy Bedenbaugh: I did. We were acknowledging that you have a conflict of interest with one of the applications the... Sorry... the my mouth.

01:23:20 Rita Landgraf: Sussex County Health Coalition. You co-chair their Go Purple. And that's what they get funding for.

01:23:27 Lt. Governor Bethany Hall-Long: Oh good. I hear you. I couldn't hear you before. Thank you. I couldn't hear. Thanks.

01:23:34 Cathy Bedenbaugh: When my mouth fails, she steps in for me.

01:23:55 Cathy Bedenbaugh: Okay. We will proceed with the individual vote for the Delaware Division of Substance Use And Mental Health, DSAMH, their application for Phase 1B bridge funding in the amount of \$150,000.

01:24:19 Cathy Bedenbaugh: Lieutenant Governor Bethany Hall-Long how do you vote?

01:24:22 Lt. Governor Bethany Hall-Long: Yes.

01:24:24 Cathy Bedenbaugh: Lieutenant Governor votes yes. Attorney General Kathy Jennings's Proxy Julia Lawes?

01:24:36 Cathy Bedenbaugh: Julia Lawes, on behalf of Attorney General Jennings, abstains. Joanna Champney?

[Joanna Champney present in room, answer was not captured by zoom audio recording.]

01:24:43 Cathy Bedenbaugh: Joanna Champney abstains. Matthew Swanson?

01:24:48 Matthew Swanson: I vote yes.

01:24:50 Cathy Bedenbaugh: Matthew Swanson votes yes. Jennifer Smolowitz?

[Jennifer Smolowitz present in room, answer was not captured by zoom audio recording.]

01:24:55 Cathy Bedenbaugh: Jennifer Smolowitz says yes. Erin Booker?

01:25:00 Erin Booker: Yes.

01:25:01 Cathy Bedenbaugh: Erin Booker votes yes. Patrick Ogden?

01:25:08 Patrick Ogden: Yes.

01:25:09 Cathy Bedenbaugh: Patrick Ogden votes yes. Emily Vera?

[Emily Vera present in room, answer was not captured by zoom audio recording.]

01:25:14 Cathy Bedenbaugh: Emily Vera votes yes. Carolyn Petrak?

01:25:17 Carolyn Petrak: Yes.

01:25:18 Cathy Bedenbaugh: Yes, Carolyn Petrak votes yes. Ken Branner?

[Ken Branner present in room, answer was not captured by zoom audio recording.]

01:25:26 Cathy Bedenbaugh: Ken Branner vote yes. Doctor Sandra Gibney?

01:25:32 Dr. Sandra Gibney: Yes.

01:25:34 Cathy Bedenbaugh: Doctor Gibney votes yes. Doctor James Ellison proxy Deborah Mason?

01:25:41 Dr. Deborah Mason: Yes.

01:25:42 Cathy Bedenbaugh: Doctor Mason, on behalf of Doctor Ellison, votes yes. Doctor Jennifer Graber?

01:25:49 Dr. Jennifer Graber: Yes.

01:25:51 Cathy Bedenbaugh: Doctor Graber votes yes. Doctor Avani Virani?

01:25:54 Unknown speaker: Simplified.

01:25:58 Dr. Avani Virani: Yes.

01:26:01 Cathy Bedenbaugh: I'm sorry, Doctor Virani, what was your answer?

01:26:04 Dr. Avani Virani: Yes.

01:26:05 Cathy Bedenbaugh: Thank you, Doctor Veroni votes yes.

01:26:08 Unknown Speaker: Spell.

01:26:14 Cathy Bedenbaugh: Annie Slease?

01:26:16 Annie Slease: Yes.

01:26:17 Cathy Bedenbaugh: Annie Slease votes yes. Doctor Deborah Mason?

[Dr. Deborah Mason present in room, answer was not captured by zoom audio recording.]

01:26:21 Cathy Bedenbaugh: Doctor Mason votes yes. Rebecca Walker?

[Rebecca Walker present in room, answer was not captured by zoom audio recording.]

01:26:27 Cathy Bedenbaugh: Rebecca Walker votes yes. Rebecca King?

01:26:31 Sandy Syglowski: Abstains.

01:26:33 Cathy Bedenbaugh: Rebecca King abstains.

01:26:35 Cathy Bedenbaugh: Bishop Boggerty.

01:26:38 Rev. Dr. Carol Boggerty: Yes.

01:26:40 Cathy Bedenbaugh: Bishop Boggerty votes yes.

01:26:43 Cathy Bedenbaugh: Doctor Mason, on behalf of Wade Jones.

[Dr. Deborah Mason present in room, answer was not captured by zoom audio recording.]

01:26:48 Cathy Bedenbaugh: On behalf of Wade Jones, Dr. Mason votes yes. Senator Stephanie Hansen?

01:26:56 Sen. Stephanie Hansen: Yes.

01:26:58 Cathy Bedenbaugh: Senator Hansen votes yes. Senator Eric Buckson?

01:27:10 Cathy Bedenbaugh: Representative Minor-Brown?

01:27:12 Dr. Jennifer Graber: Yes.

01:27:15 Cathy Bedenbaugh: Doctor Graber, on behalf of Representative Minor-Brown votes Yes. Representative Jones Giltner?

01:27:23 Rep. Valerie Jones Giltner: Yes.

01:27:25 Cathy Bedenbaugh: Representative Jones Giltner votes yes.

01:27:39 Cathy Bedenbaugh: Having received 19 votes, funding for DSAMH for 150,000 for bridge funding for Phase 1B is passed.

01:28:00 Cathy Bedenbaugh: We will now do a vote for the Sussex County Health Coalition for their application for \$75,000 for bridge funding under Phase 1B.

01:28:11 Cathy Bedenbaugh: Lieutenant Governor Bethany Hall-Long.

01:28:22 Lt. Governor Bethany Hall-Long: Yeah, this is. Is this the abstention? I can't hear you. I'm so sorry about the bad cell area.

01:28:22 Cathy Bedenbaugh: Yes, that's alright. This is the abstention. I'm marking it down now. Bethany, Hall-Long, Thank you. Lieutenant Governor Bethany Hall-Long abstains.

01:28:30 Lt Governor Bethany Hall-Long: Okay. Thank you.

01:28:36 Cathy Bedenbaugh: Julia Lawes, on behalf of Attorney General Kathy Jennings?

[Julia Lawes present in room, answer was not captured by zoom audio recording.]

01:28:44 Cathy Bedenbaugh: On behalf of Attorney General Kathy Jennings, Julia Lawes abstains. Joanna Champney?

[Julia Lawes present in room, answer was not captured by zoom audio recording.]

01:28:52 Cathy Bedenbaugh: Joanna Champney votes yes, Matthew Swanson?

01:28:56 Matthew Swanson: Yes.

01:28:58 Cathy Bedenbaugh: Matthew Swanson votes yes. Jennifer Smolowitz?

[Julia Lawes present in room, answer was not captured by zoom audio recording.]

01:29:03 Cathy Bedenbaugh: Jennifer Smolowitz says yes. Erin Booker?

01:29:10 Erin Booker: Yes.

01:29:12 Cathy Bedenbaugh: Erin Booker votes yes. Patrick Ogden?

01:29:18 Patrick Ogden: Yes.

01:29:20 Cathy Bedenbaugh: Patrick Ogden votes yes. Emily Vera?

[Julia Lawes present in room, answer was not captured by zoom audio recording.]

01:29:25 Cathy Bedenbaugh: Emily Vera votes yes. Carolyn Petrak?

01:29:28 Carolyn Petrak: Yeah.

01:29:31 Cathy Bedenbaugh: Carolyn Petrak votes yes. Kan Branner?

[Ken Branner present in room, answer was not captured by zoom audio recording.]

01:29:32 Cathy Bedenbaugh: Ken Branner vote yes. Doctor Sandra Gibney?

01:29:39 Dr. Sandra Gibney: Yes.

01:29:41 Cathy Bedenbaugh: Doctor Gibney votes yes. Doctor James Ellison's proxy doctor, Deborah Mason?

01:29:48 Cathy Bedenbaugh: On behalf of James Ellison, Doctor Mason votes yes. Doctor Jennifer Graber?

01:29:56 Cathy Bedenbaugh: Yes.

01:29:57 Cathy Bedenbaugh: Doctor Graber votes yes. Doctor Avani Virani?

01:30:04 Dr. Avani Virani: Yes.

01:30:05 Cathy Bedenbaugh: Doctor Virani votes yes. Annie Slease?

01:30:14 Cathy Bedenbaugh: Any Slease votes yes. Doctor Deborah Mason?

01:30:20 Cathy Bedenbaugh: Doctor Mason votes yes. Rebecca Walker?

01:30:25 Cathy Bedenbaugh: Rebecca Walker votes yes, Rebecca King?

01:30:29 Sandy Syglowski : Abstain.

01:30:31 Cathy Bedenbaugh: Rebecca King abstains. Bishop Boggerty?

01:30:35 Rev. Dr. Carol Boggerty: Yes.

01:30:36 Cathy Bedenbaugh: Bishop Boggerty votes yes. Doctor Deborah Mason, on behalf of Wade Jones?

01:30:44 Cathy Bedenbaugh: On behalf of Wade Jones, Dr. Mason votes yes. Senator Stephanie Hansen?

01:30:52 Sen. Stephanie Hansen: Yes.

01:30:54 Cathy Bedenbaugh: Senator Hansen votes yes. Senator Eric Buckson?

01:31:02 Cathy Bedenbaugh: Representative Minor-Brown?

01:31:05 Dr. Jennifer Graber: Yes.

01:31:08 Cathy Bedenbaugh: Doctor Jennifer Graber, on behalf of Representative Minor-Brown votes yes. Representative Jones Giltner?

01:31:16 Rep. Valier Jones Giltner: Yes.

01:31:18 Cathy Bedenbaugh: Representative Jones Giltner votes yes.

01:31:31 Cathy Bedenbaugh: Having received 20 votes, funding for Sussex County Health Coalition under Phase 1B Bridge funding has passed.

01:31:49 Cathy Bedenbaugh: I believe there are no other conflicts of interest that need to be carried forward, so we will now vote for the balance of Phase 1B bridge funding as a block vote.

01:32:04 Cathy Bedenbaugh: Lieutenant Governor Bethany Hall-Long.

01:32:07 Lt. Governor Bethany Hall Long: Yes.

01:32:10 Cathy Bedenbaugh: Julia Lawes, on behalf of Attorney General Kathy Jennings?

[Julia Lawes present in room, answer was not captured by zoom audio recording.]

01:32:20 Cathy Bedenbaugh: On behalf of Julia Lawes, I'm sorry, on behalf of Attorney General Kathy Jennings, Julia Lawes abstained.

01:32:25 Cathy Bedenbaugh: I don't know if I repeated Lieutenant Governor Bethany Hall-Long's yes vote. Joanna Champney?

[Joanna Champney present in room, answer was not captured by zoom audio recording.]

01:32:33 Cathy Bedenbaugh: Joanna Champney votes yes. Matthew Swanson?

01:32:37 Matthew Swanson: Yes.

01:32:38 Cathy Bedenbaugh: Matthew Swanson votes yes. Jennifer Smolowitz?

[Jennifer Smolowitz present in room, answer was not captured by zoom audio recording.]

01:32:43 Cathy Bedenbaugh: Jennifer Smolowitz votes yes. Erin Booker?

01:32:47 Erin Booker: Yes.

01:32:49 Cathy Bedenbaugh: Erin Booker votes yes. Patrick Ogden?

01:32:55 Patrick Ogden: Yes.

01:32:57 Cathy Bedenbaugh: Patrick Ogden votes yes. Emily Vera?

[Emily Vera present in room, answer was not captured by zoom audio recording.]

01:33:01 Cathy Bedenbaugh: Emily Vera votes yes. Carolyn Petrak.

[Carolyn Petrak present in room, answer was not captured by zoom audio recording.]

01:33:06 Cathy Bedenbaugh: Carolyn Petrak votes yes. Ken Branner?

01:33:08 Ken Branner: Yes.

01:33:10 Cathy Bedenbaugh: Ken Branner votes yes. Doctor Sandra Gibney?

01:33:16 Dr. Sandra Gibney: Yes.

01:33:18 Cathy Bedenbaugh: Doctor Gibney votes yes. Deborah Mason, on behalf of Doctor James Ellison?

01:33:20 Dr. Deborah Mason: Yes.

01:33:25 Cathy Bedenbaugh: On behalf of Doctor James Ellison, Doctor Mason votes yes. Doctor Jennifer Graber?

01:33:32 Dr. Jennifer Graber: Yes.

01:33:34 Cathy Bedenbaugh: Doctor Greber votes yes. Doctor Avani Virani?

01:33:38 Dr. Avani Virani: Yes.

01:33:40 Cathy Bedenbaugh: Doctor Virani votes yes. Annie Slease?

[Annie Slease present in room, answer was not captured by zoom audio recording.]

01:33:47 Cathy Bedenbaugh: Annie Slease votes yes. Doctor Deborah Mason?

[Dr. Deborah Mason present in room, answer was not captured by zoom audio recording.]

01:33:52 Cathy Bedenbaugh: Doctor Mason votes yes, Rebecca Walker?

[Rebecca Walker present in room, answer was not captured by zoom audio recording.]

01:33:57 Cathy Bedenbaugh: Rebecca Walker votes yes.

01:33:59 Sandy Syglowski: Abstains.

01:34:02 Cathy Bedenbaugh: Rebecca King abstains. Bishop Boggerty?

01:34:06 Rev. Dr. Carol Boggerty: Yes.

01:34:08 Cathy Bedenbaugh: Bishop Boggerty votes yes. Doctor Mason, on behalf of Wade Jones?

[Dr. Deborah Mason present in room, answer was not captured by zoom audio recording.]

01:34:16 Cathy Bedenbaugh: On behalf of Wade Jones, Dr. Mason votes yes. Senator Stephanie Hansen?

01:34:22 Sen. Stephanie Hansen: Yes.

01:34:23 Cathy Bedenbaugh: Senator Hansen votes yes. Senator Eric Buckson?

01:34:33 Cathy Bedenbaugh: Doctor Jennifer Graber, on behalf of Representative Minor-Brown.

01:34:37 Dr. Jennifer Graber: Yes.

01:34:39 Cathy Bedenbaugh: On behalf of Representative Minor-Brown, Doctor Graber votes yes. Representative Jones Giltner?

01:34:47 Rep. Valerie Jones Giltner: Yes.

01:34:49 Cathy Bedenbaugh: Representative Jones Giltner votes yes.

01:35:00 Cathy Bedenbaugh: Having received 21 votes, Phase 1B Bridge funding has passed. All matters have been passed for a total, got to turn to the back page, for a total of \$1,420,411.00.

01:35:23 Aleixa Wolf: Thank you to everyone for the vote and update as we are getting close to the top of the hour, we will proceed with the next agenda item, the open item from Phase 1B and then we'll defer the rest of the updates. We'll be sure to get the slides out to members as well as the transcription, and minutes for today. And I believe we have Patty Davis on the line for the AG's office.

01:35:53 Patty Davis: Yes, I'm here. Can you hear me? No? Oh, you can? Okay, great.

Okay. Yeah. So last week I received an e-mail that Alexia was placing me on the agenda today for to provide an update on your previous vote with regard to one of the applicants in Phase 1B. It was shared with me that at the time that you voted to grant the Phase 1B money, our office through Julia Lawes has shared with this board concerns that we had about one of the applicants. Subsequently a motion was initiated to add an amendment to the Phase 1B grant application funding approval. That contingent upon review and concurrence by the OMB and the Delaware DOJ. So, the DOJ then took the concerns that were raised at that meeting and forwarded them to the applicant. And the applicant received our communication and indicated that they chose not to address any of the BHC's concerns. I then followed up with a list of specific questions for the applicant. And the applicant indicated that they did not, they were not interested in answering any of my questions.

We have officially concluded our inquiry on May 17, 2024, and forwarded that information to the staff. I don't have any information regarding OMB's position on this matter, but it was our recommendation back in May that this application be closed due to inadequate and non-existent responses to investigative queries. I have... that's the only update that I have.

01:38:31 Alexia Wolf : Anyone who didn't hear the prior update, we will be deferring any additional agenda items. We will be providing the slides to the participants today as well as the minutes.

01:38:44 Alexia Wolf : And with that, we just need a motion to adjourn.

01:38:50 Alexia Wolf: Thank you, Jennifer Smolowitz. And a second?

01:38:57 Alexia Wolf: We have two seconds. Thank you, Carolyn and Annie. With that we are adjourned. Thank you all for your commitment to seeing this meeting take place today.

Appendix 1: Calvin Davis Jr. Public Comments:

I extend my gratitude to Lt. Gov, Bethany Hall-Long for inviting me to join this committee. Initially, I struggled to understand my role and purpose, but I now realize that it's not about me, but about the people in need. After spending time listening to individuals experiencing homelessness in Wilmington, it has become evident that the situation has not improved, and hope is diminishing. The urgency of this crisis cannot be overstated.

Despite there being initiatives aimed at helping the homeless, many individuals are unaware of the available assistance and require guidance, just as I did. There have also been questions about how the funds are being allocated. The programs that need funding most are rental assistance, back rent, security deposits, and first month rent. Operating funds for permanent supportive housing and emergency shelters are needed as well.

I am seeking the board's advice on addressing the homeless crisis. Your expertise and guidance are invaluable in this matter. It's crucial to recognize that legal issues often exacerbate the situation for those experiencing homelessness, and people are concerned about the consequences.

Additionally, it's important to note that there are many homeless individuals on the streets with serious mental illnesses, and they are like a time bomb ready to explode. If we do not address the needs of this group of people, the potential for tragic outcomes is very real.

Implementing a housing initiative similar to Housing First is paramount, considering that housing is the central concern. Housing, like water, is a human right, and we need to provide affordable and sustainable housing.

Thank you for your time today.

Appendix 2: Rebekah Nuttall on behalf of Domenica Personti, Public Comments:

Good morning members of the Commission,

My name is Rebekah Nuttall and I am the Director of People Operations for Impact Life. I am reading the following statement on behalf of our CEO, Domenica Personti, who is unable to attend as she is presenting at SAMHSA HQ. We want to address the recent concerns raised by Attorney General Kathy Jennings regarding the potential fraud and misuse of opioid settlement funds.

First and foremost, we commend Attorney General Jennings for her unwavering commitment to safeguarding these essential funds. Ensuring that every dollar is used correctly is crucial to the success of our mission and to maintaining the public's trust.

However, we must stand before you today to advocate for the many organizations like Impact Life that have consistently used these funds responsibly and effectively. Our organization, and many others, have provided critical services to countless Delaware residents of all ages. We are on the front lines every single day, battling the opioid crisis and supporting those who are most vulnerable and marginalized.

It is important to note that our collective programs, have undoubtedly contributed to the small decrease in overdose deaths in Delaware that everyone excitedly applauded just three months ago. This progress is a direct result of the dedicated work and effective use of funds by organizations like ours. Delaying continued funding now would dial back crucial work and has the potential to reverse the gains we have made.

The prospect of delaying these vital funds has real and devastating consequences. The individuals we serve cannot afford to wait. If this funding is delayed, it is not a matter of if lives will be lost, but when, and how many. The people we serve may not get another day without the services quality providers in Delaware offer. It is irresponsible for us to allow our most disenfranchised residents to lose critical services because the oversight systems are flawed.

As someone in long-term recovery, a lifelong Delaware resident, and the leader of a nonprofit dedicated to serving our community, I feel it is our duty to prioritize the needs of those who rely on us. The disorganization and potential misconduct of a few should not be allowed to jeopardize the lives and well-being of many. Most of us in these seats will not have our daily lives negatively impacted by the decisions made in this room, but the people we serve will face dire consequences if we cannot continue to provide the essential services they depend on. These funds were designated specifically to help them, and we must ensure they reach those in need without unnecessary delays.

I implore the Commission to adopt a balanced approach that both safeguards the integrity of these funds and allows responsible organizations to continue their crucial work. The stakes are far too high to permit any interruption in services.

Let us remember that our ultimate responsibility is to those who are disenfranchised and living on the margins. They are not to blame for this disorganization, yet they will bear the brunt of its consequences. We must act swiftly and decisively to protect them.

Thank you for your time and your unwavering dedication to addressing the opioid crisis in our state.

Domenica Personti

Domenica Personti, Chief Executive Officer Impact Life, Inc.

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AWARDS & RECOGNITION

2024 | *Oxford House-Tyler Keister Award* | State of Delaware

2019 | *Addiction Policy Forum Delaware Innovation Now Award*

2018 | *Tyler A. Keister Oxford House Award*

2017 | *Order of the First State*
2016 | *Heroes in Recovery Award*

2015 | *American Public Health Association, Community-Based Leadership Award*

2015 | *Delaware State Senate Commendation*

2014 | *Heroes in Recovery Award*

2014 | *Governor's Outstanding Volunteer Award* | State of Delaware

TAX IDENTIFICATION NUMBERS

Non-Profit EIN:
32-0404094
United Way #13072

July 16, 2024

On behalf of atTAcK addiction, we offer this response to Attorney General Kathleen Jennings' letter about the monitoring of community grants through the Prescription Opioid Settlement Distribution Commission.

As a grantee in the second round of funding through the Prescription Opioid Settlement Distribution Commission, the board members of atTAcK addiction were disappointed to read the Attorney General's criticism of the grant compliance and monitoring process, including these two lines from her June 28, 2024, letter: "This project is rife with potential for fraud, waste, and abuse ..." and "... this severely exacerbates my already serious misgivings that our Commission has woefully inadequate guardrails in place to protect the public's best interests."

As a small nonprofit, we understand the awesome responsibility and accountability that we accept when we receive any outside funding, whether it's from a legal settlement fund, a government agency, a foundation, or a charitable donation. We also take it personally when the Attorney General of our state says that a project we are involved with is "rife with potential for fraud, waste, and abuse." We have accounted for every penny we have spent in our \$300,000 prevention marketing grant.

As part of the Commission's monitoring and compliance process, atTAcK addiction - and all other grantees - had to agree to a signed Scope of Work, which included quarterly milestones. The monitoring process has been one of the most stringent we have seen. When we did not reach all of our first-quarter milestones, we had to meet with our monitor to update him on the reasons for our delay and provide our plan to get current. Our second-quarter distribution was withheld until we met those milestones, which we did.

As part of that accountability, Jill Fredel, who has spearheaded our grant efforts, presented our We've Got You marketing campaign at the Commission's April 29, 2024, meeting. Commissioners saw for themselves how and where the grant funding has been spent. During the public comment period, Fredel also said the application process was so rigorous that it might have dissuaded small nonprofits from applying. She suggested that previous grantees help those who might apply in the future.

Finally - and most importantly - the grants that the Commission has and will award are about supporting individuals across our state who are suffering from opioid use disorder and their families, and helping to reduce the crisis over the years to come. Several weeks ago, a young man walked into our Resource Center in Peoples Plaza after seeing one of our campaign's ads in a bus shelter. He said he needed help. Our program manager got him into treatment that day. Tragically, Delaware lost 527 people to overdoses last year, a number that is almost four times greater than the number of people who died in traffic fatalities in 2023. We all understand the urgent call to get the next Delawarean the care they deserve; we have lost more than 4,000 Delawareans to this epidemic since 2012.

This compliance process works. For the sake of the people we serve, let's move forward.