

Statewide Drug Policy Advisory Council Meeting Minutes

January 25, 2022
8:30a.m. – 12:30p.m.

Microsoft Teams Meeting

<http://floridahealth.gov/DPACMeeting>

Dial-in Number: 850-792-1375

Phone Conference ID: 337 146 561#

Welcome/Introductions

Melissa Jordan, MS, MPH, State Surgeon General Designee, opened the Statewide Drug Policy Advisory Council (Council) meeting. Melissa thanked all members of the Council, designated appointees, and other participants for their continued partnership in this critical work. Melissa asked that Lori Reeves, MPH, Staff Liaison, proceed with roll call.

The following members or designees were in attendance:

Melissa Jordan, MS, MPH, State Surgeon General Designee
Maggie Agerton for Ricky Dixon (Department of Corrections)
Joy Bennink for Eric Hall, Ed.D. (Department of Juvenile Justice)
Lt. Jason Britt for COL Gene Spaulding (Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles)
Jeffery Cece, MS, CPM for Shevaun Harris (Department of Children and Families)
Major Nathan Dinger for COL John Steele (Department of Military Affairs)
Timothy Hay for Richard Corcoran (Department of Education)
Robert Heere for Senator Darryl Rouson (Florida Senate)
Jennifer Johnson for Mark P. Fontaine (Governor Appointee: Substance Abuse Treatment, Florida Behavioral Health Association)
Judge Steve Leifman (11th Judicial Circuit Court of Florida)
Shannon MacGillis for Ashley Moody (Office of the Attorney General)
Ramon Maury for Peggy Sapp (Governor Appointee: Substance Abuse Prevention - Informed Families)
John McClellan for Rick Swearingen (Florida Department of Law Enforcement)
Lt. Christopher Proctor for COL Gene Spaulding (Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles)
Doug Simon for Chris Spencer (Governor's Office of Policy and Budget)
Anastasia Tyson for Representative Spencer Roach (Florida House of Representatives)
John Van Delinder, PhD (Governor Appointee: Faith-Based Substance Abuse Treatment – Sunshine State Association of Christian Schools)

Guests and Staff:

Magistrate Alvan Balent, Jr. (11th Judicial Circuit Court of Florida)
Dolores Alvarez-Rivero, Member of the Public
Barbara Beard, Member of the Public
Brittany Blasko (Department of Health)
Kerri Bryan (Department of Health)
Melanie Castro (Department of Children and Families)
Christopher Cogle, MD (Agency for Health Care Administration)
Mark Daniels, Jr., Member of the Public
Phil DeVeronica, Member of the Public
Arienne Diaz (Department of Children and Families)
Jaime Diaz, Member of the Public

Yamile Diaz (Department of Children and Families)
Maureen Dunleavy (Guidance Care Center, Inc.)
Kelli Ferrell, RPh, PhD (Department of Health)
Mark Fontaine (Florida Behavioral Health Association)
Jesseka Forbes (Agency for Health Care Administration)
Aaron Gerson (Office of the State Courts Administrator)
Samantha Goldfarb, DrPH, MPH (Florida State University)
Sean Goldfarb, JD (Florida State University)
Joanna Greene (Martin County Human Services)
Diane Harris, CPM (Department of Children and Families)
Tanya Humphery (Department of Children and Families)
Aida Izquierdo (Mount Sinai Medical Center)
Natalie Kenton, MBA (Department of Health)
Gary Landry (Department of Health)
Aimee Diaz Lyon, JD, Member of the Public
Gustavo Mansilla, Member of the Public
Jennifer Marshall, PhD, CPH (University of South Florida)
Lourdes Mata, Member of the Public
Michelle Miller (Martin County Human Services)
Laura Naredo (Thriving Mind South Florida)
John Newcomer (Thriving Mind South Florida)
Anne Posey, Member of the Public
Lori Reeves, MPH, Staff Liaison (Department of Health)
Keshia Reid, PhD (Department of Health)
Matthew Ryan, Member of the Public
Diane Sasser, Member of the Public
Tracy Shelby, PhD (Department of Juvenile Justice)
Cecelia Stalnaker-Cauwenberghs, Member of the Public
Tammy Tucker, Member of the Public

Opening Remarks

Melissa Jordan gave an overview of the meeting agenda, including the presentations that would follow.

Business

1. Review and Approval of Meeting Minutes from October 19, 2021:

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

2. Presentations:

- a. **Improvements and Challenges to Background Screening and Exemption** – Diane Harris, CPM, Chief of Policy and Public Relations, Florida Department of Children and Families
Diane Harris provided an overview of the Florida Department of Children and Families background screening and criminal history check process, who must be screened, and recent changes to screening requirements. Changes to background screening systems are currently being implemented to track all peer specialists more accurately.

- b. **Access to Care in Florida for Pregnant Women with Opioid Use Disorder** – Jennifer Marshall, PhD, CPH, Associate Professor, University of South Florida, College of Public Health
Dr. Marshall presented on activities completed by the University of South Florida as part of a secret shopper exercise to assess the access and quality of care available to pregnant women in Florida with

an opioid use disorder. Activities completed help identify barriers encountered by patients and areas of focus for improvement of care in Florida.

- c. **Overdose Data to Action (OD2A) Palm Beach County Program Update** – Natalie Kenton, MBA, OD2A Project Manager, Florida Department of Health, Palm Beach County
Natalie Kenton provided an update on Palm Beach County's OD2A grant program, which focuses on understanding and tracking the complex and changing nature of the drug overdose epidemic. County specific activities focus on eight strategies outlined by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).
- d. **Baker and Marchman Act Update** – Honorable Alvan Balent, Jr., General Magistrate, 11th Judicial Circuit Court of Florida
Magistrate Balent presented on the current efforts to reform and modernize the Baker and Marchman Acts in Florida. Magistrate Balent reviewed House and Senate bills that will update and strengthen current processes and best practices.

3. Agency and Member Updates:

Doug Simon, Governor's Office of Policy and Budget

Doug Simon, Director of the Office of Drug Control, is the new designee for the Office of Policy and Budget with the Executive Office of the Governor. Doug Simon was previously with the Department of Transportation, and the Office of Drug Control Policy at the national level. Doug Simon's appointment will constitute completion of the Council's Recommendation #1.

Shannon MacGillis, Office of the Attorney General

The Office of the Attorney General had no update for the Council.

John McClellan, Florida Department of Law Enforcement

The Florida Department of Law Enforcement (FDLE) received a public safety bulletin from the Connecticut Overdose Response Strategy (CT-ORS) reporting an emerging trend in reference to marijuana being laced with fentanyl and Delta-9-Tetrahydrocannabinol (THC). The CT-ORS and the Connecticut Department of Public Health, Office of Emergency Medical Services received reports of overdose patients who exhibited opioid overdose symptoms and required naloxone for revival. These patients denied any opioid use and claimed to have only smoked marijuana.

As of the morning of the meeting, the only case reported to the FDLE crime lab was in 2018, which was a spoon with residue that tested positive for fentanyl, heroin, and THC.

FDLE is not a first responder agency but special agents have been issued NARCAN® nasal spray to have available to administer if they encounter a known or suspected opioid overdose.

FDLE continues to provide investigative assistance to local, state, and federal law enforcement partners to combat the threat, trafficking, and use of illegal drugs.

Timothy Hay, Florida Department of Education

The Florida Department of Education (DOE) in collaboration with First Lady Casey DeSantis launched the *The Facts. Your Future.* curriculum on January 14, 2022. This is a free substance abuse curriculum for schools in the form of a school assemblies toolkit. The toolkit contains fact sheets, conversation maps, and a school assembly template to guide schools in hosting their own events. The program provides schools with free content to engage students in interactive, hands-on elements that can be incorporated throughout the school year. The goal of the toolkit is to improve the understanding of the life-altering effects of drug abuse and empower teens to reach their full potential.

DOE has expanded the Hope Ambassadors program. The Hope Ambassadors Clubs have expanded to 100 peer-to-peer student mentorship clubs across 39 school districts. Advocating for Florida families and students, Governor and First Lady DeSantis launched the program in December 2019. The clubs have fostered kindness and compassion in school environments, promoting healthy drug-free lifestyles among students. In the pilot 2020-2021 school year, 25 schools-initiated Hope Ambassadors Clubs, with more than 300 student participants. There are currently 100 middle and high schools commencing Hope Ambassadors Clubs with the goal of creating an atmosphere where students can volunteer, mentor their peers, and help foster kind and compassionate environments. Each participating school received \$500 to develop and launch a Hope Ambassadors Club. Volunteer Florida is now partnering with DOE to oversee the Hope Ambassadors Clubs and will be the main point of contact for additional program information.

DOE remains focused on evidence-based initiatives and investments into mental health, substance abuse deterrence and student support services. DOE thanked state agency partners at the Agency for Health Care Administration, the Department of Children and Families, and the Department of Health for their continued partnership, support, and collaboration.

Jeffrey Cece, Department of Children and Families

The Department of Children and Families (DCF) continues to deploy State Opioid Response (SOR) grant funding to enhance primary prevention efforts, including school and family-based programs, and media campaigns. From September 2018 through November 2021, 118,982 individuals received prevention services. Campaigns were designed to encourage the safe use, storage, and disposal of prescription medications and generated over 45 million media impressions. Between 2016 and 2021, 245 providers enrolled in DCF's overdose prevention program and received 243,253 naloxone kits that were distributed in their communities. The impact of this program has shown 15,031 overdose reversals were self-reported, and that between 2019 and 2021, the overdose prevention program trained 8,153 individuals.

In an effort to combat the housing crisis and support people in recovery, DCF partnered with Oxford House in 2018, and to date, 78 houses have been established statewide. Oxford Houses are democratically run, self-supporting and drug-free housing for individuals in recovery from substance use disorders.

DCF continues to expand access to medication-assisted treatment for opioid use disorders and to date 26,714 individuals have received treatment and recovery support services, including 11,725 individuals who received buprenorphine products, 6,895 who received methadone, and 2,223 who received long-acting injectable naltrexone.

Hospital bridge programs aim to use the time spent in the hospital to engage individuals in treatment and, if possible, immediately begin buprenorphine induction, and provide access to maintenance treatment and recovery support services. The goal of hospital bridge programs is to keep the individual from experiencing withdrawal symptoms upon release. Where available, these programs use peer specialists to assist with engagement; provide linkage to maintenance providers and other community support resources; and provide peer support until individuals are linked with community-based care. There are 38 hospitals participating in the hospital bridge program statewide. From July 2018 through November 2021, approximately 1,550 individuals were inducted with buprenorphine in the emergency department /hospital prior to discharge and 10,289 individuals were linked to treatment providers.

Maggie Agerton, Department of Corrections

Ricky D. Dixon was appointed Secretary of the Florida Department of Corrections upon Secretary Mark Inch's retirement from the agency in December 2021. Secretary Dixon plans to attend the April 19, 2022, Council meeting to connect and communicate support of the Council.

Joy Bennink, Department of Juvenile Justice

The Department of Juvenile Justice (DJJ) has a newly appointed Secretary, Dr. Eric Hall, previously with the Department of Education.

DJJ has a current budget request for the legislature that would allow for enhancement of the electronic medical records system.

Lt. Jason Britt, Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles

Lt. Jason Britt has been promoted to Captain and will relinquish Council representation to Lt. Christopher Porter.

The Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles continues to monitor all drug-related and trafficking cases, with special attention to cases involving fentanyl.

Major Nathan Dinger, Department of Military Affairs

The Florida National Guard Counterdrug Program continues to assist local, state, and federal law enforcement agencies while also providing substance use prevention support to community anti-drug coalitions. The Counterdrug Program develops strategies by identifying Florida's greatest drug threats by referencing the 2020 National Drug Control Strategy and the Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense Counternarcotics and Global Threats report. The Drug Demand Reduction Outreach program recently met two National Drug Control Strategy goals by assisting the Drug Enforcement Administration in the collection of 14,327 pounds of old or expired drugs, and by presenting the Night Vision substance use prevention program to 4,037 Florida school students. The Florida National Guard Counterdrug Program is available to partner with Council members and agencies by reaching out to Major Nathan Dinger at (904) 823-0437 or nathan.j.dinger.mil@army.mil.

Robert Heere for Senator Darryl Rouson (Florida Senate)

Senator Darryl Rouson was in day 15 of the legislative session as of the morning of the meeting. Senator Rouson continues to monitor the progress of Senate Bill 282 and House Bill 795 on the topic of peer specialists as a priority for the Council. In addition, Senate Bill 1262 in regard to the Baker and Marchman Acts is moving through the process.

Gary Landry for Florida Department of Health (Office of Legislative Planning)

Gary Landry provided an overview of drug-related overdose bills that may impact the Council. Senate Bill 544 and companion House Bill 731 continue moving through the process with one more stop in each chamber before they go to the floor. Senate Bill 292 was approved last week but the companion House Bill 1073 on the topic of newborn screening has stalled. Senate Bill 282 on mental health and substance use disorder passed unanimously before the Senate Appropriations Committee.

Anastasia Tyson for Representative Spencer Roach (Florida House of Representatives)

Representative Spencer Roach's office had no updates for the Council.

Judge Steve Leifman, 11th Judicial Circuit Court of Florida

Judge Steve Leifman updated that efforts continue with the problem-solving court steering committee and the committee continues to meet monthly to finalize standards for best practices when individuals enter courts with drug-related issues. The committee's goal is to ensure that individuals are getting the best treatment possible for the best possible outcomes.

Jennifer Johnson, Florida Behavioral Health Association

Jennifer Johnson, on behalf of the Florida Behavioral Health Association, has been supporting the initiation of the State Health Improvement Plan (SHIP). The SHIP steering committee is currently

developing a new five-year plan that will connect with all Council members. The goal of the SHIP is to ensure that state efforts are in concert with each other to address gaps.

The specific priority area of interest for the Council will be mental well-being and substance abuse prevention topics. This priority area's goals are to reduce the impact of mental and behavioral health disorders and to reduce substance use disorders and drug overdose deaths.

Ramon Maury, Informed Families

Informed Families is in the 40th year of school district partnerships on drug and alcohol prevention. Informed Families is currently initiating a "lock your meds" campaign in collaboration with Publix; 835 Publix locations will participate and distribute lock your medications kits to walk-in community members.

John Van Delinder, Sunshine State Association of Christian Schools

The Sunshine State Association of Christian Schools had no updates for the Council.

Jessika Forbes, Agency for Health Care Administration

The Agency for Health Care Administration has added a naloxone nasal spray product, Kloxxado, to the Florida Medicaid Preferred Drug List. Kloxxado can be prescribed to anyone on Medicaid.

Melissa Jordan reminded the Council that the enhanced Florida Substance Use Dashboard is live and available to all stakeholders. Lori Reeves will share the link to the new site by email.

4. Public Comments/Open Discussion:

No public comments received. The remaining Council meetings for 2022 will be held on April 19, July 19, and October 11, 2022.

5. Adjournment:

Motion was entered to adjourn. Motion carried with no opposition. Meeting was adjourned at 12:00 p.m.

Additional Department of Health Staff, Guests and Information Technology (IT) Support in Attendance:

Avalon Adams-Thames, DrPH, MPH (Department of Health)

Mohammad Alak, MPH (Department of Health)

Paige Alitz (Department of Health)

Runa Badal (Department of Health)

Brandie Bockwoldt (Department of Health)

Laura Carson (Department of Health)

Lian Chan (Department of Health)

Marianne Dean (Department of Health)

Steven Diaz (Department of Health)

Reem El-ankar (Department of Health)

Amanda Elmore (Department of Health)

Saarah Eoonous (Department of Health)

Amanda Evans (Department of Health)

Angilique Falcon (Department of Health)

Carol Ferranti (Department of Health)

Leticia Furlani-Bodanese (Department of Health)

Suzanne Hafiz (Department of Health)

Xiance Holas (Department of Health)

Heather Huffman (Department of Health)

Lucas Idone (Department of Health)

Audrie Kaminsky (Department of Health)
Adrian Kinkead, MPH (Department of Health)
Heather Lake-Burger, MS, MPH, CHES (Department of Health)
JoAnne Lamb (Department of Health)
Candy Leckey (Department of Health)
Joseph Lowry (Department of Health)
Kimla Mclaughlin (Department of Health)
Mark Pagnotto, MPH, CPH (Department of Health)
Ellis Perez (Department of Health)
Rebecca Poston, BPharm, MHL, FCCM (Department of Health)
Jianca Reid, MPH, CPH (Department of Health)
Nicole Reid (Department of Health)
Toni Roach (Department of Health)
Daniel Rocha (Department of Health)
Parnia Roghani, MPH (Department of Health)
Jennifer Roth (Department of Health)
Vanessa Salmo, MPH (Department of Health)
Nalinie Samlal (Department of Health)
Michelle Slawinski, MPH, CPH (Department of Health)
Alexandria Stevenson (Department of Health)
Hanna Vanderheyden (Department of Health)
Stuart Waldo (Department of Health)
Lauren Whiteman (Department of Health)
Kristina Wilson (Department of Health)