

Statewide Drug Policy Advisory Council (DPAC)

Meeting Minutes

June 3, 2014

3:00 pm – 5:00 pm

4025 Esplanade Way, Room 301

Tallahassee, Florida 32399

Members Present: Dr. John Armstrong, Department of Health (DOH), Mark Fontaine (Governor Appointee)

Member Designees Present: Matthew Dunagan (Attorney General), Jeff Cece (Department of Children and Families), Leisha Fordham (Florida Department of Law Enforcement) Marcus Smith (Department of Juvenile Justice), Aaron Gerson (Supreme Court), Annette Delifus (Department of Corrections), David Brierton (Florida Highway Patrol), Angelia Rivers (Department of Education)

Others Present: Betsy Wood, Department of Health (DOH); Shannon Hughes DOH; Marco Paredes DOH; Alysson Bradley DOH; Tom Joos, DOH; Meredith Hennon, DOH; Kelly Corredor, Skeeterhawk Project; Alyse Johnson, Department of Children and Families; Jill Gran, Florida Alcohol Abuse Association; Gregory Yevtich, Florida Department of Law Enforcement; Brian Bautista, SSG; Mercer Ferrington, SSG; Hansel Tookes III M.D., Florida Medical Association (FMA); Michelle Jacquis, FMA; Danielle Sawyer, ROG; Caitlin Buryel, ROG; Kevin Bist, (DOH)

Attendance by Dial-in Conference Call Line: Judge Melanie May (Supreme Court Appointee), Colonel William Beiswenger (Florida National Guard), Ashley Apthorp (Office of Planning and Budget)

Welcome, Introductions, Meeting Minutes – Dr. John Armstrong, DOH:

Meeting called to order at 3:05 p.m. by Dr. Armstrong.

Self-introductions were made by members, designees, and others in attendance. The March 3, 2014 meeting minutes were adopted as written.

Needle Exchange Legislation- A presentation was given by Dr. Hansel Tookes, III M.D. on behalf of the Florida Medical Association on the Miami-Dade Infectious Disease Elimination Act. He reported on a proposed Syringe Exchange Pilot Program in Miami, and the history of Senate Bill 408 and House Bill 491.

Disposition: The mission of the Drug Policy Advisory Council is to formulate and promote policies rather than specific legislation to the Governor and Legislature. It was suggested that a policy statement on syringe exchange programs be rolled into the Good Governance in Drug Policy paper.

Public Records and Government in the Sunshine Training- Alysson Bradley from the Office of General Counsel of the Department of Health provided a recorded training on the topic of Public Records and Government in the Sunshine.

Disposition: Dr. Armstrong expressed his appreciation to Ms. Bradley for the opportunity for the DPAC to view the training, and he stressed that if members had any questions regarding activities related to the work of DPAC, they should contact the Office of General Counsel before engaging in those activities.

Neonatal Abstinence Syndrome- Dr. Armstrong suggested that DPAC take up the 15 policy recommendations of the Statewide Task Force on Prescription Drug Abuse and Newborns and fold them into the Good Governance in Drug Policy document. The Surgeon General presented the idea to the members of DPAC for discussion. Mark Fontaine noted that the Florida Legislature has increased funding for initiating treatment for pregnant and post-partum mothers to \$10 million in recurring dollars.

Disposition: The Department of Health has created a rule that will add Neonatal Abstinence Syndrome to the list of reportable conditions to the Department, effective June 4, 2014. Current guidelines will be updated on the specific definitions and will be distributed to health worker officials, hospitals and health care sites. The Department is also implementing further review of any available databases to gain a better sense of the magnitude of the problem of neonatal abstinence syndrome in the state. Moving forward, there will be a standard template for reporting to keep abreast of all the recommendations from the database report.

Sober Homes- Matt Dunagan provided a one-page proposal for a Sober Homes Work Group. Sober Homes are “recovery residences” that are a residential dwelling unit, or other form of group housing, that provides a peer-supported, alcohol-free, and drug-free living environment. A mission statement, objectives and list of work-group participants was provided by Mr. Dunagan.

Disposition: Dr. Armstrong suggested folding the Sober Homes topic into the roadmap of the Good Governance in Drug Policy document in order to facilitate who should participate in the work group. Mark Fontaine requested expediency since the issue is considered a “hot topic,” especially in South Florida. Dr. Armstrong agreed on charting an aggressive course of action and timeline.

Good Governance in Drug Policy- Per the request of the DPAC members, a draft paper was created on the topic of Good Governance in Drug Policy incorporating input from the members of the Council. A copy was presented to them for discussion. The paper will be foundational on how DPAC will approach a myriad of issues. Dr. Armstrong invited comment from the group on how to strengthen the document to make sure all the relevant policies are identified, including but not limited to, supply and demand for drugs, prevention, treatment of addiction, and recovery. Discussion centered around a variety of topics that could be addressed including data on Naloxone (Narcan), additional information on Hawaii’s Opportunity Probation with Enforcement (HOPE) and Alaska’s Probation Accountability and Certain Enforcement (PACE) programs, the related time constraints on law enforcement and implementation of programs that are geographically specific. Mark Fontaine suggested a statement regarding the ever-

changing landscape of drug introduction and developing a policy to address the supply and demand of new drugs within the Good Governance in Drug Policy document.

Disposition: Determine how the Council can be more innovative in its approaches to addiction and the criminal justice system. Investigate how treatment, interdiction, and recovery can be provided to the individual who needs them in a way that leads to better outcomes in an economically feasible manner. Look at examples of successful programs and include the policies that are workable. The report will be restructured based on the feedback from all members of the group, and from that feedback, workgroups can be created. The paper can be updated at intervals and is a framework for Florida. The goal is to have a final copy of the Good Governance in Drug Policy document by June 30, 2014.

Next Steps:

- The Surgeon General requested that during the next DPAC meeting, the Department of Corrections provide its overview of the effectiveness of drug treatment as an intervention.
- The Surgeon General requested that the members reflect on the Good Governance in Drug Policy document, determine any new data or issues to be included, and share those insights with Kevin Bist. A draft of the paper will be distributed to the council for review prior to the next meeting. Members should be prepared to discuss the paper at that time.
- Fold a member-developed strategy on Zohydro and synthetic drugs into the Good Governance in Drug Policy document.
- A Narcan update will be added to the agenda for the next DPAC meeting. The update will include information from the Vermont State Police who are currently training their officers in the use of Narcan, and a review of the Quincy, Massachusetts Police Department experience regarding the successful implementation of their Narcan program.
- Provide a breakdown on professional healthcare utilization of the Prescription Drug Monitoring Program (PDMP) by specialty.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:05 p.m.

Next Meeting Date: June 30, 2014