



GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF MEDICAL EXAMINER
Opioid Fatality Review Board
September 9th, 2025, Open Meeting Minutes

There were (21) attendees:

Opioid Fatality Review Board (OFRB) Members: 13

Kenan Zamore (Chair, DC Health)	Tyrone Guyse (DEA)
Dr. Jewell Reddick (Vice Chair)	Sharon Cauley (PSA)
Dr. Kunil Raval (OCME)	Joseph Lippi (DHS)
Dr. Beth Jordan (DOC)	Cydnee Clay (HIPS)
Dr. Priya Punnoose (DBH)	Judge Craig Iscoe (DC Superior Court)
Dr. David Vitberg (DC FEMS)	Sgt. Robert Buck (MPD)
	Captain Betty Smith (DC FEMS)

Participants: 5

Reyna Alexander-Osborne (OCME)	Scott Wetzel (OCME)
Melanie Baylis (ORS)	Lorenzo Jones (HIDTA)
Dr. Sharon Hunt (DBH)	

Fatality Review Staff: 3

Woyni Teklay (OCME)	Kimberli Hall (OCME)
Enisa Boardwine (OCME)	

Open Meeting

I. Greetings: Kenan Zamore, OFRB Chair

Dr. Jewell Reddick, OFRB Vice-Chair

- The Opioid Fatality Review Board (OFRB) meeting began at 3:02 p.m. and was opened by Dr. Jewell Reddick (Vice Chair), who greeted board members and guests.

II. Roll Call

- The OCME staff held a roll call of board members, participants, and staff.

III. Review and Majority vote to approve the agenda.

- The majority voted to approve the agenda.

IV. Review the open portion of the meeting minutes from June 10th, 2025.

- The open portion of the June 10th, 2025, meeting minutes were reviewed and approved.

V. Open portion of the meeting for any members of the public who wish to address the Board.

Guest speakers

Melanie Baylis, MPH, CHES[®]

Public Health Analyst, Overdose Response Strategy (ORS)

Lorenzo James

Drug Intelligence Officer, High Intensity Drug Trafficking Areas (HIDTA)

- Overdose Response Strategy: This innovative partnership between public health and public safety aims to help local communities decrease drug overdoses and save lives by sharing timely data, relevant intelligence, and creative strategies.

Purpose: to highlight how ORS is a valuable partner in conducting meaningful, data-informed Overdose Fatality Reviews (OFR).

Goals: Demonstrate ORS's alignment with OFRs.

Explore innovative, practical ways to utilize data and identify recommendations.

- The ORS in the District of Columbia supports OFRs through:
 - Shared mission
 - Tools and resources
 - Prevention and education Initiatives for youth and law enforcement
 - Technical assistance
- ORS Goal #1 Strategy 1.2 & 1.6: Collaborate with stakeholders and communities to establish OFRs and support immediate, evidence-based response efforts that can directly reduce overdose deaths.
- The roles of Public Health Analysts (PHAs) and Drug Intelligence Officers (DIOs) within OFRs include the following:
 - Contributing subject matter expertise
 - Connecting partners and resources
 - Supporting fatality specialists
- The following ideas were presented for consideration by OFRB:
 - Retrospective Trends Analysis
 - System Touchpoints and Missed Opportunities
 - Environmental and Social Context

- Overdose History
- Equity and Disparities

VI. Q&A

Q1. What types of interactions and information sharing does ORS have with the DEA and MPD, especially regarding national trends and new substances, to ensure it can reach prevention staff as quickly as possible?

A1. ORS recently held a “Trends Analysis and Threats” call with DEA representation. Harm reduction partners from HIPS have also contacted us. About once or twice a week, ORS collaborates with MPD to share information about arrests, drug trends, and overdoses. DIOs and PHAs will develop a bulletin to update the community on current events.

Q2. Having reviewed the Annual Report and the Mayor’s Order, what are one or two elements that should be included in the report but are missing, such as data or trends, that stand out to ORS?

A2A. Are interviews conducted with families? ORS is interested in information about the social and environmental context, such as Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs), mobility between wards, and the consistency of attending school and work. There was a focus on gathering more details about mobility between District Wards.

A3A. Interviews have not been conducted before. However, OFRB will seek further clarification to determine if it is permissible under the Mayoral Order and HIPAA’s protected health information (PHI), especially if it conflicts with the deceased’s prior wishes.

VII. Majority vote to close the meeting.

- There was a majority vote to close the open portion of the meeting and move to the closed session.
- This statement was read aloud:

“This meeting will hereby be closed to the public for the following reasons - Open Meetings Act Section B-12 & 14; and Mayor’s Order 2019-O243 Section XIII (13).”

The next OFRB meeting is scheduled for October 14th, 2025, at 3:00 p.m. Thank you for your participation!