



**Colorado  
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Council  
Staff**

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**M E M O R A N D U M**

June 28, 2017

**TO:** Members of the Opioid and Other Substance Use Disorders Interim Study Committee

**FROM:** Bill Zepernick, Principal Fiscal Analyst, 303-866-4777  
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**SUBJECT:** Charge and Membership of the Opioid and Other Substance Use Disorders Interim Study Committee and Task Force

**Summary**

This memorandum provides an overview of the 2017 membership of the Opioid and Other Substance Use Disorders Interim Study Committee, the origin and charge of the committee, bill request deadlines and procedures, and information regarding committee staff and the committee website. Information is also provided about the stakeholder task force created to work with the interim study committee.

**Origin and Charge of the Committee**

The Opioid and Other Substance Use Disorders Interim Study Committee was created pursuant to Interim Committee Request Letter 2017-02, as approved by the Legislative Council on April 28, 2017. The committee is charged with studying the following policy issues:

- a review of data and statistics on the scope of the substance use disorder problem in Colorado, including trends in rates of substance abuse, treatment admissions, and deaths from substance use;
- an overview of the current prevention, intervention, harm reduction, treatment, and recovery resources, including substance abuse prevention outreach and education, available to Coloradans, as well as public and private insurance coverage and other sources of support for treatment and recovery resources;

- a review of the availability of medication-assisted treatment and whether pharmacists can prescribe those medications through the development of collaborative pharmacy practice agreements with physicians;
- an examination of what other states and countries are doing to address substance use disorders, including evidence-based best practices and the use of evidence in determining strategies to treat substance use disorders, and best practices on the use of prescription drug monitoring programs;
- identification of the gaps in prevention, intervention, harm reduction, treatment, and recovery resources available to Coloradans and hurdles to accessing those resources; and
- identification of possible legislative options to address gaps and hurdles to accessing prevention, intervention, harm reduction, treatment, and recovery resources.

### **Committee Membership**

In total, there are ten members on the Opioid and Other Substance Use Disorders Interim Study Committee. The chair is appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives and the vice-chair by the President of the Senate. The ten legislators appointed to the interim study committee include:

<b><i>Representative Brittany Pettersen, Chair</i></b>	<b><i>Senator Kent D. Lambert, Vice-Chair</i></b>
Representative Perry Buck	Senator Irene Aguilar
Representative Chris Kennedy	Senator Cheri Jahn
Representative Clarice Navarro	Senator Kevin Priola
Representative Jonathan Singer	Senator Jack Tate

### **Task Force Membership**

When approving this interim study committee, the Legislative Council also authorized a task force consisting of various stakeholders to assist the interim study committee. The task force includes members of the following groups:

- the Colorado Consortium for Prescription Drug Abuse Prevention;
- Substance Abuse Trend and Response Task Force;
- Colorado Providers Association;
- Colorado Medical Society;
- Colorado Pharmacists Society;
- Harm Reduction Action Center;
- a representative of law enforcement;
- a representative of a non-law enforcement first responder; and
- a representative of the substance abuse recovery field.

A full list of task force members will be distributed to the committee once it is available. It is assumed the named groups and organizations will designate a member to serve on the task force, and that representatives of other groups will be appointed by the chair and vice chair.

## Meeting Dates

The committee has been approved to meet up to six times during the 2017 interim. As of this writing, the committee is scheduled to hold its first meeting on Monday, July 10, 2017. Additional meetings have been scheduled for the following dates:

- Tuesday, August 1;
- Tuesday, August 22;
- Tuesday, September 12;
- Thursday, September 14; and
- Tuesday, October 31.

## Committee Recommendations to Legislative Council

**Bill limits and requests.** The committee may recommend up to **six bills** to the Legislative Council. Committee members must request bills during a single committee meeting set for requesting legislation, and bill requests must be approved by a majority of the committee members.<sup>1</sup>

**Bill request deadlines.** The Legislative Council has established deadlines for the 2017 interim for requesting, drafting, and approving bill drafts under consideration by the committee.<sup>2</sup> The meeting to request bill drafts must be held by September 22, 2017. Committee members must submit drafting information to the Office of Legislative Legal Services (OLLS) bill drafter within three calendar days of the meeting at which bills were requested. There must be at least 42 days in between the meeting at which legislation is requested and the meeting at which it is approved. To allow time for Legislative Council Staff to prepare the fiscal analysis of the proposal,<sup>3</sup> there must be 21 days between the date the proposed bill is finalized with OLLS staff and the date of the meeting to consider the proposed bills. The last day to finalize bill drafts with OLLS staff is October 13, 2017, and the committee must meet and vote on the bill drafts by November 3, 2017. Bill drafts and fiscal notes will be sent to the committee three days prior to the meeting at which the bills will be approved.

**Legislative Council review.** The Legislative Council is scheduled to meet on November 15, 2017, to approve interim committee draft legislation. Bills approved by the Legislative Council do not count against a member's five-bill limit for the regular legislative session. Bills not approved by the Legislative Council may be introduced during the regular session, but such bills would count against a member's five bill limit.<sup>4</sup> Interim committee bills must have prime sponsors prior to approval by the Legislative Council.<sup>5</sup>

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<sup>1</sup>Joint Rule 24 (d) (2.7) (A).

<sup>2</sup>Joint Rule 24A (d) (2.6).

<sup>3</sup>As required by House Bill 15-1335.

<sup>4</sup>Joint Rule 24 (b) (1) (D).

<sup>5</sup>Joint Rule 24 (b) (1) (E).

## Committee Staff and Website

**Staff contacts.** Legislative Council Staff is charged with assisting the committee in its activities. If you have any questions or would like any additional information concerning the committee, please send an e-mail to [OpioidInterimComm.ga@state.co.us](mailto:OpioidInterimComm.ga@state.co.us). You may also contact any of the following individual committee staff members:

- Bill Zepernick, Principal Fiscal Analyst, [bill.zepernick@state.co.us](mailto:bill.zepernick@state.co.us), 303-866-4777
- Anne Wallace, Research Analyst, [anne.wallace@state.co.us](mailto:anne.wallace@state.co.us), 303-866-4364
- Elizabeth Haskell, Research Analyst, [elizabeth.haskell@state.co.us](mailto:elizabeth.haskell@state.co.us), 303-866-6264
- Vanessa Conway, Research Analyst, [vanessa.conway@state.co.us](mailto:vanessa.conway@state.co.us), 303-866-4753

Additionally, the following Office of Legislative Legal Services staff will be assisting the committee:

- Brita Darling, Senior Attorney, [brita.darling@state.co.us](mailto:brita.darling@state.co.us), 303-866-2241.

**Website.** Documents distributed during the meetings and meeting summaries may be found on the committee website at:

<http://leg.colorado.gov/committees/opioid-and-other-substance-use-disorders-interim-study-committee/2017-regular-session>

**Twitter.** Committee updates will be also posted on Twitter at:

<https://twitter.com/COInterimComm>