

**Mission:**

Eliminate substance abuse in Florida by coordinating statewide efforts to protect individuals, families, and communities from substance abuse and to treat those with addiction.

**Vision:** A future without substance abuse in Florida



**Ron DeSantis**  
Governor

## Statewide Drug Policy Advisory Council

### Meeting Minutes

**Betty Easley Conference Center  
4075 Esplanade Way, Room 182,  
Tallahassee, FL 32399  
January 29, 2019  
8:30 AM to 4:00 PM**

Welcome, Introductions and Roll Call

The following Members were in attendance:

1. Nathan Dunn (Chair, State Surgeon General Designee)
2. Andy Benard (Office of the Attorney General Designee)
3. Karen Weaver (Florida Department of Law Enforcement Commissioner Designee)
4. John Bryant (Department of Children and Families Secretary Designee)
5. Patrick Mahoney (Department of Corrections Secretary Designee)
6. Dr. Tracy Shelby (Department of Juvenile Justice Secretary Designee)
7. Nichole Wilder (Commissioner of Education Designee)
8. Lt. Jason Britt (Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles Executive Director Designee)
9. CPT Nathan Dinger (Adjutant General Designee)
10. Jill Gran for Mark Fontaine (Governor Appointee with expertise in substance abuse treatment)
11. Beth Labasky for Peggy Sapp (Governor Appointee with expertise in substance abuse treatment)
12. Dr. John VanDelinder (Governor Appointee/ Faith-Based Substance Abuse Treatment)
13. Dotti Groover-Skipper (Governor Appointee/ Faith-Based Substance Abuse Treatment)
14. Jason Holloway for Senator Darryl Rouson
15. The Honorable Michelle Towbin-Singer (Judiciary Member Representative)

**Guests and Staff:**

Susan Williams, AHCA  
Aaron Gerson, OSCA  
Leslie Durkee, DOH  
Javier Betancourt, DOH  
Angela Thompson, DOH  
Tracy Luckover, AHCA  
Amy Rosmini, FDACS  
Vickie Kornig, FDLE  
Beth McNeil, FDLE

Chad Lucas, FDLE  
Gregory Yevtich, FL National Guard  
Joanne Gallagher, KPMG  
Eveline Van Beek, KPMG  
Bibi Ramos, FAME  
Elena Princi, FAME  
Jim Smith, Lumisa  
Sandra Neidert, OSCA

## Business

- 1. Welcome/Introductions/Opening Remarks:** Nathan Dunn opened the Council meeting, had all attendees introduce themselves and provided a comprehensive overview of the agenda.
- 2. Review and Approve Meeting Minutes from October 23, 2018:**

There were two corrections noted to the minutes and the meeting minutes were approved.
- 3. Neonatal Abstinence Syndrome (NAS) Initiative Presentation – Florida Perinatal Quality Collaborative (FPQC) -** Maya Balakrishnan, MD, CSSBB, the Associate Director of Clinical and Quality Management at FPQC highlighted the collaboration of FPQC's stakeholders in the development of joint quality improvement initiatives, the advancement of data driven best practices and the promotion of education and training. Dr. Balakrishnan advised that it is FPQC's hope to increase public health measures and initiatives to reduce neonatal exposures and improve NAS management strategies. Dr. Balakrishnan spoke of the healthcare burden caused by the neonatal exposures and referred to the significant increases/uptake in the incidence of antenatal drug use, incidence of NAS, and healthcare expenditures. From surveys of NICUs in Florida, it was determined that most facilities lack standardized processes in screening substance using pregnant women, determining safe discharge and facilitating outpatient pharmacologic management after discharge. Length of hospital stay is used as an indicator of efficiency. FPQC's goal is that by June 2020 participating hospitals will have a 20% decrease in average length of stay. FPQC is helping hospitals implement the NAS Quality Improvement Initiative through an evidence-based toolkit, educational events and help with data management and reporting. The primary drivers of the initiative are caregiver engagement, nonpharmacologic treatment, pharmacologic treatment and safe discharge. FPQC is working collaboratively with the Department of Children and Families, the Department of Health, Healthy Start and the Florida Hospital Association. The project launched in January 2019 and will conclude in June 2020.
- 4. Florida Department of Law Enforcement Presentation – Opioid Crisis: Law Enforcement Perspective –** Karen Weaver, Special Agent Supervisor, Office of Statewide Intelligence presented on Opioid data and the various impacts to Law Enforcement entities. There are ongoing Statewide Law Enforcement efforts and partnerships through The Organized Crime Drug Enforcement Task Force (OCDETF), High Intensity Drug Trafficking Areas (HIDTA), local task forces, and highway interdiction efforts. There are four HIDTA Task forces in Florida that encompass 29 counties. Efforts of the HIDTAs include coordination among law enforcement agencies in each area of responsibility and include identification and effective disruption and dismantlement of local, multi-state, and international Drug Trafficking Organizations (DTO). FDLE has conducted 67 major drug cases between 2016 and 2018. To date, 49 of those case have resulted in 301 arrests on 598 charges. Occurrences of Fentanyl/Fentanyl analog caused deaths significantly increased in 2017 compared to the same period in 2016.
- 5. Florida Department of Law Enforcement Presentation – Drugs Identified in Deceased Persons by Florida Medical Examiners 2017 Annual Report –** Vicki Koenig, Bureau Chief of Policy & Special Programs, shared that of the 28,031 deaths investigated by medical examiners, toxicology results determined that one or more drugs were present at the time of death in 12,439 deaths. The vast majority of these cases had more than one drug occurrence. 6,178 opioid-related deaths were reported, which is an 8 percent increase over the year before. There were 1,057 deaths related to heroin. Occurrences of heroin increased by 3 percent and deaths caused by heroin decreased by 1 percent. Occurrences of methamphetamine increased by 38 percent and deaths caused by methamphetamine increased by 42 percent.

**6. Approaches to addressing analytics for the opioid epidemic, KPMG** Eveline van Beek from KPMG shared the importance of having different priorities for each agency/department that need to be balanced in a state-wide approach that allows for local implementation. A strategy may be developed that leverages analytics to bring together all stakeholders under some common goals. A successful strategy will include prevention, detection/diagnosis, treatment/maintenance and rescue/recovery. Illinois and Rhode Island have comprehensive opioid response action plans. Many states have strong initiatives going, but the fragmentation of the stakeholders leads to siloed data analyses. The opioid epidemic will need data and analytics that can support policy and business decisions – not just track information. Opioid analytics support may be structured into five phases: future state, high-level solution design, data prep & analysis, model build and implement/improve.

## **7. Opioid Legislation Update: Open Discussion - Bills of Interest**

### **SB 478 – Office of Drug Control**

Sen. Rader

Office of Drug Control; Creating the Office of Drug Control within the Executive Office of the Governor; providing for the office to be headed by a director appointed by the Governor, subject to Senate confirmation; providing the purpose and duties of the office, etc.

### **SB 504 – Alcohol and Substance Abuse Prevention**

Sen. Rouson

Alcohol and Substance Abuse Prevention; Creating the Office of Alcohol and Drug Control Policy within the Executive Office of the Governor; requiring the Agency for Health Care Administration, in consultation with the Department of Children and Families, to seek federal approval of a waiver to increase federal Medicaid funding for specified purposes relating to substance use disorders, etc.

### **SB 398 – Prior Authorization for Opioid Alternatives**

Sen. Farmer

Prior Authorization for Opioid Alternatives; Prohibiting health insurance policies from requiring that treatment with an opioid analgesic drug product be attempted and have failed before authorizing the use of a nonopioid-based analgesic drug product.

### **SB 528 – Mental Health and Substance Use Disorders**

Sen. Rouson

Mental Health and Substance Use Disorders; Defining the term “peer specialist”; requiring a specific level of screening for peer specialists working in mental health programs and facilities; authorizing a person to seek certification as a peer specialist if he or she meets specified qualifications; requiring the Department of Children and Families to develop a training program for peer specialists and to give preference to trainers who are certified peer specialists; requiring recovery residences to comply with specified Florida Fire Prevention Code provisions, etc.

### **SB 488 – Drug Safety**

Sen. Pizzo

Prohibiting a pharmacist or practitioner from dispensing specified opioids unless the prescription bottle or container has a warning sticker meeting certain requirements; requiring pharmacies to offer for sale prescription lock boxes

Similar: **HB 287** Representative Geller

### **HB 491 – Controlled Substance Prescribing**

Rep. Hart

Controlled Substance Prescribing: Excludes pain related to sickle-cell anemia from definition of acute pain for purposes of limitations on prescriptions of opioids for acute pain.

### **HB 451 – Non-Opioid Directives**

Rep. Plakon

Non-Opioid Directives: Requires DOH to establish voluntary non-opioid directive form & provides requirements for form; requires form be posted on DOH website; requires certain physicians document receipt of form in patient's medical record; authorizes patient to appoint duly authorized guardian or health care proxy who may revoke directive; requires certain physicians to provide copy of form to any patient to whom opioid drug may be prescribed, ordered, or administered; requires pharmacist to presume that electronically transmitted prescription for opioid drug is valid; authorizes pharmacist to dispense opioid drug in contradiction of directive; provides that certain persons are not liable for damages or subject to criminal prosecution; provides that certain persons may be subject to disciplinary action.

### **HB 375 – Prescription Drug Monitoring Program**

Rep. Pigman

Prescription Drug Monitoring Program: Exempts from requirement to check patient's dispensing history the prescribing of or dispensing controlled substance to patients for alleviation of pain related to terminal condition or to patients receiving palliative care for terminal illnesses.

### **HB 369 – Substance Abuse Services**

Rep. Caruso, Co-Sponsor Rep. Webb

Authorizes DCF & AHCA to grant exemptions from disqualification for service provider personnel to work solely in certain treatment programs, treatment facilities, or recovery residences; revises provisions relating to background checks & exemptions from disqualification for certain service provider personnel & owners, directors, & CFOs of recovery residences; provides qualifications for certification as peer specialist; authorizes DCF to approve certain credentialing entities to certify peer specialists; provides certain prohibitions & penalties; prohibits recovery residences from benefitting from certain referrals; requires DFS to establish uniform firesafety standards for recovery residences.

**8. Florida OMNI Learning Community, Florida Department of Health** - Javier Betancourt with DOH provided the Council with an update regarding the Opioid Use Disorder, Maternal Outcomes, and Neonatal Abstinence Syndrome Team & Initiatives. From an Epidemiology and Surveillance perspective, the Department of Health is strengthening its capacity to assess public health status related to the Opioid Epidemic. Epidemiologists are analyzing and disseminating data to internal and external stakeholders to ensure coordinated intervention and prevention efforts between federal, state, and local officials and partners. The purpose of the learning community is to disseminate strategies and best practices supporting program and policy implementation related to substance use disorder (SUD) among pregnant and postpartum women and infants diagnosed with neonatal abstinence syndrome (NAS). The strategies of the initiative include identifying stakeholders, conducting landscape analysis and developing a data picture of SUD among pregnant/postpartum women.

### **9. Agency and Member Updates:**

#### Andy Benard – Office of the Attorney General

AG Moody has convened an 'Opioid Working Group' ("OWG") with membership based on the seven Florida Department of Law Enforcement's (FDLE) Regional Domestic Security Task Forces (RDSTF) designated regions for the state. Each region is currently collecting various data on opioids in their respective area, to include surveys of existing treatment and prevention efforts. The OWG collected data will help serve as a lead-in for a Statewide Opioid Task Force that AG Moody is seeking to have enacted by the 2019 Florida Legislature. This Task Force is to be created for the express purpose of "researching opioid drug abuse, evaluating effective strategies for education, interdiction, arrest, prosecution, treatment and prevention, and providing policy recommendations to the Legislature." This Task Force will be composed of a broad spectrum of state actors such as state agency representatives, law enforcement and public defender appointees as well as appointees from private groups and associations that deal with various aspects of drug abuse treatment and prevention. The Task Force's first organizational session is slated to be held no later than July 15, 2019.

#### John Bryant – Department of Children and Families

Received a State Opioid Response award for \$50 million, working with FADAA and also working on expanding the number of providers. Additionally, DCF has expanded focus on rural communities, and

has expanded service to veterans. This is the largest amount of funding for MAT and also supports recovery support housing. Continuous efforts include, expanding knowledge of MAT to courts and judges, as efficacy is so high. Expansion of hospital-based intervention and engagement activities, hospital coverage, as well as, researching the expansion of the scope of recovery housing. Hoping to bring in Oxford house and expanding scope of options. Moving forward to open methadone clinics and re-opening enrollment for providers.

Patrick Mahoney – Department of Corrections

Mr. Mahoney informed Council members regarding the MATS pilot program planning at one or more Florida Department of Corrections (FDC) institutions. The sites have not yet been determined and community resources still need to be developed. FDC will be utilizing RSAT grant funds and its partnerships with DCF to operate this program.

Dr. Tracy Shelby – Department of Juvenile Justice

No update.

Nichole Wilder – Department of Education

Florida Partnership for Healthy Schools partners are currently going to school board meetings and recognizing the 50 districts that have been designated Florida Healthy School Districts. The FDOE administers free Tobacco Prevention Online Training for educators and school nurses through the School Board of Palm Beach County. These trainings include information on Electronic Nicotine Delivery Systems (ENDS). FDOE is focusing on Social and Emotional Education and Skills Development, which studies indicate can lead to 11% gain in academic achievement.

Lieutenant Jason Britt – Florida Highway Patrol

Reported that the FHP has been heavily involved with the upcoming Inauguration, and also the continuing hurricane response and recovery efforts. The data provided and referenced in Karen Weaver's presentation, does show an upward trend. TruNarc Narcotic Analyzers have proven to be a valuable and helpful tool. They have produced good results on identifying fentanyl.

Major Nathan Dinger – Florida National Guard

The Florida National Guard Counterdrug Program continues to provide a free anti-drug awareness presentation to Florida's youth. Since October 1st, 2018 the Florida National Guard Civil Operations team has provided the "Night Vision" program to approximately 20,489 students. The presentation is designed to better prepare elementary, middle and high school students for negative peer pressure and the dangers associated with Gateway drugs (Alcohol, tobacco, marijuana, prescription pills and synthetics).

Jason Holloway for Senator Darryl Rouson

No Update

Jill Gran – Florida Alcohol and Drug Abuse Association

In December 2015, the boards of the Florida Alcohol & Drug Abuse Association (FADAA) and its associated 501c6 and the boards of the Florida Council for Community Mental Health and its associated 501c6 voted to join as one behavioral health voice. The merger was complete in January 2019. There is no name for the united behavioral health affiliates yet, but FADAA will continue to exist and operate as the 501c3 training and services arm of the new association. Meanwhile, FADAA continues to work in the recovery space. Currently there are nine recovery community organizations under development and guidance by FADAA. Also, FADAA is working in Madison, Taylor, Dixie, Hardee, and Monroe Counties to develop a prevention treatment and recovery plan for opioid use disorder. We hope to put more communities in the queue soon.

Beth Labasky for Peggy Sapp – Informed Families

Continuing focus on efforts throughout the state.

Dottie Groover-Skipper – Salvation Army

In December of 2018, the Salvation Army of Florida opened the Women's Adult Rehabilitation Center for women to recover from substance abuse. It is a 30-bed facility located in Tampa, Florida. The majority of the funding to enable this incredible facility is through the generous donations of clothing, furniture, and household items provided to the Salvation Army Family Stores. The grand opening community celebration will take place on February 6, 2019.

John Vanderlinder-

No update

#### **10. Public Comment / Open Discussion**

There was no public comment.

#### **11. Next Steps**

The next meeting is tentatively scheduled for Tuesday, April 23, 2019?