

**Statewide Drug Policy Advisory Council (DPAC)**

**Meeting Minutes**

**December 17, 2014**

**9:00 am – 11:00 am**

**Betty Easley Conference Center, Room 152, 4075 Esplanade Way**

**Tallahassee, Florida 32399**

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

**Member Designees Present:** Andrew Benard (Attorney General), Leisha Fordham (Florida Department of Law Enforcement), Darran Duchene (Department of Corrections), Gayla Sumner (Department of Juvenile Justice), Captain Diana Russo (Florida Highway Patrol)

**Others Present:** Dr. Celeste Philip, Department of Health (DOH), Meredith Hennon (DOH), Jill Gran (Florida Alcohol and Drug Abuse Association), Michelle Jacquis (Florida Medical Association), Gregory Yevtich (Florida Department of Law Enforcement), Brian Bautista (Southern Strategy Group), Jim Smith (Southern Strategy Group), Jennifer Grandal (Office of the State Courts Administrator), Kevin Bist (DOH)

**Member Attendance by Dial-in Conference Call Line:** Judge Melanie May (Supreme Court Appointee)

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**Welcome, Introductions, Meeting Minutes – Dr. John Armstrong, State Surgeon General**

Meeting called to order at 9:08 a.m. by Dr. Armstrong.

Self-introductions were made by members, designees, and others in attendance. The June 30, 2014 meeting minutes were adopted.

**Good Governance in Drug Policy Draft Document-** Dr. Armstrong provided an overview of the draft paper describing it as the product of conversations the committee has had over the course of the year in an attempt to capture the breadth of the evidence-basis for effective drug policy, in terms of supply and demand, treatment and prevention. The intent is to provide the most effective policy recommendations to the Governor and the legislature based on current information. The members briefly reviewed the document and provided their insights and concerns, each from their area of expertise, on the current state of drug policy in Florida.

Disposition: Dr. Armstrong requested each panel member review the draft document over the next several weeks and come prepared to discuss their suggested inclusions at the next DPAC meeting. The draft will be reframed to reflect the requirements of the statute.

**Statutory Authority of DPAC-** Dr. Armstrong reflected on the statutory authority given to the council. Referring to section 397.333, F.S., Statewide Drug Policy Advisory Council, Dr. Armstrong elucidated the many responsibilities DPAC has in recommending policies to combat drug use in the state. The outcomes should reflect a coordinated, integrated, public-private, community-based response to the substance abuse problem in Florida. Dr. Armstrong called for a regular update to the council on the drug environment so that DPAC will be seen as the clearinghouse for interventions that are proven to work across the drug abuse and addiction spectrum. He stressed the importance of public meetings and citizen feedback in developing cogent recommendations; encouraged the council to be prepared for the upcoming legislative session; and mentioned the DPAC is tasked with making recommendations, not executing drug policy. Dr. Armstrong opened the floor to comment from the members of the council.

Disposition: Dr. Armstrong said the council should leverage what is stated in the statute to create a recurring agenda that provides an overarching, evidence-based system for state drug control policy. Leisha Fordham said the Florida Department of Law Enforcement Fusion Center is willing to do a presentation on drug trends at the next meeting. Andy Benard called for the filling of vacancies on the council in order to form policy that is reflective of every area that is intended to be represented on the council.

**Office of Compassionate Use-** An update on the Office of Compassionate Use was provided by Kevin Bist. This included a brief history of the Senate Bill 1030 and the status of its implementation.

Disposition: A public workshop will be held at the Orlando Health Department on December 30<sup>th</sup>, 2014 from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

**Next Steps:**

- Committee members should review the Good Governance in Drug Policy draft, using the statute as guidance. Assess the environment, identify good policies versus policy gaps, and define the databases to be used as metrics. This will assist in developing recommendations that may merit consideration for legislative resources. Over the next four to six weeks members should reflect on the document, make notes, and be prepared to discuss their findings at the next meeting.
- Appointing authorities will be asked about the status of their appointments.
- The Florida Department of Law Enforcement Fusion Center is invited to provide a presentation of drug trends in Florida at the next meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:38 a.m.

**Next Meeting Date:** TBD