

Virginia Opioid Abatement Authority
2022 Annual Report and Executive Summary

Submitted to

The Honorable Glenn Younkin, Governor of Virginia

and to

The Members of the General Assembly of Virginia

January 1, 2023

Commonwealth of Virginia
Opioid Abatement Authority

701 E. Franklin St., Suite 803
Richmond, Virginia 23219

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The Honorable Glenn Youngkin, Governor of Virginia
and the Members of the General Assembly of Virginia

Pursuant to § 2.2-2373 of the *Code of Virginia* it is my pleasure to submit, on behalf of the Board of Directors, the first annual report detailing the activities of the Opioid Abatement Authority during 2022.

The past year has been an active and important year for the Authority. The Board of Directors recruited an executive director and a small team of professional staff members, opened a permanent office in Richmond, and began the work of the Authority.

At the same time these early steps were being completed, Virginia began to receive distributions from settlements with companies that produced, marketed, and distributed prescription opioids. As a result of collaborative efforts between the Virginia Attorney General and counsel for local governments, more than \$109 million was paid to the Commonwealth of Virginia during 2022. Additional settlements are expected, and payments to Virginia from these various settlements are likely to continue for at least sixteen more years.

The foundational work accomplished by the Board in 2022 will allow the Authority to begin awarding grants to Virginia's cities, counties, and state agencies in early 2023. The Authority is committed to ensuring these funds are directed to efforts that will stem the tide of the opioid epidemic in Virginia, and in the process save lives, restore families, and strengthen communities.

Sincerely,

Todd Pillion, Chair
Senator, 40th District of Virginia

Opioid Abatement Authority

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Executive Summary

The Board of Directors for the Opioid Abatement Authority was initially formed in late 2021, adopting by-laws and voting on leadership roles on November 8, 2021. Statewide elections took place that same day leading to changes in two of the Board's ex-officio positions.

The Authority met next on June 3, 2022, with two new Board members and support staff from the administration in attendance. A framework for 2022's workplan was put into action and included the hiring of an executive director.

Mr. Anthony E. "Tony" McDowell was selected as the executive director and started in August 2022. With staff in place the Authority then established its basic business infrastructure including the creation of email addresses and phone numbers, a budget, a new website, and a permanent office in downtown Richmond. The Authority employed three additional staff members by mid-November for a total of four full-time employees.

The Authority conducted a total of twelve public meetings during 2022. During these meetings the Board received presentations from the Office of the Attorney General regarding the status of litigation and settlement negotiations. The Board also voted to approve several administrative policies, approved staffing decisions, and provided direction regarding the development of long-term financial policies and grant practices.

The Authority conducted extensive outreach efforts in 2022, with Board members and staff attending and participating as speakers at conferences, workshops, individual meetings, webinars, and podcasts with a wide range of stakeholders and statewide organizations, including print and television media.

The Authority has received indications from localities that assistance will be needed in identifying evidence-based programs and best practices that can be implemented using opioid settlement funds. Staff has begun to compile the Authority's "toolkit" of evidence-based programs for cities and counties to combat the opioid epidemic. Organizations such as the Virginia Chapter of the American Society of Addiction Medicine and the Virginia Association of Community Services Boards are assisting with this effort. Additionally, the Authority has been working with numerous state agencies to identify existing abatement programs as well as any gaps in services that could be addressed through the Authority's efforts.

By the end of the calendar year \$71,911,971.64 had been deposited in the Opioid Abatement Fund as a result of settlement distributions. Although no distributions have been made by the Authority from this Fund, the first process for accepting applications will launch on January 19, 2023.

Opioid Abatement Authority
Board Members and Key Staff

In accordance with § 2.2-2367 of the *Code of Virginia* the Opioid Abatement Authority is governed by an eleven-member board. The statutory assignments and names of members serving in ex-officio or appointed positions are listed below.

The leadership is determined through an annual election held by the Board. On December 1, 2022, the following members were elected to serve a term of one year:

Chair	Senator Todd Pillion
Vice-Chair	Dr. Sarah Melton
Treasurer	Mr. James Holland
Secretary	Mr. Timothy Spencer

Statutory Assignment	Member by Name and Affiliation
Chair of the Senate Committee on Finance and Appropriations (or designee) (ex-officio)	Senator Todd Pillion Virginia's 40 th Senatorial District
Chair of the House Committee on Appropriations (or designee) (ex-officio)	Delegate Jason Ballard Virginia's 12 th House District
The Secretary of HHR (or designee) (ex-officio)	Hon. John Littel Secretary of Health and Human Resources
An elected member of the governing body of a participating locality*	Hon. James Holland Chesterfield County Board of Supervisors
One representative of a community services board or behavioral health authority serving an urban or suburban region containing participating localities*	Mr. Daryl Washington, Executive Director Fairfax-Falls Church Community Services Board
One representative of a community services board or behavioral health authority serving a rural region containing participating localities*	Ms. Sharon Buckman, Clinical Director Piedmont Community Services Board
One sheriff of a participating locality*	Sheriff Joe Baron, City of Norfolk
One licensed, practicing county or city attorney of a participating locality*	Mr. Timothy Spencer Roanoke City Attorney

Opioid Abatement Authority
Board Members and Key Staff (continued)

Statutory Assignment	Member by Name and Affiliation
Two medical professionals with expertise in public and behavioral health administration or opioid use disorders and their treatment *	Dr. Sarah T. Melton, PHARM D Dr. James Thompson, MD Co-founder and Chief Medical Officer Master Center for Addiction Medicine
One representative of the addiction and recovery community*	Mr. Michael Tillem Founder and Executive Director Journey House Foundation

* *Denotes position appointed by the Governor*

Staff of the Opioid Abatement Authority include the following individuals:

Anthony E. “Tony” McDowell	Executive Director
Adam Rosatelli	Director of Finance
Cecil “Charlie” Lintecum	Director of Operations
Cara Moisan	Administrative Staff Specialist
James Schliessmann	Sr. Assistant Attorney & General Counsel to the OAA

Opioid Abatement Authority
Summary of Authority Meetings in 2022

June 3, 2022	Board of Directors meeting	Richmond, VA
June 17, 2022	Hiring Committee	Richmond, VA
June 29, 2022	Hiring Committee	Richmond, VA
July 15, 2022	Board of Directors meeting	Roanoke, VA
September 7, 2022	Board of Directors meeting	Richmond, VA
September 14, 2022	Hiring Committee	Richmond, VA
October 24, 2022	Board of Directors Meeting	Remote / All-Virtual
November 16, 2022	Grants Committee Meeting	Glen Allen, VA
December 1, 2022	Board of Directors Meeting	Roanoke, VA
December 1, 2022	Public Listening Session	Roanoke, VA
December 3, 2022	Public Listening Session	Fairfax, VA
December 20, 2022	Finance Committee Meeting	Remote / All-Virtual

Opioid Abatement Authority

Business Accomplishments / Highlights from 2022

- Recruited and hired executive director, director of finance, director of operations, and staff support specialist
- Executed a memorandum of understanding with the Office of the Attorney General to establish legal services for the OAA.
- Implemented OAA bylaws and various policies to govern day to day operations.
- Worked with DPB to establish OAA initial budget and appropriation.
- Developed a process in consultation with the Office of the Attorney General to track opioid settlements, to include a tool for cities and counties to see their expected distributions.
- Launched a new OAA website, providing access to a wide range of resources and information to the public (www.voaa.us).
- Established contracts for information technology support for the OAA.
- Signed a five-year lease on an office located at 701 E. Franklin St. #803 in Richmond.
- Provided input to Governor's policy staff on opioid-related topics addressed in the Governor's FY24 budget
- The OAA Board and its committees conducted a total of 12 meetings during 2022.
- Worked with the Virginia Auditor of Public Accounts (APA) to support their efforts to provide guidance to Virginia's cities and counties on the financial reporting of opioid settlement funds.
- Completed the first draft of the OAA's Grants Policies and application documents (for launch in January 2023).

Opioid Abatement Authority

Sample of Outreach and Communications Efforts During 2022

- Virginia Association of Counties – several meetings, two presentations during their annual conference, presentation to their Board of Directors, and conducted a webinar for their members.
- Virginia Municipal League – several meetings, attended and spoke during the annual meeting.
- Virginia Institute for Government – several meetings; entered an agreement for VIG to host two webinars directed at local government officials (approximately 200 attendees).
- Virginia Local Government Management Association – attended and spoke at annual meeting.
- Virginia Association of Community Services Boards – several meetings, conducted a webinar for their members, entered an agreement to co-host the seven state-wide listening sessions.
- Virginia Sheriff’s Association – several meetings, attended and spoke in general session during the annual conference.
- Virginia Association of Regional Jails – attended and spoke during the annual meeting.
- Attended and spoke at the Office of the Attorney General’s “Coffee with the AG” on the topic of opioid remediation.
- Virginia Bar Association – presented alongside staff from the Office of the Attorney General during the organization’s fall conference.
- Virginia Rural Health Association - several meetings and recorded a podcast that was shared statewide.
- Virginia Chapter of the American Society of Addiction Medicine – several meetings, attended and spoke at the annual conference.
- Virginia Pharmacists Association – several meetings, invited to speak at the annual conference in February 2023.

- Medical Society of Virginia – several meetings.
- Central Virginia Overdose Working Group – attended and addressed the group during two separate webinars.
- Virginia Association of Recovery Residences – several meetings, attended the annual conference.
- Virginia Community Education Group – meeting.
- National Academy for State Health Policy – several meetings, invited to present Virginia’s plan for opioid settlement fund distribution to an audience of state opioid settlement entities from across the nation.
- Several meetings with opioid abatement offices from other states in the nation
- AmeriCorps in Action / Recovery Corps – meeting.
- Journey House Grand Opening – attended the grand opening.
- Chesterfield County Administration – several meetings with administrators, made presentation to the Board of Supervisors.
- Hanover County Administration – meeting.
- Henrico County Administration – meeting.
- Cardinal News – interview and story.
- Interview for WMRA (Harrisonburg)
- Richmond Times Dispatch – interviews and a story.

In addition, the OAA hosted two workshop style meetings, including one that was professionally facilitated, with the following state agencies and organizations:

- Office of the Secretary of Health and Human Resources
- Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services
- Department of Corrections

- Department of Criminal Justice Services
- Department of Health
- Department of Health Professions
- Department of Medical Assistance Services
- Department of Social Services

Additional meetings and collaborations took place with the following governmental entities:

- Auditor of Public Accounts
- Commission on Youth
- Department of Planning and Budget
- Office of the First Lady of Virginia
- House Appropriations (staff)
- Office of the Governor, Policy
- Office of Senator Tim Kaine
- Office of the Secretary of Public Safety
- Senate Finance (staff)
- Virginia Cannabis Control Authority
- Virginia Foundation for Healthy Youth
- Virginia Tobacco Region Revitalization Commission