

**Pennsylvania Opioid Misuse and Addiction Abatement Trust
Dispute Resolution Committee Public Meeting
September 17, 2025 | 2:15 PM | Virtual**

MINUTES

DRC Member Attendees (7):

- Chair Tom VanKirk
- Tumar Alexander
- Commissioner Kevin Boozel
- Stuart Fisk
- Shea Madden
- Commissioner Robert Postal
- Senator Christine Tartaglione

Chester County District Attorney's Office Representatives:

- Kelsey Gvozdich, Assistant Solicitor
- Jamie Johnson, SCA Executive Director
- Rachel Kramer, Opioid Settlement Coordinator

Other Attendees:

- Briana Anderson, Trust Administrator, CCAP
- Ashli Rudy, Trust Administrative Specialist, CCAP
- Jayson Wolfgang, Buchanan Ingersoll & Rooney
- Jordan Yeagley, Buchanan Ingersoll & Rooney
- Nathan McClellan, Representative of Senator Christine Tartaglione

Announcements by Chair Tom VanKirk

- This meeting of the Pennsylvania Opioid Misuse and Addiction Abatement Trust’s (“Trust”) Dispute Resolution Committee (“DRC”) has been duly advertised as a public meeting in accordance with the Sunshine Act and is therefore open to members of the public as observers.
- Participation in this meeting is limited to representatives of the Chester County District Attorney’s Office (“Chester Co. DAO”), as a beneficiary under the Amended Trust Order, the Trustees on the DRC, and those that the Trustees have invited in advance to take part.
- This meeting is being recorded, and the video will be available on the Trust’s website along with the minutes from this meeting once approved by the DRC.
- An Executive Session was held today immediately prior to this public meeting for the purpose of receiving legal updates and legal advice.
- A quorum of Trustees on the DRC is present at this meeting.

Approval of Prior Meeting Minutes

Minutes from the public DRC meeting held on August 6, 2025, were circulated to Trustees in advance of this meeting. Chair Tom VanKirk indicated he would entertain a motion to approve the minutes. A motion to approve the minutes was made by Senator Christine Tartaglione and seconded by Commissioner Kevin Boozel. With no further discussion, the August 6, 2025, minutes were approved unanimously by the Trustees in attendance.

Appeal from Chester County District Attorney Program No. 1 – Deputy District Attorney – Drug Court, Renamed the Diversion Court District Attorney

Chair Tom VanKirk opened the meeting by stating that it was a continuation of the Chester Co. DAO appeal regarding Program No. 1 (Deputy District Attorney – Drug Court, renamed the Diversion Court District Attorney), which was initially heard on August 6, 2025. At that DRC meeting, Chester County District Attorney Christopher de Barrena-Sarobe agreed to submit supplemental information for future consideration by the DRC.

Chair Tom VanKirk explained that Exhibit E does not permit the use of opioid settlement funds (“OSF”) for law enforcement activities, such as prosecuting individuals with opioid use disorder (“OUD”) and any co-occurring substance use disorders (“SUDs”) and/or mental health (“MH”) conditions. The Trust has consistently denied funding for positions involving prosecutorial discretion, finding them noncompliant with Exhibit E.

Following the August public DRC meeting, the Chester Co. DAO submitted supplemental

information, including an updated job description. These were reviewed by the Trustees of the DRC before this meeting. The updated description confirmed that the Deputy District Attorney (“DDA”) is involved in determining whether defendants are diverted to treatment court or criminally prosecuted, thus involving some level of prosecutorial discretion. Chair Tom VanKirk invited Chester Co. DAO representatives to address or clarify that understanding.

Kelsey Gvozdich, Assistant Solicitor for Chester County, acknowledged concerns about OSF not being used for law enforcement activities and referenced information in the supplemental submission.

Ms. Gvozdich concluded her remarks by stating that the Chester Co. DAO rests on its initial presentation and the supplemental information submitted. She thanked the Trust and its counsel for their time and effort.

Chair Tom VanKirk inquired about All Rise, an organization referenced in the Chester Co. DAO’s appeal materials. Ms. Gvozdich explained that All Rise is a national organization that provides training, membership, and advocacy aimed at improving justice system responses to SUDs and MH conditions.

Commissioner Robert Postal asked whether OUD/SUD training would be provided to the DDA. Jamie Johnson, Executive Director of Chester County’s Single County Authority (“SCA”), explained that the DDA receives multidisciplinary training on topics including ethics, OUD, SUDs, MH conditions, and continuing education.

Stuart Fisk asked about the role of the SCA on the treatment court team. Ms. Johnson stated that the SCA acts as an advocate, ensures provider participation, coordinates placements, engages in ongoing education, works with family members, and serves as the subject matter expert on SUDs.

Stuart Fisk then asked whether the DDA plays a role in adjudication or legal proceedings if a person is discharged from treatment court. Ms. Gvozdich responded that if an individual is discharged from a treatment court program, the case would be assigned to a prosecutor for placement on the regular trial list.

Commissioner Kevin Boozel asked how the DDA position is currently funded. Ms. Gvozdich explained that in 2024, 50% of the position was funded by OSF. Ms. Johnson added that the position became full-time due to the expansion of treatment court programs and the increased number of admissions. Chair Tom VanKirk asked whether the position existed prior to 2022. Ms. Gvozdich responded that it did, but was previously funded through county and grant sources, and that the DDA also carried a trial list.

The Trustees of the DRC had no further questions, thus concluding the Chester County DAO’s presentation.

Chair Tom VanKirk then presented the following resolution:

RESOLVED, that, the Dispute Resolution Committee of the Pennsylvania Opioid Misuse and Addiction Abatement Trust hereby affirms the decision of the Board of Trustees that Chester County District Attorney Program No. 1 (Deputy District Attorney – Drug Court, renamed the Diversion Court District Attorney) is not compliant with Exhibit E. A “yes” vote would maintain the current denial by the Trust, whereas a “no” vote would reverse the decision by the Trust that the program is not compliant with Exhibit E.

Commissioner Robert Postal made the motion as presented. Tumar Alexander seconded the motion.

With no further discussion, the Trustees of the DRC then voted as follows:

Yeses (5)

- Tumar Alexander
- Commissioner Kevin Boozel
- Stuart Fisk
- Shea Madden
- Senator Christine Tartaglione

Nos (1)

- Commissioner Robert Postal

The outcome of the vote was thus to maintain the current denial by the Trust.

Chair Tom VanKirk thanked everyone for attending. With no new business to address, the meeting was adjourned at 2:38 PM.