Montana Opioid Abatement Trust

October 20th, 2026
Operating Trustees Meeting Minutes
1597 Avenue D, Suite 6 Billings, MT 59102

Meeting called to order at 1:00PM
Roll Call Taken

Operating Trustees Present

Becky Rice, Steve Crawford, Drenda Niemann, Maureen Ward, Jeanna Miller, Will Selph, Jake Strissel

Operating Trustees Absent

Brenda Kneeland, Scott Malloy, Rebecca de Camara

Staff Present

Rusty Gackle (Executive Director), Steffanie McGowan (Program Director), Robin Finnman (Grant Compliance)

Additional Attendees

Allied Investments, Jones Law Firm, Mrachek Associates

Approval of July 21st Meeting Minutes

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

MOAT Updates

MOAT staff introduced Grant Compliance and Program Evaluator. This position is responsible for ensuring fiscal integrity, regulatory compliance, and measurable program impact across all funded initiatives. This position integrates financial oversight, performance evaluation, grantee capacity-building, and transparent reporting to support data-driven decision-making and continuous program improvement

Executive Director, Rusty Gackle, gave an update on Abatement Region committees and communications.

Allied Investments provided an overview of Investment Portfolio

Jeff Mrachek provided an overview of the 2026 Budget

Old Business

The Trustees reviewed nine 6-month follow-up reports and eight 1-year follow-up reports submitted as part of previously approved applications.

New Business

Rusty Gackle provided an overview of the Notice of Default concerning the grant agreement with Western Montana Mental Health Center (WMMHC). Emily Jones presented an overview of the proposed MOAT Resolution of Trustees – WMMHC. The Trustees discussed the proposed resolution.

A motion to adopt the resolution was properly moved, seconded and passed unanimously.

The Trustees discussed the proposed MOAT Resolution regarding the Nominating Committee, including the establishment of a standing Nominating Committee to oversee trustee appointments and renewals.

A motion to adopt the resolution was properly moved, seconded and passed unanimously.

The Trustees discussed committee member renewals for individuals whose terms are expiring or who are leaving the positions in which they were originally appointed to serve

A motion was made to reappoint Drenda Neimann to another three-year term representing the Metro Region. The motion was approved unanimously.

A motion was made to appoint Will Selph to fill the vacancy left by outgoing committee member Scott Malloy, representing the Metro Region, for the remainder of Scott's term. The motion was approved unanimously.

2027 Advisory Committee quarterly meeting dates were established.

Tuesday January 26, 2027
Tuesday April 27, 2027
Tuesday July 27, 2027
Tuesday October 26, 2027

Trustees reviewed thirty-three submitted applications:

Abatement Region 4

Dillon Elementary School District #10 – Montana Youth and Family Resilience Initiative ~ $71,062.50

Approval of the application Montana Youth and Family Resilience Initiative program was moved, seconded and passed unanimously.

Abatement Region 3

Inside Out Peer Services – Enhancing Reentry Support with Inside Out Peer Services ~ $85,155.00

Approval of the application Enhancing Reentry Support with Inside Out Peer Services program was moved, seconded and passed unanimously.

Catalyst for Change – Community Healthcare Worker ~ $55,000.00

Approval of the application Community Healthcare Worker program was moved, seconded and passed unanimously.

Abatement Region 5

Montana Meth Project "Moments That Matter" Prevention, Education and Outreach Initiative – Region 5 ~ $47,500.00

Approval of the application "Moments That Matter" Prevention, Education, and Outreach Initiative - Region 5 was moved, seconded and passed unanimously.

Roots & Resilience – Driving Hope Across Montana – Mineral County – Building Rural Resilience ~ $50,000.00

Approval of application Driving Hope Across Montana: Mineral County – Building Rural Resilience was properly moved, seconded and passed unanimously.

Gallatin County Metro Region

Help Center, Inc. – Connections Health Solutions Mobile Crisis Response ~ $777,361.00

Approval of application Connections Health Solutions Mobile Crisis Response was properly moved, seconded and passed unanimously.

Abatement Region 2

Liberty County Sheriff's Office – Liberty County Reserve Program ~ $15,000.00

Motion to deny the application Liberty County Reserve Program was properly moved, seconded and passed unanimously.

Montana Legal Services Association – Montana Health Justice Partnership – Recovery Project in Abatement Region 2 ~ $21,077.00

Approval of the application Montana Health Justice Partnership - Recovery Project in Abatement Region 2 was properly moved, seconded and passed unanimously.

Mountain Pacific – Opioids: Know the Facts, Change the Future ~ $73,740.00

Approval of the application Opioids: Know the Facts, Change the Future was properly moved, seconded and passed unanimously.

Alliance for Youth – Root Causes Prevention Campaign (RCPC) ~ $126,200.00

Approval of the application Root Causes Prevention Campaign (RCPC) was properly moved, seconded and passed unanimously.

Missoula County Metro Region

Missoula Public Health – Missoula Foster Child Health Program Budget Update ~ $25,655.90

Approval of addendum for Missoula Public Health – Missoula Foster Child Health Program Budget Update was properly moved, seconded and passed unanimously. (*Jeanna Miller abstained*)

Yellowstone County Metro Region

Billings Adult Municipal Treatment Court ~ $63,364.00

Approval of application Billings Adult Municipal Treatment Court was properly moved, seconded and passed unanimously.

Family Tree Nurturing Center ~ $130,000.00

Approval of application Family Tree Nurturing Center was properly moved, seconded and passed unanimously.

Community Leadership & Development – Child Care Scholarships for Hannah House Day Care – women entering recovery ~ $15,600.00

Approval of application Child Care Scholarships for Hannah House Day Care – women entering recovery was properly moved, seconded and passed unanimously.

Yellowstone CASA – Promoting Positive Childhood Experiences as a Pathway to Resilience and Opioid Prevention ~ $81,598.00

Approval of application Promoting Positive Childhood Experiences as a Pathway to Resilience and Opioid Prevention was properly moved, seconded and passed unanimously.

RiverStone Health – RISE Harm Reduction ~ $20,000.00

Approval of application RISE Harm Reduction was properly moved, seconded and passed unanimously. (*Maureen Ward abstained*)

Billings Fire Department – Safety Squad Public Education Program ~ $46,340.80

Approval of application Safety Squad Public Education Program was properly moved, seconded and passed unanimously.

Billings Public Schools – Building Resilient Communities: A Community Schools Approach to Opioid Prevention ~ $124,595.00

Approval of application Building Resilient Communities: A Community Schools Approach to Opioid Prevention was properly moved, seconded and passed unanimously.

Billings Public Schools – Strong Foundations: Evidence-Based Prevention for Youth ~ $75,405.00

Approval of application Strong Foundations: Evidence-Based Prevention for Youth was properly moved, seconded and passed unanimously.

Bridgemont Health & Wellness – Community MAT/MOUD Access and Diversion Network ~ $206,000.00

Approval of application Community MAT/MOUD Access and Diversion Network was properly moved, seconded and passed unanimously.

RiverStone Health – Addiction Treatment Careers Scholarship Fund ~ $30,000.00

Approval of application Addiction Treatment Careers Scholarship Fund was properly moved, seconded and passed unanimously.

Lockwood School District – Opioid Prevention, Mental Wellness, and Student Support Initiative ~ $275,000.00

Approval of application Opioid Prevention, Mental Wellness, and Student Support Initiative was properly moved, seconded and passed unanimously.

The IWCA Family Recovery Court – Indian Child Welfare Act (IWCA) Family Recovery Court (FRC) ~ $35,000.00

Approval of application The Indian Child Welfare Act (ICWA) Family Recovery Court (FRC) was properly moved, seconded and passed unanimously.

HER Campaign – Emergency Stabilization and Opioid Care Navigation for Trafficking Survivors in Yellowstone County ~ $125,000.00

Approval of application Emergency Stabilization and Opioid Care Navigation for Trafficking Survivors in Yellowstone County was properly moved, seconded and passed unanimously.

Boys & Girls Club of Yellowstone – Building Resilience: Youth Opioid Prevention Initiative ~ $147,250.00

Approval of application Building Resilience: Youth Opioid Prevention Initiative was properly moved, seconded and passed unanimously.

<u>Lewis & Clark County Metro Region</u>

Intermountain Deaconess Children's Services – Intensive Home Support Services ~ $63,839.66

Approval of application Intensive Home Support Services was properly moved, seconded and passed unanimously.

Montana Legal Services Association – Montana Health Justice Partnership – Recovery Project in Lewis & Clark County ~ $20,000.00

Approval of application Montana Health Justice Partnership - Recovery Project in Lewis & Clark County was properly moved, seconded and passed unanimously.

Florence Crittenton Family Services – Pathways to Care for Women and Families – Year 2 ~ $51,701.16

Approval of application Pathways to Care for Women and Families- Year 2 was properly moved, seconded and passed unanimously.

LightHouse Montana – Spring Curriculum Material Fulfillment ~ $12,000.00

Approval of application Spring Curriculum Material Fulfillment was properly moved, seconded and passed unanimously.

YWCA Helena – WINGS Year 2 ~ $47,000.00

Approval of application WINGS Year 2 was properly moved, seconded and passed unanimously.

Butte-Silver Bow Metro Region

Southwest Montana Community Health Center – Blacktail Health MOUD Program ~ $117,496.00, Year 1: $58,748.00, Year 2: $58,748.00

Approval of application Blacktail Health MOUD Program was properly moved, seconded and passed unanimously.

Montana Legal Services Association – Montana Health Justice Partnership – Recovery Project in the Butte Silver Bow Metro Region ~ $22,033.00

Approval of application Montana Health Justice Partnership - Recovery Project in the Butte Silver Bow County Metro Region was properly moved, seconded and passed unanimously.

Action, Inc. – Services for Unhoused Elderly Population ~ $120,000.00

Approval of application Services for Unhoused Elderly Population was properly moved, seconded and passed unanimously.

***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: January 26th, 2027

Meeting adjourned at: 2:45