

Mission:

To protect, promote & improve the health of all people in Florida through integrated state, county & community efforts.



Ron DeSantis
Governor

Scott A. Rivkees, MD
State Surgeon General

Vision: To be the **Healthiest State** in the Nation

Statewide Drug Policy Advisory Council Meeting Minutes

April 20, 2021
8:30 AM to 12:30 PM

Microsoft Teams Meeting

<http://floridahealth.gov/DPACMeeting>

Dial-in Number: 850-792-1375

Phone Conference ID: 861 461 119#

Due to COVID-19, the Statewide Drug Policy Advisory Council (DPAC) meeting was held virtually via Microsoft Teams. A recording of the meeting can be found at this link:

<https://web.microsoftstream.com/video/b4d0c031-2c74-49c7-bafd-3b46f13764d9>

Welcome/Introductions:

Scott Rivkees, MD, Chair, State Surgeon General, opened the meeting of the Statewide Drug Policy Advisory Council (DPAC). Dr. Rivkees thanked all Council members, designated appointees and other participants for their partnership in this critical work and attention to the important issue of substance abuse and drug policy. Dr. Rivkees asked that Nathan Dunn, MSA, Staff Liaison, proceed with roll call.

The following members or designees were in attendance:

Scott A. Rivkees, MD, Chair, State Surgeon General
Rachel Kamoutsas for Ashley Moody (Office of the Attorney General)
Eric Mountin (U.S. Attorney's Office)
John McClellan for Rick Swearingen (Florida Department of Law Enforcement)
Jeffrey Cece, MS, CPM for Shevaun Harris (Department of Children and Families)
Maggie Agerton for Mark Inch (Department of Corrections)
Tracy Shelby (Department of Juvenile Justice)
Joy Bennink (Department of Juvenile Justice)
Tim Hay for Richard Corcoran (Department of Education)
COL Gene Spaulding for Terry Rhodes (Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles)
MAJ Nathan Dinger for COL John Steele (Department of Military Affairs)
Anastasia Tyson for Representative Spencer Roach (Florida House of Representatives)
Judge Steve Leifman (11th Judicial Circuit Court of Florida)
Mark Fontaine (Florida Behavioral Health Association)
Peggy Sapp (Informed Families)
Dotti Groover-Skipper (HeartDance Foundation, Inc.)
Doug Leonardo (Chrysalis Health)
Roaya Tyson (Gracepoint)

Florida Department of Health

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Guests and Staff:

Nathan Dunn, MSA, Staff Liaison
Lori Reeves (Department of Health)
Avalon Adams-Thames (Department of Health)
Kerri Bryan (Department of Health)
Karen Card, DrPH (Department of Health)
Shay Chapman (Department of Health)
Christopher Cogle, MD (Agency for Health Care Administration)
Wesley Evans (Department of Children and Families)
Kelli Ferrell (Department of Health)
Gangul Gabadage (Department of Health)
Sean Goldfarb (Florida State University)
Jared Jashinsky (Department of Health)
Melissa Jordan (Department of Health)
Alexandria Lloyd (Agency for Health Care Administration)
Andrew Love (Office of Legislative Planning)
Steve McCoy (Department of Health)
JoAnn Steele (Department of Health)
Susan Williams (Agency for Health Care Administration)

Opening Remarks

Nathan Dunn introduced a new member of the DPAC facilitating team, Lori Reeves, MPH, Florida Department of Health Opioid Program Administrator, Maternal/Neonatal Opioid Prevention Coordinator in the Division of Community Health Promotion, Bureau of Family Health Services. Mr. Dunn will be working to transition the facilitation of DPAC to Ms. Reeves in collaboration with the Florida Overdose Date to Action team.

Dr. Rivkees reflected on efforts related to COVID-19 and vaccination updates. Dr. Rivkees stated that as of the morning of the meeting, April 20, 2021, 13 million doses of vaccines had been administered to more than 8 million Floridians. More than 5 million Floridians have completed the vaccination series, and half of all eligible adults in Florida have received the first dose of the vaccine. In addition, 75% of persons age 65+ in Florida are vaccinated. Decreased rates of hospitalization are being seen due to vaccination efforts. Per the Governor's executive order, Florida residents ages 16 and older are now eligible to be vaccinated. There are 1,000+ active vaccination sites across the state. More information is available at floridahealth.gov. There is also a vaccine locator for visitors.

Dr. Rivkees gave an overview of the meeting agenda, including the presentations that would follow.

Business

1. Review and Approval of Meeting Minutes from January 26, 2021:

The meeting minutes were approved.

2. Presentations:

a. Update on Data Dashboard – Nathan Dunn, MSA, Staff Liaison

Development of a dashboard is a DPAC recommendation. Under recommendation number 18 from the 2020 Annual Report it states:

Create a statewide dashboard of substance abuse data measures that are readily available to both policy makers and the public and can be used to monitor trends and identify emerging threats.

The Department of Health worked with the FLHealthCHARTS team to review the existing data database. They reached out to other agencies, i.e. the Department of Children and Families and the Agency for Health Care Administration, to better understand which data points would be most significant to expand the data dashboard for opioid drug use and additional areas of importance.

JoAnn Steele presented the current Opioid Use Dashboard and reviewed the cleaned-up layout. Ms. Steele walked through the dashboard's current indicators and demonstrated that data can be displayed by county or state, and that it dates back to 2015. Florida's dashboard currently offers more measures than many other states.

Ms. Steele previewed a demo of the next release of the Substance Use Dashboard. She highlighted the addition of tabs at the top that focus on Overdose, Prescriptions, Risk Behaviors, Consequences, Pregnancy and Neonatal and Health Services.

Data shown are provisional and subject to change

Overdose Prescriptions Risk Behaviors Consequences Pregnancy and Neonatal Health Services

Print/PDF without Case Definitions Print/PDF with Case Definitions Export to Excel

Fatal and Non-Fatal Overdose - Florida 2020							
Indicator	Measure	Year	Jan-Mar (Provisional)	Apr-Jun (Provisional)	Jul-Sep (Provisional)	Oct-Dec (Provisional)	Year-to-Date (Provisional)
Fatal Overdoses							
Opioid Overdose deaths	Count	2019	993	1,012	1,080	1,209	4,294
Drug Overdose deaths	Count	2019	1,271	1,367	1,388	1,351	5,577
Opioid Overdose Annual Age-Adjusted Death Rate	Per 100,000 persons	2019					21.4
Drug Overdose Annual Age-Adjusted Death Rate	Per 100,000 persons	2019					27.1
Non-Fatal Overdoses							
Suspected Non-fatal Opioid-involved Overdose	Count	2020	4,425	5,540	5,100		15,065
Suspected Non-fatal All Drug Overdose	Count	2020	10,081	11,410	13,638		35,129
All drug non-fatal overdose emergency department visits	Count	2020	11,306	11,554			22,860
Opioid-involved non-fatal overdose emergency department visits	Count	2020	4,992	5,831			10,823
Heroin-involved non-fatal overdose emergency department visits	Count	2020	2,435	2,681			5,116
Stimulant-involved non-fatal overdose emergency department visits	Count	2020	696	633			1,329
All drug non-fatal overdose hospitalizations	Count	2020	7,089	7,089			14,178
Opioid-involved non-fatal overdose hospitalizations	Count	2020	1,940	2,241			4,181
Heroin-involved non-fatal overdose hospitalizations	Count	2020	484	652			1,136
Stimulant-involved non-fatal overdose hospitalizations	Count	2020	1,188	1,228			2,416
Poison Information Network Calls							
Florida Poison Information Network - calls related to opioids	Count	2020	606	543	623	590	2,362

Data Notes:

Ms. Steele presented dashboard examples from other states: www.hawaiiopioid.org, www.michigan.gov/opioids/, and www.tn.gov/health. Florida's dashboard has plenty of space for additional graphical information as seen in the examples from other states.

Questions/Comments:

Dr. Rivkees asked about the source of the data. Multiple sources feed into the current dashboard such as the Electronic Surveillance System for the Early Notification of Community-based Epidemics (ESSENCE), the Overdose Detection Mapping Application Program (ODMAP), the Florida Department of Law Enforcement (FDLE) and the Emergency Medical Services Tracking and Reporting System (EMSTARS). The Case Definitions document is available on the dashboard and lists all sources. Data is loaded as soon as it is received. In most cases, this is on a quarterly basis. The ESSENCE data is near real time for rapid response time.

The new dashboard will allow for a geographic rich perspective and will be able to dive deeper into the demographics of the at-risk populations. It will also assist in driving local responses.

Mark Fontaine questioned how an overdose death is counted if there are multiple drugs in the patient's system (i.e., How do we determine the main cause of death?). Mr. Dunn indicated that more information may be coming on this later in the meeting.

Mark Fontaine, Dottie Groover-Skipper and Steve Leifman stated that they would like to see more visuals, maps and graphs incorporated into the new dashboard.

Steve Leifman asked if each of the counties are sending the same information. Ms. Steele stated that the data comes collectively through systems, so there is a standardization around the different measures. Where there is a national standard in place, it is followed. There are detailed criteria for each measure regarding how it is counted and is defined in the Case Definitions document. Ms. Steele can provide more detailed follow up if needed.

Jared Jashinsky noted that fatal overdoses are tracked by Medical Examiners throughout the state, and in general, there is a strong death investigation system in Florida. It is at the discretion of the Medical Examiners and their professional opinion as to what caused the death, and how the fatal overdose is counted.

Mark Fontaine asked if there is any information on the substances people are using when entering treatment facilities, and if there is a primary drug being used. Jeff Cece, with Department of Children and Families, advised that treatment records do capture primary, secondary and tertiary drugs of choice. It is valuable to see trends of those entering treatment facilities.

Peggy Sapp asked about referrals once drugs have been identified. This is helpful information out in the field. The public is wanting additional information and there is a missing link with the referrals.

Lori Reeves stated that we are taking note of all suggestions and will follow up on them. If there are any additional questions or suggestions, they should be sent to Lori Reeves or Nathan Dunn.

b. 2021 Legislative Session – Gangul Gabadage, Office of Legislative Planning, Department of Health
Mr. Gabadage provided a quick overview of the Legislative Session and bills of interest to DPAC members. He noted the following week of April 26th would be the last week of the 2021 Legislative Session. The following bills were reviewed:

- Senate Bill 804 and House Companion 319 – Substance Abuse Prevention and Services, on special order for Thursday
- Senate Bill 530 and House Companion 725 – Non-Opioid Alternatives and publishing of the Department of Health pamphlet
- Senate Bill 260 and House Companion 231 – Services for Veterans and their families care coordination program

These three bills are moving forward. If anyone has questions, they should reach out to Gangul Gabadage or Andrew Love. There were other bills at the time, but no additional movement on those bills needed to be noted.

Questions/Comments:

No questions.

c. Update on Florida Overdose Deaths – Karen Card, DrPH, Bureau of Emergency Medical Oversight, Department of Health

Dr. Card presented what the Florida Drug Overdose Surveillance and Epidemiology Team has in development. Dr. Card did not present updated numbers at this meeting due to a vendor transition. (Two quarters of data will be presented at the next meeting.) The Combined Drug Overdose Dashboard is in the routing process for approval. Dr. Jared Jashinsky is the creator of the dashboard. The dashboard was created utilizing data from two sources: 1) Fatal Drug Overdose Incident from the Vital Statistics Death Tables; and 2) Non-Fatal Drug Overdose Incident from EMSTARS. This dashboard will serve to standardize the available information, which has been and continues to be a priority.

Dr. Jashinsky provided a demonstration of the dashboard and its functionality. The data available is censored and non-identifiable; therefore, the dashboard does not display case counts below 10. Further customization is coming including visuals (maps). This will be a public-facing estimate tool. Reports will be able to be downloaded as well. This version is still in the review process.

Questions/Comments:

Mark Fontaine questioned why data is still a year behind if it is comprised of estimates (i.e., Why the delay in data?). Since this version is still in review, data has not been updated because it is in the process of routing for approval. Data will be much faster and timelier once dashboard is approved and live.

Rachel Kamoutsas asked how current the data will be once approved. Multiple decision-makers still need to weigh in on what can be presented in a public-facing dashboard. The quickest estimate would be a 3-month delay for non-fatal data and a 6-month delay for fatal data.

Mohammad Alak (via chat) asked if there are any vendor updates on ODMAP. Restoring the EMS drug overdose data incidence feed to ODMAP is a high priority activity for the Bureau of Emergency Medical Oversight, and they are currently validating the case definition in meetings with the vendor and stakeholders. There is no exact date for restoration.

Mark Fontaine noted that the DPAC report each December 1st should have as much current data as possible. At times, people are waiting until the last second to enter data. It is important to the value of the report that the data be as current as possible.

Dr. Rivkees asked for more information regarding the surveillance tools. ESSENCE information is pulled in near-real time from emergency departments. Additionally, the Bureau of Emergency Medical Oversight takes the EMSTARS data and makes it available in ESSENCE. ESSENCE is for skilled users, and it is available to all county health departments as well as at the state level. Florida EMS information is available in the Biospatial platform, which is also available to county health departments and law enforcement. Additionally, ODMAP will be an available data source once restored.

d. Peer Recovery Support Services Presentation – Wesley Evans, Statewide Coordinator of Integration and Recovery Services for the Department of Children and Families

Mr. Evans presented a slide deck and update on Peer Recovery Support Services, the Recovery Oriented System of Care (ROSC) and the network that has been built. ROSC are networks of formal and informal systems offering clinical and non-clinical services and supports. These networks are developed and mobilized to sustain long-term community-based recovery for individuals and families.

Recovery Management is a philosophical framework for organizing behavioral health treatment and recovery support services across the stages of pre-recovery identification and engagement, recovery initiation and stabilization, long-term recovery maintenance and quality of life enhancement for individuals and families affected by behavioral health conditions.

The Primary Goals of a ROSC are: 1.) Prevent, 2.) Intervene, 3.) Reduce, 4.) Help and 5.) Promote. Recovery Capital refers to the sum of resources necessary to initiate and sustain recovery from substance use.

Questions/Comments:

Peggy Sapp asked if the members of the Peers Program are paid. It was reported that they are paid, and they are required to have 40 hours of training and 500 hours of supervision for certification. The average hourly rate is \$16.00 according to a nationwide survey.

Mark Fontaine congratulated Mr. Evans and the department on their efforts. The role of Peers in recovery is having a significant impact. He encouraged them to please continue their great efforts.

Dottie Groover-Skipper asked about the biggest barrier for expansion (i.e., Is it financial?) Buy-in, belief in the Peer Program and the stigma tied to the program are the biggest barriers. These are being tackled through education and awareness.

Mark Fontaine commented that background screening has been presented in the DPAC report as both a barrier and a roadblock. He suggested creating a report focused on the screening process. The DPAC should engage in helping people through this process.

Rachel Kamoutsas asked if there is a mechanism in place to recruit Peers and increase this workforce. It was confirmed that there is a system in place. Within each region there are trainers, a training curriculum and a training guide. Whether people know this program is an area of employment and if it is promoted were also questioned. Some providers offer a pathway from treatment to Peer Specialist. More promotion of Peer Specialists is needed.

Steve Leifman commented that four of the eight Peers in his district are graduates of their program, and they are some of their best employees. A better job is needed to be done in recruiting Peers through an electronic network.

BREAK

3. Agency and Member Updates:

John McClellan, Florida Department of Law Enforcement

The Department of Law Enforcement continues to partner with the Florida Department of Corrections to investigate deaths at Florida's correctional institutions. In September 2019, the Department of Law Enforcement began investigating the sudden deaths of two Columbia Correctional Institution inmates due to suspected drug overdoses. During the investigation, it was learned that an inmate was smuggling fentanyl into the prison. Last week, the Columbia County Grand Jury returned indictments on two counts of murder, selling contraband and delivering a controlled substance to suspected inmates and partners.

On April 6, 2021, the Department of Law Enforcement announced the arrest of 27 individuals due to Operation No Warning. This organization operated in Florida, Georgia, Texas and California. The operation would not have been successful without the cooperation of the Attorney Generals Office, the Leon County Sheriff's Office, the Florida Highway Patrol, the Tallahassee Police Department and the 2nd Judicial Court Circuit.

Jeffrey Cece, Department of Children and Families

Jeffrey Cece announced exciting news. The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) has released supplemental COVID-19 relief funding through the state block grant. The state of Florida has been awarded \$104.3 million in supplement funds. This is in addition to the standard \$111 million block grant award. Funds will be available through March 2023. In addition, the Department of Children and Families has received preliminary guidance and is currently planning. They provided SAMHSA with a broad plan for the funding. The funding will be treated in the same manner as standard expectations. Currently they are ranking proposals and developing a need-based allocation methodology. Each Medical Examiner will receive a portion of the grant to fund evidence-based treatment and recovery support services for individuals with gaps in insurance. The Department of Children and Families expects a comprehensive array of services and hopes to see an overlapping of strategic priorities.

Gene Spaulding, Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles

COVID-19 has caused nearly everyone to alter travel plans. This is one of the main reasons the Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles is gearing up for public outreach and public safety efforts. They have a great partnership with the Department of Health and are now able to use Narcan to support law enforcement. There was a report of a disabled vehicle on I 95 in the Jacksonville area with two individuals in the vehicle showing signs of overdose. Officers administered Narcan at the scene and were able to stabilize the individuals until rescue arrived.

As previously stated, there was an important case in the Leon/Gadsden County area called Operation No Warning. Combating criminal efforts through this organization is producing good dividends.

Judge Steve Leifman, 11th Judicial Circuit Court of Florida

Judge Leifman discussed the Problem Solving Steering Committee. He indicated that they have hired a full time staff member to provide training on opioids and stimulants. The committee is currently conducting education programs for staff. Judge Leifman offered to share information regarding trainings with the DPAC.

Mark Fontaine, Florida Behavioral Health Association

The Medication Assisted Treatment (MAT) program is ongoing. There was some hesitation experienced on the program during Session. The MAT program has now been moved into three jails. Providers in the correctional spaces continue to struggle during the shutdown of courts, and referrals to community services in correctional space are thin. Hopefully, this will be addressed as the courts come

back online. There is new attention to stimulant use disorders and looking at training opportunities under the Department of Children and Families' State Opioid Response grant. Under this grant, probation officer training on MAT was scheduled to begin in May, the month following this meeting. Floridians for Recovery is hosting the first gathering of all recovery partners on June 16th and bringing in the Georgia Council to facilitate building the network.

Tim Hay, Department of Education

The Department of Education is working to develop character development standards with a goal of providing Florida's educators with guidance to implement critical new components into their lesson plans. To supplement the standards, the department is building an online toolkit for parents and caregivers. Governor and First Lady DeSantis have been great supporters of these activities, and on September 1, 2020, they announced a \$2M grant for 18 rural school districts. Additionally, \$10M has been included in the Florida Leads Budget Proposal for mental health efforts.

Major Nathan Dinger, Department of Military Affairs

April 24th, 10am - 2pm, is the Drug Enforcement Administration's Take Back Day for the United States. Link: https://takebackday.dea.gov/?gclid=EAlalQobChMI-fqjs4eN8AIVSeG1Ch3cbwqPEAAAYASAAEgJuR_D_BwE

Peggy Sapp, Informed Families

Successful prevention campaigns need public participation. Peggy Sapp presented the Lock Your Meds campaign from North Carolina and gave a recap on successes of the campaign. The goal is in tying effective prevention all the way down to warm handoff. She also provided an update regarding the screening of the Listen movie.

Dotti Groover-Skipper, HeartDance Foundation, Inc.

Pasco County Recovery High School opened on April 19th with 15 students attending. On April 20th, the same day as this meeting, at 1pm on Facebook live, the National Organization of Peer Educators will facilitate a vaping event. Much gratitude and congratulations was extended to the Hillsborough County Anti Drug Alliance as they continue to facilitate extraordinary prevention initiatives. Unfortunately, after nine years of receiving support, they were notified that their tobacco grant will not be renewed.

Doug Leonardo, Chrysalis Health

Doug Leonardo gave a provider field update that centered around telehealth. Providers have had to pivot during COVID-19 to continue to provide care. Mental health issues and substance abuse cases would have been increased if not for telehealth and being able to continue to provide good mental health services. The executive order allowed for state agencies to provide flexibilities to providers; however, it will expire in April with no indication of extension. One year later, our system of care has changed. Telehealth vs. going back to face-to-face interactions presents challenges with staffing, and direct care staff are concerned. This presents workforce issues. With telehealth there are new companies in the field causing more staffing strain and more recruiting. Symptoms of depression have been exacerbated during COVID-19. Mr. Leonardo predicts that this will increase, especially with schools reopening.

Roaya Tyson, Gracepoint

Roaya Tyson echoed Mr. Leonardo's statements and indicated that it is difficult to obtain licensed clinicians. Ms. Tyson would like to recruit more Certified Peer Recovery individuals.

Christopher Cogle, Agency for Health Care Administration

Christopher Cogle, MD, is the new Chief Medical Officer of Florida Medicaid. He stated that reducing Neonatal Abstinence Syndrome (NAS) is an important goal. About 7,500 babies are born per year with NAS in Florida, and 2,500 of those births are covered by Medicaid. The Agency for Health Care Administration is working with health plans to reduce NAS, as well as helping doctors and nurses to

conduct Screening, Brief Intervention and Referral to Treatment (SBIRT).

https://bi.ahca.myflorida.com/t/FLMedicaid/views/QualityandPerformanceMeasuresDashboardSeries-20190923/SwitchboardMain?iframeSizedToWindow=true&.embed=y&.showAppBanner=false&.display_count=no&.showVizHome=no

SBIRT intervention efforts have reduced the number of babies born with NAS to about 2,000 per year. Additionally, the Agency for Health Care Administration has created reimbursable codes for providers to use SBIRT. Mark Fontaine asked if all physicians are now allowed to bill for SBIRT as Medicaid providers. It was confirmed that they are all now allowed to do that billing.

Rachel Kamoutsas, Office of the Attorney General

The opioid litigation and negotiations are ongoing in terms of settlement. The Attorney General and other attorney generals wrote a letter to the Food and Drug Administration regarding their progress in carrying out some of the provisions of the support act. A response was received, and Ms. Kamoutsas will share the letter with Lori Reeves for member distribution.

4. Public Comment/Open Discussion:

No public comments.

Dotti Groover-Skipper – Ms. Skipper stated that the recommendation has been made to reinstate the Office of Drug Control, and an executive order was signed to reinstate. She asked if there was an update available. Additional follow up information will be provided.

5. Next Steps:

The next meeting is tentatively scheduled for Tuesday, July 20, 2021.

A motion was entered to adjourn the meeting. The motion was carried.

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

Mohammad Alak
Stephanie Barajas
Brittany Blasko
David Blodgett
Ashley Chern
Alyssa Cohen
Page Curry
Jennifer Drake
Erin Green
Adrian Kinkead
Michael Leffler
John McCaffrey
Itza Prieto
Parnia Roghani
Vanessa Salmo
Anna Simmons
Michelle Slawinski
Dallas Spruill
Stuart Waldo
Lauren Whiteman

