

CITY OF BANGOR

ORDER

Establishing the Advisory Committee on Substance Use Disorder and Recovery Strategy

Whereas, the City of Bangor continues to face significant and evolving public health challenges related to substance use disorder (SUD), impacting community well-being, public safety, and healthcare systems; and

Whereas, addressing the complexities of the SUD crisis requires ongoing monitoring, strategic planning, and coordinated efforts across prevention, harm reduction, treatment, and recovery support services; and

Whereas, the City is receiving significant funds from national Opioid Settlements specifically designated for opioid abatement and remediation, necessitating informed recommendations for their effective and compliant allocation; and

Whereas, developing and sustaining effective strategies requires continuous collaboration and input from diverse stakeholders, including public health officials, healthcare providers, community organizations, first responders, individuals with lived experience, and the public; and

Whereas, establishing a dedicated advisory body can provide consistent, expert guidance to the City Council and City administration;

Now Therefore Be it Ordered by the City Council of the City of Bangor that,

In accordance with Chapter 9, Article I, Section 9-9 of the Code of the City of Bangor, there is hereby established the **Advisory Committee on Substance Use Disorder and Recovery Strategy**.

Purpose. The purpose of this ongoing committee shall be to provide advice and recommendations to the City Council and City Manager to strengthen Bangor's comprehensive response to substance use disorder. Its functions include:

- Monitoring local and regional trends, data, and research related to SUD.
- Reviewing community needs, resources, service gaps, and opportunities across the continuum of care (prevention, harm reduction, treatment, recovery).
- Evaluating potential evidence-based and evidence-informed strategies, policies, and initiatives.

- Identifying opportunities to support and enhance community efforts, including potential partnerships.
- Providing recommendations on the strategic allocation of City resources related to SUD response.
- **Initial Priority:** Providing timely, specific recommendations to the City Council regarding the allocation and use of Bangor's Opioid Settlement Funds, ensuring alignment with allowable uses (per Exhibit E of the Final Distributor Settlement Agreement dated July 21, 2021) and community priorities.
- Fostering communication and collaboration among stakeholders involved in SUD response.

Composition. The committee shall be comprised of up to nine (9) voting members. Members of the Committee shall possess a wide variety of perspectives and interests, as well as specific expertise relevant to substance use disorder, public health, and recovery. Representation shall include:

- Individuals with Lived or Living Experience with SUD/Recovery (minimum 2 members)
- A representative from Bangor Public Health & Community Services
- A Treatment or Recovery Support Service Provider
- A Harm Reduction Services Provider
- A Peer Recovery Support Specialist
- A Mental Health Professional
- A Law Enforcement or First Responder Representative

Members shall be selected primarily based on perspective and expertise, but preference may be given to appointing members who are residents of the City of Bangor. The Council should establish a mechanism for considering stipends for members with lived experience to support equitable participation. Each City Councilor may nominate up to two individuals to serve on the Committee. Appointment of Committee Members will be affirmed by Council Order. A Committee Chair, Vice-Chair, and a City Councilor to serve as a liaison shall be designated by the Council Chair.

Terms. Members shall be appointed by the City Council for terms of three (3) years, until their successors have been appointed; provided, however, that initial appointments shall be staggered (e.g., three (3) for one (1) year, three (3) for two (2) years, and three (3) for three (3) years) to ensure continuity. In the event of any vacancy, the Council shall appoint a new member to serve for the remaining portion of the unexpired term. Members may be eligible for reappointment subject to Council approval.

Reporting. The Committee shall report its findings and recommendations in writing to the City Council on at least a quarterly basis, with additional reports prepared as may be required by the Council or City Manager. The Committee shall also file an annual summary report of its activities and recommendations.

Meetings & Procedures. At its first regular meeting following initial appointments, and annually thereafter, the Committee shall select from its membership a Chairperson and a Secretary, each of whom shall serve for a term of one (1) year, or until their successors are elected. The Chairperson shall preside over all meetings, and in their absence, the membership shall select a chairperson pro tem.

Consistent with the intent for citizen-appointed advisory committees which make recommendations only, the Committee is intended to operate in a less formal manner and is not required to comply with Robert's Rules of Order. The Committee may determine its own methods and procedures for conducting meetings, subject to compliance with state laws regarding open meetings and public access.

The Committee shall establish a regular meeting schedule, meeting at least quarterly, and at other times as may be called by the Chairperson or a majority of the Committee. All meetings shall be properly noticed and open to the public in accordance with state law. The Secretary shall keep accurate records of the proceedings of all meetings and shall be responsible for preparing Committee reports and correspondence.

A majority of the appointed voting membership shall constitute a quorum required for the Committee to take any votes or other formal action. However, the Committee may proceed with publicly-noticed meetings where fewer members than a quorum are present for the purpose of discussion and information gathering, as long as the Committee does not take any votes on any recommendation and does not take any other formal action during such meetings.