

# Statewide Drug Policy Advisory Council Meeting Minutes

**October 25, 2023**

**8:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.**

Virtual Meeting via Microsoft Teams:

<http://floridahealth.gov/DPACMeeting>

Or call in (audio only): (850) 792-1375

Phone Conference ID: 878 463 523#

## **Welcome/Introductions**

Melissa Jordan, MS, MPH, Assistant Deputy Secretary for Health with the Florida Department of Health, opened the Statewide Drug Policy Advisory Council (DPAC) meeting. Ms. Jordan thanked all members of DPAC, designated appointees, and other participants for their continued partnership in this critical work. Ms. Jordan asked Shay Holloway, BSN, MBA, to proceed with the roll call.

## **The following members or designees were in attendance:**

Melissa Jordan, MS, MPH, State Surgeon General Designee

Joe Spataro for Ashley Moody (Office of the Attorney General)

John McClellan for Mark Glass (Department of Law Enforcement)

Jeffrey Cece, MS, CPM for Shevaun Harris (Department of Children and Families)

Maggie Agerton for Ricky Dixon (Department of Corrections)

Tracy Shelby for Eric Hall, Ed.D. (Department of Juvenile Justice)

Timothy Hay for Manny Diaz, Jr. (Department of Education)

Captain Derrick Rahming for Dave Kerner (Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles)

Captain Robert P. Bales for Major General John D. Haas (Department of Military Affairs)

Doug Simon (Governor's Office of Policy and Budget)

Sheriff Peyton Grinnell (Governor Appointee: Drug Enforcement, Lake County Sheriff's Office)

Peggy Sapp (Governor Appointee: Substance Abuse Prevention, Informed Families)

Melanie Brown-Woofter (Governor Appointee: Substance Abuse Treatment, Florida Behavioral Health Association)

Colonel Christopher Rule for Sheriff Chad Chronister (Governor Appointee: Expertise in Drug Enforcement and Substance Abuse Programs and Services, Hillsborough County Sheriff's Office)

Sheriff Chris Nocco (Governor Appointee: Expertise in Drug Enforcement and Substance Abuse Services, Pasco Sheriff's Office)

Nicholas Carper for Representative Spencer Roach (Florida House of Representatives)

Judge Steve Leifman (11<sup>th</sup> Judicial Circuit Court of Florida)

## **Guests and Staff:**

Deborah Babin (Guest)

Amanda Bonham-Lovett (Guest)

Kimberly Boykin (Guest)

Nancy Castillo (Guest)

Betsie J. Cieslak (Florida Department of Children and Families)

Anita Cocoves (Guest)

Jon Conley (Florida Department of Health)

Maggie Dilger (Florida Department of Health)

Mike Duffey (Florida Department of Law Enforcement)

Christina During (Florida Department of Health)

Robert Eads (FLNG)

Jesseka Forbes, PharmD (Agency for Health Care Administration)

Lissa Franklin (Guest)  
Aaron Gerson (11<sup>th</sup> Judicial Circuit Court of Florida)  
Shay Holloway, BSN, MBA (Florida Department of Health)  
Nathan Hipps (Guest)  
Rob Jacobson (Guest)  
Jennifer Johnson (Florida Behavioral Health Association)  
Maureen Kielian (SERFA)  
Beth Labasky (Informed Families)  
Robert Labaut (Guest)  
Diane R. Leach (Emergent BioSciences)  
Melissa Leslie (Florida Department of Children and Families)  
Ramon Maury (Informed Families)  
Heidi Matheny (Guest)  
Miranda Matthews (Guest)  
Shelby Meaders (Guest)  
Meg Murphy (FLHRC)  
Alexa Mutchler (Guest)  
Nekesha Nash (Florida Department of Children and Families)  
Megan Neel (Florida Department of Law Enforcement)  
Elizabeth Nettles (Guest)  
Casey Omeke (Florida Department of Health)  
Dan Renaud (Florida Recovery Schools/Centro de la Esperanza)  
Danielle Rice (FLHRC)  
Kathleen Roberts (Guest)  
Daniel Rocha (Florida Department of Health)  
Melissa Salazar Cason (Rebel Recovery Jacksonville)  
Vanessa Salmo (Guest)  
Tim Santamour (Florida Harm Reduction Collective)  
Dr. Marc Schlosser (Guest)  
Melissa Schuster (Guest)  
Parnia Roghani Shareef  
Anna Simmons (Florida Department of Health)  
Guillermo Tremols (Florida Harm Reduction Collective)  
Amy Vanness (Florida Department of Corrections)  
Stuart Waldo (Florida Department of Health)  
Frank Whiting (Guest)  
Jennifer Williams (Florida Department of Children and Families)

### **Opening Remarks**

Melissa Jordan, MS, MPH, Assistant Deputy Secretary for Health with the Florida Department of Health, provided an overview of the meeting agenda and the presentations to follow.

Red Ribbon Week is October 23-31, 2023. The campaign symbolizes a commitment to raising awareness about the consequences of drug abuse. Also in October is National Prescription Drug Take-Back Day (October 28). This event aims to provide a safe, convenient, and responsible means of disposing of prescription drugs, while also educating the public about the potential for abuse of medications.

Ms. Jordan spoke about the Overdose Data to Action (OD2A) Grant which assists local communities in the fight against all-drug overdose and opioid abuse. In August 2023, the Department of Health State Health Office and the Broward, Duval, and Palm Beach County health departments completed the first iteration of the OD2A grant from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. This four-year grant provided \$58.8 million for

surveillance strategies to improve the collection and timely dissemination of actionable overdose data and prevention tactics implemented at the local level that are informed by more timely data streams.

During year four of the grant, the State Health Office maintained allocations of \$2.2 million in mini-grants to 14 counties, as well as allocated \$1.2 million to six additional counties to assist local communities experiencing high impacts from the overdose epidemic. All 20 counties received funding to accomplish core surveillance and prevention activities of OD2A. Activities included: support for awareness campaigns to highlight the risks of substance use disorder and enhancements to surveillance systems and data collection efforts to assist with monitoring overdose trends, understanding which populations are most at risk to prioritize resources, and evaluating ways to distribute resources.

Five counties also received continuous funding to implement evidence-based curriculums in public schools (Brevard, Manatee, Nassau, Pasco, and Sarasota) and efforts increased to three counties receiving funding to support community paramedicine projects to improve patient follow-up among individuals most at risk of overdosing: Clay, Marion, and now Escambia. The State Health Office and Broward, Duval, and Palm Beach County health departments were awarded funding for the new iteration of the CDC grant, OD2A-States and OD2A-LOCAL in September 2023.

This new iteration, initially funded for \$5.8 million (and expected to continue for 5 years) has a greater focus on surveillance, allowing for continued evidenced-based prevention efforts at the local levels throughout Florida.

## **Business**

### **1. Review and Approval of Meeting Minutes from August 24, 2023:**

- a. A motion was entered to approve the meeting minutes. Motion carried, all in favor. Minutes were approved with no opposition.

### **2. Presentations:**

- a. **SHIP Mental Well-being and Substance Abuse Prevention PAW** – Jennifer Johnson, MPH, Senior Director of Public Policy, The Florida Behavioral Health Association

Ms. Johnson provided an overview and status of Year 1 of the Florida State Health Improvement Plan (SHIP) Mental Well-being and Substance Abuse Prevention Priority Area Workgroup (PAW). The goal of the Mental Well-being and Substance Abuse Prevention PAW is to reduce substance use disorders and drug overdose deaths. Objectives include: Reducing inhaled nicotine prevalence in youth; Reducing inhaled nicotine prevalence in adults; Increasing the percentage of pregnant women who have been screened and/or received brief intervention for alcohol and/or substance abuse; Reducing the rate of deaths caused by opioid overdose; Increasing the number of substance use data systems that integrate data from multiple stakeholder agencies; Increasing the number of formal addiction stabilization centers statewide (CORe).

- b. **Dangers of Social Media Use in Promoting Access to Illicit Drugs** – Mike Duffey, Assistant Special Agent in Charge, Florida Department of Law Enforcement

Mr. Duffey explained the increasing and ever-changing challenges facing law enforcement and families as people are more connected with social media apps and advancing technology. An overview was provided regarding how device location services enable drug dealers to connect with people in their area. Mr. Duffey also explained the use of vanishing messages, emoji drug codes, and hashtags to help drug purchasers hide transactions from parental guidance. Mr. Duffey encouraged attendees to know family members' device passcodes and to research parental control applications to provide an extra layer of protection for their children.

### 3. 2023 Annual Report Discussion:

Melissa Jordan asked DPAC members to consider/evaluate each recommendation from the 2022 Annual Report to finalize the 2023 Annual Report.

- a. **Recommendation 1:** After discussion with the council, it was decided to update Recommendation 1 for the 2023 Annual Report. Jennifer Johnson with the Florida Behavioral Health Association will provide an update in writing to the Department.
- b. **Recommendation 2:** After discussion with the council, Recommendation 2 will be combined with Recommendation 1. Jennifer Johnson with the Florida Behavioral Health Association will provide an update in writing to the Department.
- c. **Recommendation 3:** After discussion with the council, it was decided to keep Recommendation 3 as is for the 2023 Annual Report.
- d. **Recommendation 4:** After discussion with the council, it was decided to keep Recommendation 4 as is for the 2023 Annual Report.
- e. **Recommendation 5:** After discussion with the council, it was decided to remove Recommendation 5 from the 2023 Annual Report. Future discussion on stigma reduction campaigns is needed.
- f. **Recommendation 6:** After discussion with the council, it was decided that much has been accomplished with partnerships with pharmacies to educate consumers on safe medication storage and disposal procedures when filing prescriptions for controlled substances, and Recommendation 6 should be removed from the 2023 Annual Report.
- g. **Recommendation 7:** After discussion with the council, it was decided Recommendation 7 has been completed and should be removed from the 2023 Annual Report. A future presentation from the Florida Department of Health regarding compliance and oversight of medical marijuana was requested.
- h. **Recommendation 8:** After discussion with the council, it was decided Recommendation 8 has made some advancements but will remain in the 2023 Annual Report. Doug Simon with the Governor's Office of Policy and Budget will provide a written update.
- i. **Recommendation 9:** After discussion with the council, it was decided Recommendation 9 will remain in the 2023 Annual Report. Jeffrey Cece with the Florida Department of Children and Families will provide a written update.
- j. **Recommendation 10:** After discussion with the council, it was decided Recommendation 10 will remain in the 2023 Annual Report. Jennifer Johnson with the Florida Behavioral Health Association will provide a written update.
- k. **Recommendation 11:** After discussion with the council, it was decided Recommendation 11 will remain in the 2023 Annual Report. Jennifer Johnson with the Florida Behavioral Health Association will provide a written update.
- l. **Recommendation 12:** After discussion with the council, it was decided Recommendation 12 will be removed from the 2023 Annual Report since much has been accomplished with MAT. Dr. Jesseka Forbes with the Florida Agency for Health Care Administration will provide a written update on AHCA's work on this subject.

- m. **Recommendation 13:** After discussion with the council, it was decided to keep Recommendation 13 as is for the 2023 Annual Report.
- n. **Recommendation 14:** After discussion with the council, it was decided Recommendation 14 will remain in the 2023 Annual Report. Jeffrey Cece with the Florida Department of Children and Families will provide a written update.
- o. **Recommendation 15:** After discussion with the council, it was decided Recommendation 15 has been completed and should be removed from the 2023 Annual Report.
- p. **Recommendation 16:** After discussion with the council, it was decided Recommendation 16 will remain in the 2023 Annual Report. Jeffrey Cece with the Florida Department of Children and Families will provide a written update.

#### 4. Agency and Member Updates:

##### **Joe Spataro, Office of the Attorney General**

The Office of the Attorney General had no additional updates for DPAC.

##### **John McClellan, Florida Department of Law Enforcement**

The Florida Department of Law Enforcement updated the DPAC that the State Assistance for Fentanyl Eradication (S.A.F.E.) in Florida program is up and running.

##### **Jeffrey Cece, Department of Children and Families**

The Department of Children and Families will provide written updates to council staff.

##### **Maggie Agerton, Department of Corrections**

The Florida Department of Corrections had no additional updates for DPAC.

##### **Tracy Shelby, Department of Juvenile Justice**

The Department of Juvenile Justice had no additional updates for DPAC.

##### **Timothy Hay, Department of Education**

The Department of Education had no additional updates for DPAC.

##### **Captain Derrick Rahming, Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles**

The Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles provided an update on Operation Safe Highways. A recent operation in Indian River, St Lucie, and Martin counties resulted in 80 misdemeanor charges, 84 felony charges, four fugitive warrants, 23 drug charges, and five firearm charges. 16.2 grams of fentanyl (over eight thousand lethal doses), 346.36 grams of cocaine, 582.4 grams of methamphetamine, 595.3 grams of marijuana, and five guns were seized (total assets seized = \$166,629.54).

##### **Captain Robert P. Bales, Department of Military Affairs**

The Florida Department of Military Affairs had no additional updates for DPAC.

##### **Melanie Brown-Woofter, Florida Behavioral Health Association**

The Florida Behavioral Health Association had no additional updates for DPAC.

##### **Doug Simon, Governor's Office of Policy and Budget**

The Governor's Office of Policy and Budget had no additional updates for DPAC.

##### **Sheriff Peyton Grinnell, Lake County Sheriff's Office**

Lake County Sheriff's Office had no additional updates for DPAC.

**Rabbi Meir Kessler, Jewish Recovery Center and Caron Renaissance**

The Jewish Recovery Center and Caron Renaissance had no additional updates for DPAC.

**Dean Inserra, City Church Tallahassee**

City Church Tallahassee had no additional updates for DPAC.

**Sheriff Chad Chronister, Hillsborough County Sheriff's Office**

Hillsborough County Sheriff's Office had no additional updates for DPAC.

**Sheriff Chris Nocco, Pasco Sheriff's Office**

Pasco Sheriff's Office had no additional updates for DPAC. Sheriff Nocco asked the council if any state universities are conducting research to identify receptors that cause pain and how to better treat people who could be predisposed to drug abuse with alternate care options.

**Nicholas Carper, The Florida Senate**

The Florida Senate had no additional updates for DPAC.

**Aaron Gerson, 11<sup>th</sup> Judicial Circuit Court of Florida**

The 11<sup>th</sup> Judicial Circuit Court of Florida had no additional updates for DPAC.

**Jesseka Forbes, Agency for Health Care Administrative**

The Agency for Health Care Administration had no additional updates for DPAC.

**Peggy Sapp, Informed Families**

Informed Families presented a video and overview of the Red Ribbon Campaign running October 23–31, 2023.

**5. Public Comments/Open Discussion:**

Tim Santamour requested the council make the recommendation to expand access to syringe services programs in Florida and for the allowance of state, municipal, and county funds to be used for such programs.

Maureen Kielian mentioned the need for changes in background checks for employment, having OIR and people with lived experiences appointed to the council, additional discussion regarding the dangers of accidental overdoses within the senior population, and more focus on addiction and mental health treatment.

Dan Renaud, founder and executive director of Florida Recovery Schools, would like to hear more about adolescent substance use in future meetings and voiced concern regarding the concentration levels in Delta 8 and Delta 9 products as they are legally available and easily accessible to children. He mentioned an article from the FDA and the CDC showing delivery items for those products which look like school supplies and candy dispensers. Mr. Renaud also noted his opposition to medical marijuana cards being prescribed to teenagers.

Shelby Meaders recommended adding seats to the DPAC to include research institutions and colleges, the recovery community, and harm reduction organizations.

**6. Adjournment:**

For closing items, Ms. Jordan reminded DPAC members that the DPAC operates in the Sunshine Law and members should not discuss DPAC business with other members outside of meetings.

The date for the next DPAC meeting is planned for January 2023. Additional details and a confirmed date will be shared when it is available.

A motion was entered to adjourn. The motion was carried with no opposition. The meeting was adjourned at 10:47 a.m.