

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



Rick Scott
Governor

Celeste Philip, MD, MPH
Surgeon General and Secretary

Statewide Drug Policy Advisory Council

Meeting Minutes

**Florida Department of Health
4025 Esplanade Way
Conference Room 301
Tallahassee, FL 32399
October 23, 2018
8:30AM to 4:00PM**

Welcome, Introductions and Roll Call

The following Members were in attendance:

1. Marsha Lindeman (Chair, State Surgeon General Designee)
2. Tyler Knox (Office of Planning and Budget Designee)
3. Walter Liebrich (Office of Planning and Budget Designee)
4. Andy Benard (Office of the Attorney General Designee)
5. Karen Weaver (Florida Department of Law Enforcement Commissioner Designee))
6. Jeff Cece (Department of Children and Families Secretary Designee)
7. Patrick Mahoney (Department of Corrections Secretary Designee)
8. Dr. Tracy Shelby (Department of Juvenile Justice Secretary Designee)
9. Penny Taylor (Commissioner of Education Designee)
10. Lt. Jason Britt (Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles Executive Director Designee)
11. Captain Jerrod Boswell (Adjutant General Designee)
12. Jill Gran for Mark Fontaine (Governor Appointee with expertise in substance abuse treatment)
13. Peggy Sapp (Governor Appointee with expertise in substance abuse treatment)
14. Doug Leonardo (Governor Appointee with expertise in drug enforcement and substance abuse services)
15. Jason Holloway for Senator Darryl Rouson
16. Representative Cary Pigman

Staff:

Nathan Dunn
Dorothy Hall
Kendra Scholz

Erin Moore
Nick Van Der Linden

Guests:

Gregory Yevtich
Ella Biggins
Erin Sampson
Christina Vracar
Angela Thompson
Brandon Miller
Mark Whitman
Claudia Kemp

Alexandra Glorioso
Susan Williams
Beth Labasky
Rebeca Poston
Eric Mountain
Victor Johnson
Doug Woodlief
Dr. Phyllis Hendry

Please note that The Florida Channel recorded this meeting and the archived video of the October 23, 2018 DPAC meeting is available at the following two links:

<https://thefloridachannel.org/videos/10-23-18-statewide-drug-policy-advisory-council-part-1/>

<https://thefloridachannel.org/videos/10-23-18-statewide-drug-policy-advisory-council-part-2/>

Business

1. Review and Approve Meeting Minutes: There was one correction to the minutes. In the DOE updates, HB769 should be changed to HB7026. A motion and second was made to approve the minutes. Motion carried.

2. Update regarding HB 21 implementation: Claudia Kemp with the Department of Health (DOH) gave an update on HB 21 implementation.

HB 21—Florida’s new controlled substance law—addresses opioid abuse by establishing prescribing limits for acute pain, requiring continuing education on controlled substance prescribing, requiring the prescribing boards to establish guidelines for treating acute pain, requiring pain management clinics to apply for a certificate of exemption and expanding requirements to use Florida’s Prescription Drug Monitoring Program (PDMP).

Electronic-Florida Online Reporting of Controlled Substances Evaluation (E-FORCSE) staff have provided outreach and education to 72,823 health care practitioners and 667 individuals authorized to conduct investigations resulting in a 43.1 percent increase in registrations and 26.6 percent increase in the number of query requests. E-FORCSE developed FAQs to assist pharmacists, doctors, and patients. There is a 24.4 percent compliance rate for the Continuing Education certification exam. Regarding the impact on prescriber behavior, there has been a four percent decrease in the number of days’ supply of controlled substances dispensed to patients and a 1.76 percent decrease in the Morphine Milligram Equivalents (MME) per prescription. Florida has seen a 76.1percent reduction in individuals having multiple provider episodes (MPE).

Regarding the integration and interoperability of the PDMP, Wal-Mart and CVS pharmacy management systems began integrating the PDMP report into the pharmacist’s workflow. Florida began sharing its data with Alabama, Georgia and Mississippi on October 18, 2018. DOH has developed and deployed a comprehensive communication strategy to respond to any questions the public or health care professionals may have about how the new law affects their prescriptions.

3. Presentation on Helping Emergency Responders Obtain Support (HEROS) Program: Doug Woodlief with DOH gave a presentation on the HEROS program which is designed to reduce the number of drug/opioid overdose-related deaths and adverse events by providing emergency responders with the appropriate pharmaceutical resources to address this crisis. In 2017, Florida’s emergency responders treated approximately 45,202 patients for drug overdose. The crisis has become a heavy burden for the emergency responder agencies. In response to the nationwide opioid epidemic, funding has been made available through the Department of Health for emergency opioid antagonists.

The program aims to get as much product into the field as possible. The program received \$5 million in funding, which is recurring. Licensed EMS agency applicants must have the ability to report naloxone administrations through the Emergency Medical Services Tracking and Reporting System (EMSTARS). About 88 percent of agencies are on the EMSTARS system. The group discussed expiration dates for Narcan dosages. DOH has started a drug return program associated with HEROS to make sure people are checking expiration dates, disposing of the substances appropriately, etc. More information about the HEROS program is found here <http://www.floridahealth.gov/licensing-and-regulation/ems-system/heros.html>

4. Red Ribbon Week: Peggy Sapp with Informed Families gave a presentation on Red Ribbon Week. The National Family Partnership (NFP) is a grassroots, non-profit organization best known for leading the Parents Movement, which was responsible for reducing casual drug use by 50 percent between 1978 and 1991 and creating the National Red Ribbon Week campaign. She explained the significance of the red ribbon and the history of the movement. Red Ribbon Week began in 1988 and is the oldest and largest drug prevention campaign in the nation. It is celebrated in 91,000 schools across the U.S. This year's theme is "Life Is Your Journey, Travel Drug Free." More information is available at <http://redribbon.org/>

5. Neonatal Abstinence Syndrome (NAS) coding and case definition: Melissa Murray Jordan and Angela Thompson, both with DOH, gave a presentation regarding Neonatal Abstinence Syndrome (NAS) coding and case definition. NAS refers to a group of conditions that a baby experiences when going through withdrawal following exposure to drugs during gestation. It is a reportable condition in Florida and it was added to the List of Reportable Diseases/Conditions on June 4, 2014. Florida was the third state to make NAS a reportable condition. The coding has transitioned from ICD-9 to ICD-10. Coding transition to version 10 began on October 1, 2015.

The NAS Data Workgroup began meeting in January 2018. The group reviewed coding changes and clinical case definitions and finalized the ICD-10-CM case definition. The Maternal Child Health (MCH) Section within DOH has contracted with the Florida Perinatal Quality Collaborative (FPQC) at the University of South Florida, to develop and implement a Neonatal Abstinence Syndrome (NAS) quality improvement initiative. The goal of the initiative is to standardize assessment and treatment of NAS to reduce the length of hospital stay and ultimately the cost to care for these infants.

6. Medical School Pain and Opioid Curriculum Framework: Dr. Phyllis Hendry, representing the Council of Florida Medical School Deans, presented on a pain and opioid curriculum framework in Florida's medical schools.

The Council of Florida Medical School Deans' Pain Management Task Force began in January 2017 with representation from all 10 medical schools in Florida. They are teaching future physicians how to document the patients' pain, what meds they're on, etc. The clinicians, educators, researchers and administrators take part in literature and agency review (federal and state), resource sharing and analysis of other state curriculum and competencies. The group also shares modules and resources via an online platform sponsored by the University of South Florida. Additionally, the group coordinates with the State Surgeon General, policymakers, the Florida Medical Association and the Florida Osteopathic Medical Association.

7. School Mental Health / SB 7026 Implementation: Erin Sampson with the Department of Education (DOE) and Matt Vargas with DOH presented on school mental health and SB 7026 implementation. The purpose of the Mental Health Assistance Allocation is to provide funding to assist districts in establishing or expanding school-based mental health care. Ninety percent of the allocation must be spent on provisions of mental health services to students with mental health disorders or those who are at high-risk, as well as coordination of services. The annual report on program outcomes and expenditures will begin on September 30, 2019.

District plans were submitted to DOE and reviewed for alignment to the statute by the Student Support Services Consultants from July–August 2018. School District Mental Health Plans are currently posted on the DOE's website under the Office of Safe Schools. Youth Mental Health First Aid (YMHFA) introduces participants to the unique risk factors and warning signs of mental health problems in adolescents, builds understanding of the importance of early intervention and teaches individuals how to help an adolescent in crisis or experiencing a mental health challenge. The course is designed for adults who regularly interact with adolescents (teachers, school staff, coaches, youth group leaders, parents, etc.)

The School Health Services Program—a collaborative program with DOH and DOE at the state level—is mandated by Florida Statute. All 67 counties have a school health program. These programs are supervised locally by county health departments and local school districts and led by registered nurses. The National Association of School Nurses provides additional guidance.

8. Review of draft 2018 DPAC Annual Report

The draft 2018 DPAC Annual Report includes feedback received since the July meeting. Information was added to incorporate changes due to HB 21. Any additional corrections or feedback should be emailed to the Council coordinator. The group reviewed the feedback regarding recommendations provided by DPAC members. Penny Taylor offered a recommendation regarding social and emotional education and skills development which is a process where young people and adults acquire and apply specific knowledge, attitudes and skills. There was a discussion about reinstating the Office of Drug Control to coordinate efforts and put focus on prevention. There was additional discussion on the effectiveness and support of syringe exchange program. Karen Weaver suggested the Council pick three or four recommendations that are doable and one that is harder to achieve rather than 15 recommendations. Other members felt that more recommendations are helpful to the Legislature when considering multiple policy changes.

There was a suggestion to request that the legislature hold a workshop to highlight and review the report. Originally, the advisory council was created to be the advocacy arm for the Office of Drug Control. More recently the advisory council was tasked to do the research, which provides legislators with the scope of the problem and the background evidence.

There was discussion regarding the recommendation to ensure parity across all health plans however the Council decided that no changes were needed in that recommendation at this time. The Council members discussed the need to add information about drug take-back events as well as interdiction information from law enforcement. DCF and DOH will collaborate on clarifying the number of addition medicine specialists and the awareness campaign.

The Council discussed the 2017 recommendation regarding prevention coalitions and some suggested the recommendation could be deleted. However, a revised and updated recommendation will be submitted instead for consideration. There was discussion comparing the differences between tobacco prevention and the campaigns used now against the opioid epidemic. There was a comment that there are coalitions working in various areas of the state, but they need direction to be better organized.

9. Agency and Member Updates:

Andy Benard – Office of the Attorney General

The office is focused on the opioid lawsuit. The members of the Council are invited to consider needs and gaps that might be addressed when this lawsuit is eventually completed. The office is in transition due to the upcoming election. A paper is being written on the opioid topic and it is anticipated that the paper will be available by early January 2019.

Karen Weaver – Department of Law Enforcement

Arrests for illegal possession, sale and trafficking of most opioids have remained stable since 2016. Arrests for fentanyl and fentanyl derivatives in 2018 are on a trajectory to outpace 2017. There have been a couple of new fentanyl derivatives seen in the laboratories. Charges for fentanyl and fentanyl trafficking have continued to increase ever since this was implemented in statute. There is also a substantial rise in cocaine availability. South Florida appears to be the epicenter of trade for Florida, and Columbia is expected to have the highest cocaine supply since 2007. The situation with increased security and tightening up of the southern border will probably impact the flow of cocaine.

There was discussion regarding an article that members received regarding Alprazolam (Xanax) deaths in Maryland. In the Florida Medical Examiners 2016 report, it was the cause of 813 deaths and present in 1,038 deaths. From January–June 2017, it was the cause of 376 deaths and present in 536 deaths.

Jeff Cece – Department of Children and Families

There was discussion regarding an article on the changing dynamics of the drug overdose epidemic in the U.S. from 1979 to 2016; it is characterized by exponential growth. Mortality data animates a lot of policy making responses. Mortality rates have increased exponentially over the past 40 years. Prevention and treatment services are dramatically underfunded. Law enforcement partners were encouraged to take a close look at the intervention evidence. It was suggested this be a topic of conversation for 2019 to find ways to leverage resources to make a larger impact.

Under the SOR grant, DCF is working to link those discharged from the hospital with a community-based provider and ensure every county has a buprenorphine prescriber. DCF is looking at monitoring and improving retention in care. They are also, looking at motivational techniques and building the peer support capacity component.

Patrick Mahoney – Department of Corrections

They are preparing for transition. Much of what is referred to as K2 in prisons is not actually K2. There is evidence that inmates are spraying roach spray on items and smoking it. Prisons do not have the resources to watch like they need to and prisons could also have better programming with more staff. There is a high level of turnover at FDC. Another concern is health care for the incarcerated population due to funding. Wakulla CI now has a mental health program and FDC is identifying another institution to provide mental health care.

Dr. Tracy Shelby – Department of Juvenile Justice

No update.

Penny Taylor – Department of Education

Health education is required, but there is not a course requirement. Only a handful of districts implement comprehensive health education with certified health educators. Capacity is an issue. The Office of Healthy Schools is working on a tutorial to help teachers get prepared and certified. A slide was presented on Social and Emotional Learning (SEL). DOE will launch the first part of the SEL initiative at the Mental Health Team Convening in December.

Lieutenant Jason Britt – Florida Highway Patrol

TruNarc Narcotic Analyzers are deployed from the Panhandle to Miami, and there have been amazing results on identifying fentanyl. This is a good tool to use in the interdiction process. They are constantly looking for new ways to increase interdiction efforts. FHP was awarded 2,000 Narcan kits by the HEROS program through DOH to treat anyone who has an opioid overdose.

Captain Jerrod Boswell – Florida National Guard

The counter drug program is focused on a prevention piece that is ramping up. Last year they were able to reach more than 15,000 students and they are using the night vision program in schools. The National Guard also has interdiction radar and criminal analytic capabilities.

Jason Holloway for Senator Darryl Rouson

Senator Rouson has been touring the state to talk to managing entities, providers, patients and peer specialists, and has been everywhere but the northwest, where he will be able to see how the state deals with treatment services during disasters because of the hurricane. He is planning to work on opioid legislation this session and hoping to be able to use some things from the DPAC report. On the top of his list is to refile the bill to reinstate the Office of Drug Control. He did file the insurance coverage parity for mental health and substance abuse disorders last session and is looking to potentially do that again. They have an OPPAGA report looking at the economic and financial implications of the opioid situation, but it is currently on hold.

Brandon Miller for Representative Cary Pigman

No update.

Jill Gran – Florida Alcohol and Drug Abuse Association

Hurricane relief efforts include coordinating with community providers to have local clinicians go to impacted areas. Also, trying to coordinate with Gulf CI, Life Management Center, and CARES to find out how many patients have been contacted who are on Vivitrol, how many have relocated and how their care can be shifted.

They are collaborating with DCF on the STR and SOR funds to augment each other and maximize the funds. They continue working with partners at the national level to identify best practices to reverse the increase in overdoses in Florida. They are working on a plan to implement a stigma reduction campaign for the general public and would like to piggy back on the iHeart campaign. They received a grant from HRSA to develop a plan to address the opioid crisis in rural counties, targeting Madison, Taylor, Dixie, Monroe and Hardee counties.

Peggy Sapp – Informed Families

After Red Ribbon, Lock Your Meds is coming up in January. It would be helpful to have a list of treatment center phone numbers to provide to the public. The White House is bringing back the related media campaign.

Christina Vracar – Agency for Health Care Administration

Several initiatives focused around readiness for their new health plans. They have received questions regarding mobile pharmacies and prescribers. They asked for a waiver because some prescribers were coming with Red Cross. They are hoping the first draft of the opioid dashboard will be completed soon. They are having delays with the data use agreement with Vital Statistics. The health plans they will be covering and services offered will be available on their website soon.

Marsha Lindeman – Department of Health

The quarterly report required under HB 249 summarizing raw overdose data is routing and members should receive a copy in the next couple of weeks. DOH is also working on putting together a request for creating dedicated epidemiology resources to help create a data dashboard. It is important to the State Surgeon General to gather real-time data to present to local responders and leaders in our state who are working hard to develop local, regional and state strategies to address this issue. Early next year, the Council should have more conversation about integration of data dashboards and moving toward a state dashboard.

10. Public Comment / Open Discussion

There was discussion on the advocacy effectiveness of the Council when it was first created compared to now. Sharing ideas and participation was greater, there was a drug summit every year and they would set broad, aggressive agendas and try to meet them.

11. Action Items

Additional information for the report was requested by Monday, October 29. Once all updates are incorporated, a draft will be sent to the members for review. It is due to the Governor on December 1.

12. Next Steps

The next meeting is tentatively scheduled for Tuesday, January 29, 2019.