



# Maryland's Office of Overdose Response

## OIT → OPT Q&A

Changes with [Executive Order 01.01.2023.21](#)

*Monday, January 8 2024*

# Attendance

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# Executive Order Highlights

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# Executive Order 01.01.2023.21

## Highlights

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- Name change!
  - Maryland Office of Overdose Response
  - Reflects change in focus from opioids specifically to overdose more broadly
- Within MDH and reporting to Secretary Herrera Scott
- Maryland Overdose Response Advisory Council
  - Taking place of the Inter-Agency Heroin and Opioid Coordinating Council
  - Chaired by Lt. Gov. Miller and will include participation from 18 state government agencies
- 5 priority pillars: Prevention, Treatment, Recovery, Harm Reduction and Public Safety
- New url: [stopoverdose.maryland.gov](https://stopoverdose.maryland.gov)

# Executive Order Highlights Specific to OPTs

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# Executive Order 01.01.2023.21

## OPT focus

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- Name change, again!
  - Overdose Prevention Teams
- Meetings and reporting required for block grant funding
  - Must meet quarterly, reporting on annual basis
- New representatives required in OPT membership
  - Harm reduction programs, recovery support programs, treatment providers
- Still responsible for allocating block grant funds

# Expectations

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# OPT Expectations

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- Chaired by representative from health department
  - Co-chaired by representative from community organization or local government agency (EM no longer required)
- Block grant applications **MUST** be discussed with the OPT at large to solicit feedback
  - OPT chairs should send out an email to all OPT members notifying them during which meeting the block grant will be discussed
- Must comply with the open meetings act
  - Agenda must be published publicly 24 hours prior to meeting, and recordings OR notes must also be published after the meeting



# OPT Expectations

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- If a jurisdiction wishes to combine their OPT meeting with any meeting other than an LDAAC, they must first discuss this with MOOR
  - If the OPT is combined with another meeting but an hour of the meeting is dedicated to the OPT, no permission from MOOR is required (ex. OFR)
- Meetings should reserve at least 15 minutes for community member comments and updates
- OPTs should work to implement action items from the jurisdiction's OFR
- If meeting in person, OPTs must have hybrid option for attendance
  - If you do not have hybrid capable technology for the meeting, please include funding for such a device in your FY25 block grant proposal

# Reporting

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- OPT Program Inventory Survey through Smartsheet will be moving to a biannual basis
  - Currently undergoing edits to be more focused on SUD and to be reflective of current program needs statewide
  - MOOR will continue to publish these surveys in a report on our website (currently under Resources → OPTs)
- New annual report, structure TBD
- Any feedback on what was or wasn't helpful in past reporting, or what could be improved moving forward is appreciated!

# Questions submitted

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# Questions

## Submitted via Google Form

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- The past structure included leadership from the LHD's and Dept of Emergency Services, will this still be how the OPT's will be structured?
  - The chair of the OPT is required to be from the LHD (can be leadership or someone else). Co-chairs *can* be from local govt. or CBOs but EM is no longer required
- What role will local governmental leaders/elected officials be expected to play? Will there be changes? If so will information be communicated directly to them?
  - No mandate for their attendance. MOOR will reach out to encourage their participation in OPTs and collaboration with opioid abatement plans
- Concern that offering a hybrid option will decrease in person attendance and engagement
  - If this becomes the case, please let us know and we could revise the expectation to be a hybrid option on a quarterly basis if meeting more frequently

# Questions

## Submitted via Google Form

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- Will local OITs need to be renamed- will local ORPs now remove Opioid from title?
  - OITs are now Overdose Prevention Teams (OPTs).
  - MOOR does not oversee ORPs so there is no name change due to our EO
- When ORPs conduct trainings and outreach- does it now encompass all overdose facts- or still just opioids?
  - CHRS oversees ORP trainings so they would be the ones to make that change
- "Recordings and notes must also be published after the meeting" why not or instead of and?
  - Mistake in the 1-pager, recording OR notes must be published

# Questions

## Submitted via Google Form

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- We have not held public meetings up to this point. When is this expected to begin? Does MOOR have suggestions/expectations on how to announce to the public?
  - These meetings were always subject to the open meetings act but it was not enforced. Compliance should be ASAP
- Please elaborate on what is meant by "published" when referring to meeting minutes and/or recordings.
  - Posted on a public facing website, like the LHD
- Are OPT subcommittee meetings also subject to the Open Meetings Act?
  - OPT subcommittees are NOT required. If they take place, they are subject to the Open Meetings Act.

# Questions

## Submitted via Google Form

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- Example of OIT is conducted by the OIT SPG comprised of the Health Officer, DES Deputy Director, Director of Community Services, Director of Social Services, Director of Student Safety for CCPS, the Sheriff, the Heroin Coordinator, a representative from Union Hospital and the County Executive. Does that operating structure meet the new requirements?
  - Community representatives from harm reduction, treatment and recovery services need to be added
- With OPT required feedback on block grants, is there an expectation for how funding decisions should be made?
  - Requirement to discuss applications and take comments from members
- What role, if any, will the OIT/OPT play in distribution of opioid restitution funding?
  - Local funds are under the control of local govt, OPTs should connect with them. State ORF money is under the decision making power of the Sec. of Health and Governor

# Questions

## Submitted via Google Form

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- Is there any expectation that block grant amounts will increase in light of opioid restitution funding?
  - Block grant funds are sourced from our office's allocation in the state budget. Currently no decisions have been made for the state allocation or discretionary funds from the ORF
- When is the name change effective for each jurisdiction- and is there some specific language or information to use that is consistent across jurisdictions (i.e. like a canned letter developed by the state for all 24 jurisdictions to use)?
  - Name change is effective immediately due to the EO being signed
  - MOOR can create a template letter if that would be beneficial



# Questions

## Submitted via Google Form

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- We are to report activities and data annually. Is this the same as the old quarterly report- or is it all new reporting structure?
  - Biannually will be similar to the quarterly but refined. Annual reporting is a new structure
- How will equity data be captured?
  - Reporting is currently being created, will consider this in design
- The report due to the Gov on 11/1- is from state with all jurisdictions data included- or is each jurisdiction responsible for their own report? And if it is each jurisdiction- is there a template?
  - The is a report MOOR submits, not jurisdictions

# Questions

## Submitted via Google Form

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- “15 minutes for community member comments and updates” does this mean the public at large or the community members that are members of the OPT?
  - Since OPTs are subject to the opening meetings act and any public member can attend, we encourage OPTs to have space for public comment

# Closing out

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- Interest in a lunch and learn series for OPT chairs to troubleshoot and share ideas?
- Please submit and/or remind OPT members that the survey for input into our Inter-Agency Coordination Plan closes 1/15
- Notify Avery of updated chairperson(s), strategic plans and any other important contacts as changes occur
- Competitive grant NOFA hopefully will be released this week, block grant NOFA end of February

# Stay In Contact

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Maryland's Office of  
Overdose Response

PREVENTION • HARM REDUCTION • TREATMENT • RECOVERY • PUBLIC SAFETY



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