



Drug Policy Advisory Council Meeting

4075 Esplanade Way
Room 183
Tallahassee, FL 32399
August 25, 2016
9:00AM to 4:00PM

Meeting Minutes

Welcome, Introductions, Meeting Minutes- Dr. Jennifer Bencie, Manatee DOH, Chair

Meeting called to order at 9:00 AM by Dr. Jennifer Bencie. The following members were in attendance.

Members Present:

1. Dr. Jennifer Bencie (Chair, State Surgeon General Designee)
2. Ashley Apthorp and Walter Liebrich for Mary Beth Vickers (Office of Planning and Budget)
3. Jeff Cece (Department of Children and Families Secretary Designee)
4. Maggie Agerton for Patrick Mahoney (Department of Corrections Secretary Designee)
5. Dr. Kirk J. Mauro for Dr. Gayla Sumner (Department of Juvenile Justice Secretary Designee)
6. Gary Howze for Colonel Gene Spaulding (Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles Executive Director Designee)
7. Mark Fontaine (Member of the public with expertise in substance abuse treatment appointed by the Governor)
8. Diane Prest for Kimberly Spence (Governor Appointee Drug Enforcement)
9. Doug Leonardo (Member of the public with expertise in substance abuse programs and services appointed by the Governor)
10. Greg Yevtich for Colonel Bill Beiswenger (Adjutant General Designee)- Absent
11. Christine Stilwell for Peggy Sapp (Member of the public with expertise in substance abuse prevention appointed by the Governor)

Members Absent:

1. Andy Benard (Attorney General Designee)
2. Dotti Groover-Skipper (Member of the public with expertise in faith based substance abuse treatment appointed by the Governor)
3. Representative Cary Pigman (Member of the House of Representatives)
4. Senator Sobel (Member of the Florida Senate)
5. Dr. John VanDelinder (Governor Appointee Faith Based Substance Abuse Treatment)
6. Aaron Gerson (Chief Justice of the Supreme Court)
7. Mark Baker (FDLE)
8. Angelia Rivers (Department of Education Commissioner Designee)

Others Present:

Amanda Muller, DCF
Brett Kirkland, FDLE
TJ Graham, FDLE
Beth McNeil, FDLE
Vickie Koenig, FDLE
Kathleen Roberts, CCAFL
Courtney Coppola, OCU

Staff Present:

Rebecca Poston, DOH

Business

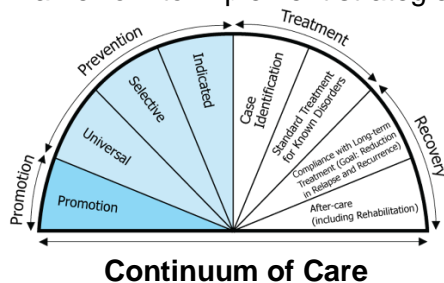
There was a motion by Jeff Cece, second by Gary Howze to approve the May 5, 2016 meeting minutes as amended:

4. Presentation #2- ~~Amber~~ Amanda Muller

Recommendations bullet number 3- Explicitly allow organizations to operate under a physician's standing order to dispense naloxone to individuals in the community. ~~Florida law does not authorized community based distribution of naloxone.~~ Motion passed unanimously as amended. Minutes will be posted as amended at <http://www.floridahealth.gov/provider-and-partner-resources/dpac/dpac-meetings.html>.

- 1. Presentation #1- Kathleen Roberts, Executive Director, Community Coalition Alliance** provided an overview of the Community Coalition Alliance (CCA). The CCA was developed in 2008 in response to a request from a Federal Project Officer to meet as a group and provide mentoring to one another. CCA provides a forum for partnerships, community involvement and participation, and interagency cooperation and collaboration by focusing on the issues with data-driven decision-making, evidenced-based strategies and the risk and protective factors of youth. The group is comprised of members of community coalitions, who are made up of parents, teachers, law enforcement, businesses, religious leaders, health providers and other community activists who mobilize at the local level to make their communities safer, healthier and drug-free.

Discussion: Coalitions mobilize communities, provide prevention education, assess community needs, resources and readiness and implement environmental strategies to create population-level change. Northeast and Southeast Regions of Florida are working together using the Strategic Prevention Framework to implement strategies across the State. It is important to consider the promotion,



prevention, treatment and recovery through the continuum of care. There are 17 coalitions in the CCA in the Northeast Region and 4 coalitions in the Southeast region. Environmental prevention strategies focus on creating system-level change. Strategies focus on influencing the attitudes, perceptions, skills, beliefs, and behaviors of individuals with communities.

Recommendation(s): Key stakeholders including the coalitions should participate in community health improvement plan (CHIP) under direction of local county health departments.

- 2. Office of Compassionate Use- Christian Bax, Executive Director,** provided an update on the implementation of medical cannabis legislation.

Discussion:

The Office of Compassionate Use was established in July 2014 and began accepting dispensing organizations' applications July 8, 2015. There were five dispensing organizations approved November 23, 2015. Currently there are six approved dispensing organizations that have been granted cultivation authority. Two dispensing organizations have been granted dispensing authorizations. The first dispensing organization began dispensing July 23, 2016. There are currently 100 physicians and 120 individuals registered in the compassionate use registry. The Department of Health publishes a list of participating practitioners on its website. Mr. Bax reviewed physician training-requirements, patient qualifications, physician qualifications, and enforcement violations associated with cultivating, distribution and use of low-THC and medical cannabis within the State of Florida. Information maintained in the registry is exempt from public record requests, however aggregate data may be available upon request.

The Council discussed the proposed Constitutional amendment and the distinction between low-THC and medical cannabis and the expansion of medical conditions in which it can be used.

It was brought to the Council's attention that hospitals do not code for cannabis use or over ingestion of cannabis. It is difficult to track adverse incidences.

Recommendations: The Office of Compassionate Use requested the Council consider monitoring the impact the legalization of low-THC and medical cannabis will have on public health once more dispensaries are authorized.

Ms. Poston will provide Mr. Bax with a list of Council members' email addresses to add to the biweekly update list regarding updates on implementation to law enforcement, physicians and other stakeholders.

3. Partnership for Success Update- Amanda Muller, Overdose Prevention Coordinator, Department of Children & Families provided an update on overdose prevention and naloxone in Florida and included the scope of the problem, recognizing and responding to an overdose, reviewed overdose prevention laws, and overdose prevention initiatives. DPAC has been designated as the advisory council for Partnerships for Success grant.

Discussion: Pharmacies are authorized under current law to dispense naloxone through a standing order process. Ms. Muller confirmed two major pharmacy retailers in the state are operating under standing orders and are providing the auto injector and nasal spray. The government cost for the nasal spray is \$75.00/2 doses and the pharmacy wholesale price is approximately \$125.00/2 doses.

Surplus Substance Abuse Block Grant funding can be used to purchase naloxone. Florida State Hospital provides naloxone to individuals underinsured/uninsured. Training materials have been approved and training has begun. Shipments are being made from Florida State Hospital on a case by case basis.

Mr. Cece provided additional information regarding *The Opioid Epidemic in Florida*. Heroin is emerging as the leading cause of deaths in many communities and should be considered as an epidemic. In Florida, 10 people a day are dying. Mr. Fontaine reported it was difficult for EMS to keep up with the volume and repeat calls. In Delray there were 166 overdose incidences and 122 in Boynton Beach. In 2016, the Governor signed SB 242 and created the Miami-Dade Infectious Disease Elimination Act (IDEA). IDEA creates a pilot program in Miami-Dade County, run by the University of Miami, to establish sterile syringe exchanges.

Recommendation(s): Explore the possibility of expanding the needle exchange program. Additionally, examine ways to encourage a pathway directly from emergency room to treatment.

4. Presentation #3- Bruce Goldberger, PhD., Professor, University of Florida College of Medicine, and Vickie Koenig, Executive Director FDLE Medical Examiners Commission provided an update on Medical Examiners 021 Commission Drugs Identified in Deceased Persons.

Discussion: Dr. Goldberger reviewed the data collected by the Medical Examiners' Commission (MEC) and general statewide trends January through June 2015. Also, Dr. Goldberger reviewed the heroin and fentanyl related-deaths by district, areas of Florida and total number of deaths caused-versus-present and manner of death. He demonstrated the Florida Drug-Related Outcomes Surveillance and Tracking system called FROST available at www.frost.maples-center.ufl.edu. Statistics indicate an upward trend in morphine (+65%), fentanyl (+183%) and heroin (+267%) deaths in Florida. Another figure demonstrated the increase in fentanyl caused-deaths were due to illicit fentanyl use and not an increase in fentanyl prescription drug use.

There are many new psychoactive substances appearing daily on the market. Toxicology laboratories face many challenges to develop and validate new analytical assays, cost of analytical instrumentation and reference material (drug standards) are not often immediately available.

There are increased demands upon the laboratory, including workload and meeting turn-around-time requirements. In Florida there is no standardization among government and private reference toxicology laboratories. The medical examiner is faced with increased workload, budget and reporting, interpretation of complex analytical findings, coordination with law enforcement agencies and local, state and federal prosecutors, and reporting of autopsy, toxicology and other findings to MEC and DOH.

Dr. Goldberger brought to the attention of the Council that there is no repository of medical examiner reports. Creating a repository of medical examiner reports would facilitate statewide surveillance of drug overdose and death trends in real-time, thus enhancing public health and safety efforts.

Recommendation(s): Currently, state of Florida medical examiners and their staff do not have access to the state PDMP. Motion by Cece, second by Yuvetich to amend statute to authorize Medical Examiners and medicolegal death investigators to have indirect access to the state PDMP. Access to the PDMP will facilitate the medicolegal death investigation process and certification of the cause and manner of death. Motion carried unanimously.

An additional recommendation was to create a repository of medical examiner reports to reduce the wait time to obtain and produce invaluable drug related death information.

5. Implementation of SB 1604- Rebecca Poston, provided an update on the implementation of Senate Bill 1604.

Discussion: The Drug Policy Advisory Council has been assigned the implementation of Senate Bill 1604. Ms. Poston reported Section 893.30, Florida Statutes created the Victoria Siegel “Controlled Substance Safety Education and Awareness Act”, in memory of Victoria Siegel who lost her life to a prescription drug overdose. The Department is charged with developing a written pamphlet relating to controlled substances which includes specific education information. The Office of Communication is creating the pamphlet, a press release to send to stakeholders, public safety announcement, and will post the pamphlet and resources to flhealth.gov.

Recommendation(s): The Department will collaborate with agencies, organizations and institutions to create a systematic approach to increasing public awareness regarding controlled substance safety.

6. Review Action Plan- please see attached Action Plan.

Discussion: The Councils role is to comprehensively analyze the problems of substance abuse in the state and make recommendations to the Governor and Legislature for the implementation of a state drug control strategy. The performance of the Council is based on its role to make recommendations to the Legislature and see those recommendations filed into bill language and enacted into law.

7. Recommendations:

The Council suggested it focus on two or three top recommendations:

- Council directed Ms. Poston to reach out to the Florida Sheriffs’ Association to get feedback on policy changes to effect the impact on heroin abuse.
- Key stakeholders including the coalitions should participate in community health improvement plan (CHIP) under direction of local county health departments.
- Formalized community behavioral health process. Community coalitions were encouraged to bring trends/observations to the Council.
- Explore the possibility of expanding the needle exchange program. Additionally, examine ways to encourage a pathway from emergency room directly to treatment.
- Increase access to medication assisted treatment facilities- evaluate roadblocks to care;
- Examine ways to encourage a pathway directly from emergency room to treatment- establish pilot(s) to fund counselors or peer support people in 3 or 4 hospitals to create best strategies to engage people from ER to intervention.
- Create a repository of medical examiner reports to reduce the wait time to obtain and produce invaluable drug related death information.
- Expand treatment capacity; and
- Review background screening requirements for Peer Counselors.
- The Department will collaborate with agencies, organizations and institutions to create a systematic approach to increasing public awareness regarding controlled substance safety.
- Motion was made by Cece, second by Leonardo to appoint the Secretary for the Agency of Health Care Administration to the Statewide Drug Policy Advisory Council.

- Motion was made by Cece, second by Yevitch to amend section 893.055, Florida Statutes authorizing indirect access by Medical Examiners and legal medical investigators to the PDMP.

8. Public Comment / Open Discussion- None.

9. Next Steps:

1. Schedule next meeting for January 12, 2017 9-4PM.