

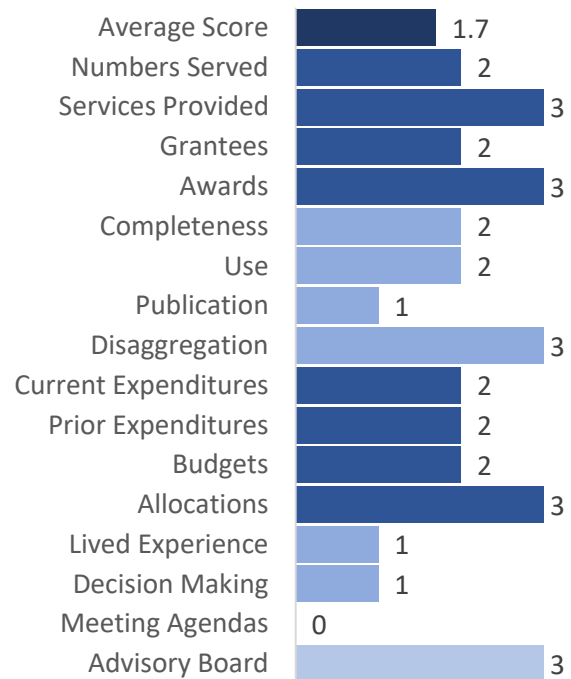


# Arkansas Opioid Recovery Partnership (ARORP) Transparency Evaluation Brief – January 2024

Transparency of public projects, like the National Prescription Opioid Litigation, has become more important over the past two decades. **Transparency refers to the visibility of recorded information, and it is a major goal of ARORP.** This includes the degree to which information is complete, findable, verifiable, simple, accessible, and used by the public. The outside evaluation of ARORP transparency involves the measurement and documentation of the degree to which a project publishes its resources, expenditures, decision-making, and data in useful and straightforward ways. Three independent reviewers score 16 elements of transparency twice a year starting in January of 2024. Each are scored as a dichotomy, either “present” or “absent,” and reviewers provide comments when appropriate. **This brief summarizes scores for the first round of reviews and provides recommendations on how to improve transparency moving forward.**

Chart 1: Sum Scores for Each Transparency Element

*Reviewers agreed that five elements were fully present, and one was fully absent. With an average score of 1.7 out of 3.*



**OVERALL, ARORP RECEIVED AN AVERAGE TRANSPARENCY SCORE OF 12 OUT OF 16, WITH FOUR SPECIFIC AREAS TO IMPROVE. THESE INCLUDE PUBLICATION OF CRITICAL ELEMENTS IN MORE THAN ONE PLACE, REPRESENTATION OF INDIVIDUALS WITH LIVED EXPERIENCE ON THE ADVISORY BOARD, PUBLICATION OF MAJOR DECISION MAKING, AND PUBLICATION OF MEETING AGENDAS.**

Table 1: Sum and Typical Scores for Each Transparency Element by Area

Most often, two of three reviewers found elements present, with no reviewers finding published meeting agendas.

Elements	Sum Score	Typical Score
Provisional (10 of 12)		
Numbers Served	2	Present
Services Provided	3	Present
Grantees	2	Present
Awards	3	Present
Informational (8 of 12)		
Completeness	2	Present
Use	2	Present
Publication	1	Absent
Disaggregation	3	Present
Financial (9 of 12)		
Current Expenditures	2	Present
Prior Expenditures	2	Present
Budgets	2	Present
Allocations	3	Present
Organizational (5 of 12)		
Lived Experience	1	Absent
Decision Making	1	Absent
Meeting Agendas	0	Absent
Advisory Board	3	Present

Ideally, each element would receive a score of 3, where all three reviewers found the element present. **When only one or two reviewers found the element, it means that specific element was not easy to find and not fully transparent.** Three elements received a score of 1 and one element received a score of 0. Leading to the following recommendations.

## Recommendations

1. Find new ways to *publish* information beyond the ARORP website.
2. Tell the public when *individuals with lived experience* serve on the advisory board or are involved with decision making, without identifying them.
3. Publish major *decisions* like changes to funding or project goals following Advisory Board meetings.
4. Make *agendas* public prior to Advisory Board meetings.
5. Work to make information available in multiple places by *publicizing* it on other websites, in news articles, or provide links on the websites of related organizations.
6. Do not use Google Docs for *information storing*, use PDFs instead because more people have easy access to a PDF.

### Specific reviewer comments included:

“There is no mention of meeting agendas posted on their website, or through a Google search. News and progress, yes, but not meeting agendas.”

“Denial logs help understanding of why projects were denied but nothing else explains how decisions were reached.”

“No current publication of information was available anywhere except the organization website.”