



Board of Directors Regular Meeting

February 27, 2026

MEETING BRIEFING

The SODA Board of Directors met for its regular bi-monthly meeting February 27, 2026, in the Health and Science Center at Murray State College, Tishomingo, Oklahoma.

New Member

Nick Hartin was appointed as the representative to the SODA Board of Directors for the Marshall County Commission.

Oklahoma Opioid Abatement Grant Program Regionalization Proposal

At the November, 2025 OARC Conference Attorney General Gentner Drummond was the featured speaker. During his remarks AG Drummond requested assistance from COGs in administering the Oklahoma Opioid Abatement Grant Program for cities and counties. The Oklahoma Councils of Governments (OARC) is responding to this request by proposing a regionalized model for opioid abatement grantmaking for local governments through COGs.

For each COG the regionalization proposal would include an annual funding amount to award opioid abatement grants to local governments and a management fee to administer the program over the next 12-13 years. SODA would use the management fee to employ a Regional Opioid Abatement Program Manager. The SODA Board of Directors would appoint a Regional Opioid Abatement Council to provide program planning, policy guidance, and reviewing and awarding of grants. The proposal would require approval by the Attorney General's Office and the Oklahoma Opioid Abatement Board to be implemented.

Transitioning the SODA Area Agency on Aging (AAA) to a Community Care Hub

The current business model for Title III programming (AAA) as specified in federal regulations is to outsource its programs and services. SODA has the capability to effectively implement quality improvements and financial efficiencies to better serve our aging citizens if it could provide services directly. To do this, SODA would need to change its business model from being an AAA to being a provider of Title III services.

SODA staff proposed this idea to OK-DHS CAP, the state agency that SODA contracts with for Title III funding of AAA. The state agency was enthusiastic about the venture and wanted the SODA AAA to become a "pilot" for other interested AAAs around the state.

Currently, SODA receives a little over \$200,000 in administrative funding to manage the program and over \$2,000,000 in pass-through funding to perform its various services (about \$1.6 million goes to congregate and home-delivered meals). If SODA transitioned from an AAA to a service provider, it would be eligible to bid on the \$2 million and the administrative funding would go to a "sponsoring" AAA for the SODA service area.

A plan was discussed to run the SODA AAA through FY 27 (6/30/2027). SODA AAA would notify DHS CAP by 12/31/2026 of its intent to conclude its contract so it would be eligible to bid on the service provider contracts in the SODA service area for FY 28.

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SODA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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City of Atoka
Love Co. Conservation District
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Coal Co. Conservation District
City of Madill
City of Healdton
Marshall County
Chickasaw Nation
Murray County
City of Lindsay
Garvin Co. Conservation District
City of Pauls Valley
City of Ardmore
Carter County
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Johnston Co. Conservation District
City of Lone Grove
Garvin County
Choctaw Nation
Murray Co. Conservation District
Atoka County
Pontotoc County
City of Davis
City of Wynnewood

The next SODA Board of Directors regular meeting will be held on April 24, 2026 at 10:00 a.m. at Murray State College in Tishomingo, OK.