



Montana Opioid Abatement Trust

Jan. 13th, 2026

Operating Trustees Meeting Minutes

1597 Avenue D, Suite 6 Billings, MT 59102

Meeting called to order at 1:00PM by

Roll Call Taken

Operating Trustees Present

Brenda Kneeland, Steve Crawford, Rebecca de Camara, Drenda Niemann, Scott Malloy

Jake Strissel, Jeanna Miller, Maureen Ward, Becky Rice

Operating Trustees Absent

Will Selph

Staff Present

Rusty Gackle (Executive Director), Steffanie McGowan (Program Director)

Additional Attendees

Clark Nuber, Allied Investments, Jeff Mrachek

Approval of Oct. 9th Meeting Minutes

Approval of the meeting minutes was properly moved, seconded, and passed unanimously.

MOAT Updates

Executive Director, Rusty Gackle, provided an update to the Trustees, reporting that all fourteen regions have successfully formed governance committees. He also shared the most recent memo sent to the regional committees.

MOAT staff provided a financial update including:

- Quarterly Progress Update and Strategic Report
- Financial Audit
- Overview of Investment Portfolio
- Overview of 2025 Budget
- Grant Dollars Disbursed



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Old Business

The Trustees reviewed eleven 6-month follow-up reports and six 1-year follow-up reports submitted as part of previously approved applications. These reports were submitted as part of previously approved applications.

New Business

Trustees discussed the MOAT organizational calendar.

Trustees reviewed the MOAT Goals and Objective Guidelines

- Trustees discussed a strategic communications plan for 2026

Trustees reviewed proposed 2026 budget.

Approval of the 2026 budget was moved, seconded and passed unanimously.

Trustees reviewed fourteen submitted applications:

Abatement Region 5 approved

Lincoln County Sheriff's Office – Body Scanner ~ \$141,500.00

Approval of the application Lincoln County Sheriff's Office – Body Scanner was properly moved, seconded and passed unanimously.

Montana Legal Services Association – Montana Health Justice Partnership Recovery Project ~ Year 1: \$15,237.00 ~ Year 2: \$15,164.00 ~ Year 3: \$15,593.00

Approval of the Montana Health Justice Partnership Recovery Project application was moved, seconded and passed unanimously. *Will Selph abstained from voting*

Ravalli County Metro Region approved

Bitterroot Cares – Community Prevention Program ~ \$40,000.00

Approval of the application Community Prevention Program for was properly moved, seconded and passed unanimously.

Sapphire Community Health, Inc.- Expansion of Sapphire CHC MAT/SUD program ~ \$134,000.00

Approval of the application Expansion of Sapphire CHC MAT/SUD program was moved, seconded and passed unanimously.



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Summit Career Center – Case Management/Peer Support ~ \$42,475.00

Approval of the application Case Management/Peer Support was moved, seconded and passed unanimously.

Ravalli County Sheriff's Office – Wellness Program ~ \$11,198.10

Approval of the application Ravalli County Sheriff's Office – Wellness Program was moved, seconded and passed unanimously.

Abatement Region 3

Jody Alise Foundation – Telehealth & Youth Resources for Opioid & Drug Abuse Prevention in Roundup, MT ~ \$98,000.00

Approval of application Telehealth & Youth Resources for Opioid & Drug Abuse Prevention in Roundup, MT was properly moved, seconded and passed unanimously.

The LifeGuard Group – Montana Human Trafficking Hotline Regional Liaison Region 3 ~ Year 1 \$34,960.00, Year 2 \$32,659.00, Year 3 \$32,965.48

Approval of application Montana Human Trafficking Hotline Regional Liaison Region 3 was properly moved, seconded and passed unanimously. *Steve Crawford abstained from vote*

Boys & Girls Club of Carbon County – Opioid Resistance & Prevention Program ~ \$45,000.00

Approval of application Opioid Resistance & Prevention Program was properly moved, seconded and passed unanimously.

Trust for Montana Libraries – AED's in Every Library Region 3 ~ \$9,245.00

Approval of application AED's in Every Library Region 3 was properly moved, seconded and passed unanimously.

Lake County Metro Region

Salish Kootenai College – Prevention & Wellness Health and Wellbeing Initiative ~ \$51,000.00

Approval of application Prevention & Wellness Health and Wellbeing Initiative was properly moved, seconded and passed unanimously.

Helping Hands Fund – Push Play-Finding Common Ground ~ \$70,000.00

Approval of the application – Push Play-Finding Common Ground was properly moved, seconded and passed 6 in favor, 3 opposed.



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Gallatin County Metro Region

Greater Impact Inc. – Recovery Community Organization ~ \$100,000.00

Approval of the application Recovery Community Organization was properly moved, seconded and passed unanimously.

Flathead County Metro Region

Montana Meth Project – Fentanyl Prevention, Education and Outreach ~ \$35,000.00

Approval of the application Fentanyl Prevention, Education and Outreach was moved, seconded and passed 8 in favor, 1 opposed.

***Disbursements for proposed Opioid Remediation programs and services to Participating Abatement Regions shall be reviewed by the MOAT Advisory Committee to determine whether the proposed disbursements meet the criteria for Opioid Remediation and Approved Purposes. The MOAT may not deny a proposal for distribution of funds from a Region or Local Government, provided the proposal identifies Approved Purposes for which the funds are currently available and will be expended as defined and provided for in the Settlement Agreements.*

Next Meeting: Tuesday April 21st, 2026

Meeting adjourned at: 3:00PM