

**GOVERNMENT OF PUERTO RICO
LA FORTALEZA
SAN JUAN, PUERTO RICO**

Administrative Bulletin No. OE-2026- 042

EXECUTIVE ORDER OF THE GOVERNOR OF PUERTO RICO, HON. JENNIFFER A. GONZÁLEZ COLÓN, AMENDING ADMINISTRATIVE BULLETIN NO. OE-2022-032, TO MODIFY THE COMPOSITION OF THE OPIOID SETTLEMENT REMEDIATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE.

WHEREAS: On June 9, 2022, Administrative Bulletin No. OE-2022-032 was issued in recognition of the significant public health challenges posed by the opioid crisis and the need to establish a framework to ensure that funds received by the Government of Puerto Rico pursuant to opioid litigation settlements and judgments are administered and expended exclusively for approved opioid remediation purposes.

WHEREAS: Administrative Bulletin No. OE-2022-032 also established the Opioid Settlement Remediation Advisory Committee under the Puerto Rico Department of Health to provide evidence-based recommendations regarding the allocation and distribution of opioid abatement funds, consistent with the requirements of the applicable settlement agreements and with the goal of reducing the opioid crisis in Puerto Rico.

WHEREAS: Since the issuance of Administrative Bulletin No. OE-2022-032, the Government of Puerto Rico has continued to strengthen its response to the opioid crisis and recognizes that the effective remediation of opioid use disorder requires the participation of agencies with specialized expertise in prevention, treatment, recovery, and behavioral health services.

WHEREAS: The Puerto Rico Mental Health and Anti-Addiction Services Administration ("ASSMCA") is one of the governmental agencies with significant expertise and responsibilities in the prevention, treatment, rehabilitation, and recovery of individuals affected by substance use disorders, including opioid use disorder. Accordingly, its participation in the Opioid Settlement Remediation Advisory Committee will further strengthen the Committee's multidisciplinary expertise and its ability to formulate evidence-based recommendations regarding the allocation and use of opioid abatement funds.

WHEREAS: Therefore, it is in the best interests of the Government of Puerto Rico to amend Administrative Bulletin No. OE-2022-032 to include the Administrator of ASSMCA as the Vice Chair of the Opioid Settlement Remediation Advisory Committee, thereby strengthening the Committee's multidisciplinary expertise and enhancing its ability to formulate evidence-based recommendations that further the purposes of the opioid litigation settlements and the remediation of the opioid crisis in Puerto Rico.

WHEREFORE: I, JENNIFFER A. GONZÁLEZ COLÓN, Governor of Puerto Rico, by virtue of the powers vested in me by the Constitution and the laws of the Government of Puerto Rico, hereby declare and order the following:

SECTION 1: **AMENDMENT TO SECTION 2 OF ADMINISTRATIVE BULLETIN NO. OE-2022-032.** Section 2 of Administrative Bulletin No. OE-2022-032 is hereby amended to read as follows:

SECTION 2: COMPOSITION. The Advisory Committee shall consist of fourteen (14) members.

- a. All appointees to the Advisory Committee shall be carefully selected such that as a group they possess experience, expertise, and education with respect to one or more of the following topics: public health, substance use and addiction issues, healthcare equity, harm reduction, criminal justice, drug policy, opioid use disorders,

prevention, education, and treatment, behavioral health, rural public health issues, and other related topics as are necessary to assure the effective functioning of the Advisory Committee.

- b. Advisory Committee members shall be appointed as follows:
- i. The Secretary of the Puerto Rico Department of Health shall serve as the Advisory Committee Chair, and shall have no vote in Advisory Committee decisions, except as specified below.
 - ii. The Administrator of ASSMCA shall serve as the Vice Chair of the Advisory Committee.
 - iii. The Government of Puerto Rico shall appoint six (6) members. The appointing authority of such members will be the Governor of Puerto Rico.
 - iv. The Municipalities of Puerto Rico shall appoint six (6) members, as follows: the Puerto Rico Mayors Association shall appoint three (3) members, and the Puerto Rico Mayors Federation shall appoint three (3) members.
- c. All recommendations of the Advisory Committee shall be evidence-based, and may take into consideration federal, state, or local initiatives and activities that have shown to be effective in preventing and treating substance use disorders for individuals and their families or support systems.
- d. The Advisory Committee may: recommend priorities to address Puerto Rico's opioid crisis; recommend funding with respect to specific programs or initiatives; recommend measurable outcomes to determine the effectiveness of funds expended for approved opioid abatement uses; and monitor the allocation and use of abatement funds.
- e. The goal is to establish a process that produces Advisory Committee recommendations that are recognized as being an efficient, evidence-based approach to abatement that addresses Puerto Rico's greatest overall needs in this area while also including programs reflecting particularized needs in local communities.
- f. To effectuate this goal, the Advisory Committee shall: (1) gather and evaluate data regarding substance use disorder prevention and treatment programs and services; (2) solicit feedback, in a manner and method established by the Advisory Committee, from stakeholders, local providers, and advocates regarding the service needs related to the prevention and treatment of substance use disorder across Puerto Rico.
- g. Members of the Advisory Committee shall attempt to reach consensus with respect to the recommendations and other actions of the Advisory Committee. Consensus is defined in this process as a general agreement achieved by the members that reflects, from as many members as possible, their active support, support with reservations, or willingness to abide by the decision of the other members. Consensus does not require unanimity and may include objectors. In all events, the Advisory Committee's actions shall be effective if supported by at least a majority of its members. If there is a tie among the members, and only in such a case, the Advisory Committee Chair shall be entitled to cast a vote. All Advisory Committee recommendations and other actions shall note the existence and summarize the substance of objections where requested.

- h. During its first calendar year of operations (that is to say, during 2022), the Advisory Committee shall provide its recommendations on how abatement funds should be distributed as soon as reasonably practicable. Beginning in 2023, and every year thereafter until all abatement funds have been disbursed, the Advisory Committee shall provide its recommendations to the Secretary of the Puerto Rico Department of Health for how abatement funds should be distributed on or before the first day of the month of May of each year.

- SECTION 2:** **TRANSLATION.** The Puerto Rico Department of State is hereby directed to translate this Executive Order into Spanish without delay. Notwithstanding the foregoing, in the event of any conflict between the English and Spanish versions in the interpretation or application of this Executive Order, the English version shall prevail.
- SECTION 3:** **DEFINITION OF THE TERM "AGENCY."** For purposes of this Executive Order, the term "agency" shall mean any agency, instrumentality, office, or dependency of the Executive Branch of the Government of Puerto Rico, including public corporations, regardless of the entity's name.
- SECTION 4:** **NON-CREATION OF ENFORCEABLE RIGHTS.** This Executive Order is not intended to create any substantive or procedural rights enforceable by any third party in any judicial, administrative, or other forum against the Government of Puerto Rico, its agencies, instrumentalities, public corporations, officers, employees, or any other person.
- SECTION 5:** **SEVERABILITY.** The provisions of this Executive Order are independent and severable from one another. If any provision, paragraph, subsection, or part of this Executive Order is declared null, void, or unconstitutional by a court of competent jurisdiction, such determination shall not affect the remaining provisions, which shall continue in full force and effect.
- SECTION 6:** **REPEAL.** This Executive Order supersedes any Executive Order, resolution, circular letter, or administrative provision that is inconsistent with the provisions set forth herein, to the extent of such inconsistency.
- SECTION 7:** **PUBLICATION.** This Executive Order shall be filed immediately with the Department of State and shall be given the broadest possible dissemination and publication.
- SECTION 8:** **EFFECTIVENESS.** This Executive Order shall take effect immediately upon its execution and shall remain in full force and effect until amended or repealed by a subsequent Executive Order or by operation of law.



IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I hereby issue this Executive Order under my signature and cause the Great Seal of the Government of Puerto Rico to be affixed hereto, in San Juan, Puerto Rico, this 12 day of August 2026.

JENNIFFER A. GONZÁLEZ COLÓN
GOVERNOR

Promulgated in accordance with the law, this 11 day of August 2026.


ROSACHELY RIVERA SANTANA
SECRETARY OF STATE