

# Statewide Drug Policy Advisory Council Meeting Minutes

October 19, 2021  
8:30a.m. – 12:30p.m.

## Microsoft Teams Meeting

<http://floridahealth.gov/DPACMeeting>

Dial-in Number: 850-792-1375

Phone Conference ID: 903 919 160#

## Welcome/Introductions

Nathan Dunn, MSA, State Surgeon General Designee, opened the Statewide Drug Policy Advisory Council (Council) meeting. Nathan thanked all members of the Council, designated appointees, and other participants for their continued partnership in this critical work and reminded attendees that the meeting goal will be to finalize the 2021 Annual Report and confirm Council recommendations. Nathan asked that Lori Reeves, MPH, Staff Liaison, proceed with roll call.

## The following members or designees were in attendance:

Nathan Dunn, MSA, State Surgeon General Designee  
Maggie Agerton for Mark Inch (Department of Corrections)  
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)  
Allen Craig for Major General James O. Eifert (Department of Military Affairs)  
Major Nathan Dinger for COL John Steele (Department of Military Affairs)  
Mark P. Fontaine (Governor Appointee: Substance Abuse Treatment, Florida Behavioral Health Association)  
Timothy Hay for Richard Corcoran (Department of Education)  
Robert Heere for Senator Darryl Rouson (Florida Senate)  
Rachel Kamoutsas for Ashley Moody (Office of the Attorney General)  
Lauren Lange for Chris Spencer (Governor's Office of Policy and Budget)  
Judge Steve Leifman (11th Judicial Circuit Court of Florida)  
Doug Leonardo (Governor Appointee: Expertise in Drug Enforcement and Substance Abuse Services - Chrysalis Health)  
Ramon Maury for Peggy Sapp (Governor Appointee: Substance Abuse Prevention - Informed Families)  
John McClellan for Rick Swearingen (Florida Department of Law Enforcement)  
Tracy Shelby, PhD, for Josefina M. Tamayo (Department of Juvenile Justice)  
Anastasia Tyson for Representative Spencer Roach (Florida House of Representatives )  
Roaya Tyson (Governor Appointee: Expertise in Drug Enforcement and Substance Abuse Services - Gracepoint)

## Guests and Staff:

Avalon Adams-Thames, DrPH, MPH (Department of Health)  
Mohammad Alak, MPH (Department of Health)  
Brittany Blasko (Department of Health)  
Joshua Barnett, PhD, MHS, MA (Pinellas County Human Services Department)  
Kerri Bryan (Department of Health)  
Jennifer Drake (Department of Health)  
Kelli Ferrell, RPh, PhD (Department of Health)  
Jesseka Forbes (Agency for Health Care Administration)  
Aaron Gerson (Office of the State Courts Administrator)

Olga Goldman, MPH, CPH (Department of Health)  
Jared Jashinsky, PhD (Department of Health)  
Melissa Jordan, MS, MPH (Department of Health)  
Adrian Kinkead, MPH (Department of Health)  
Desiral Lovely, Member of the Public  
Mark Pagnotto, MPH, CPH (Department of Health)  
Kristin Peacock (Department of Health)  
Rebecca Poston, BPharm, MHL, FCCM (Department of Health)  
Concha Prieto, MPH (Department of Health)  
Lori Reeves, MPH, Staff Liaison (Department of Health)  
Parnia Roghani, MPH, CPH (Department of Health)  
Jianca Reid, MPH, CPH (Department of Health)  
Keshia Reid, PhD (Department of Health)  
Vanessa Salmo, MPH (Department of Health)  
Michelle Slawinski, MPH, CPH (Department of Health)  
Stuart Waldo (Department of Health)  
Karen Yatchum (Pinellas County Human Services)

### **Opening Remarks**

Nathan Dunn gave an overview of the meeting agenda, including the presentations that would follow.

### **Business**

#### **1. Review and Approval of Meeting Minutes from July 20, 2021:**

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

#### **2. Presentations:**

- a. **Florida Substance Use Dashboard** – Jianca Reid, MPH, CPH, Manager, FLHealthCHARTS Unit, Florida Department of Health  
Jianca Reid provided an overview and digital tour of the enhanced public facing Florida Substance Use Dashboard. Improvements to the dashboard have produced a more interactive dashboard, with expanded indicators, increased graphics, and data that can be exported to a PDF or an Excel spreadsheet. Dashboard is in final review with the Office of Communications and scheduled to be live in November 2021.
- b. **Overdose Fatality Reviews** – Joshua T. Barnett, PhD, MHS, MA, Behavioral Health Data Scientist and Project Director for Pinellas County Comprehensive Opioid, Stimulant, and Substance Abuse Program (COSSAP) Grant with the United States Department of Justice, Bureau of Justice Assistance Human Services Department  
Dr. Barnett provided a PowerPoint presentation overview on COSSAP's Overdose Fatality Reviews (OFR) framework and the rationale for an OFR. Additional information is available at [www.cossapresources.org](http://www.cossapresources.org).

#### **3. Discussion of 2021 Annual Report:**

Nathan Dunn addressed the Council to review the draft 2021 Annual Report and progress to date on recommendations. Council members were provided an advance copy of the draft for review to provide any additional recommendations prior to the report routing and submission to the Governor. The content of the Annual Report is a compilation of information from the members of the Council.

Selected recommendations were addressed, and discussion followed.

Prior to the discussion on completed recommendations, Judge Steve Leifman updated that the Federal Communications Commission has designated 988 as the new three-digit number for the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline and several states have passed legislation to support rollout of the program. Judge Steve Leifman recommended the need to implement the 988 Prevention Lifeline in Florida as additional support services for suicide prevention and mental health distress.

Judge Steve Leifman additionally recommended allowing trained medical personnel under appropriate guidelines and regulations to pilot the use of micro-dosing of psychedelic medications for the use in combating post-traumatic stress disorder, depression, and other appropriate disorders. Outcome data are needed, and the Council asked to have additional information on this topic presented at a future meeting.

### **Discussion on Completed Recommendations**

Mark Fontaine stated that the Governor vetoed legislation and a comprehensive e-cigarette prevention strategy in Florida, therefore, 2020 Recommendation #5 may not be complete. Major Nathan Dinger clarified that in spite of the veto, the recommendation is still considered complete due to the two nicotine bills that merged into a blended bill addressing nicotine, including e-cigarettes or vaping, and tobacco, which fulfills the goals of the recommendation.

The Council agreed that 2020 Recommendation #6 addressing Screening, Brief Intervention, and Referral to Treatment (SBIRT), 2020 Recommendation #18 to create a statewide dashboard of substance abuse data, and 2020 Recommendation #19 encouraging utilization of the ODMAP system, should be marked as completed and removed from the 2021 list of recommendations.

### **Discussion of 2021 Recommendations**

Nathan Dunn requested Council member input for the 2021 Recommendations and to provide any suggestions or comments as recommendations were reviewed. A draft of the 2021 Recommendations was shared during discussion.

### **Recommendation #1**

Council had no recommended changes.

### **Recommendation #2**

Mark Fontaine suggested updating the recommendation to specify expanding coverage of telehealth services. Lori Reeves noted that due to the pandemic the Agency for Health Care Administration (AHCA) adopted temporary flexibilities to ensure continued access to care. Jessika Forbes, AHCA representative, will confirm with the agency on future plans for telehealth services and provide a clarification to the Council to be incorporated into the recommendation.

### **Recommendation #3**

Mark Fontaine stated that workforce issues are among the most serious issues in the state currently affecting the industry supporting people with behavioral, mental, and substance use issues. Recommends updating the 2021 Annual Report to include data from the National Council for Mental Wellbeing's report. The report's data provide more advanced ideas to include in the Council's discussions for 2022. Mark Fontaine will provide the Council with a copy of the report.

### **Recommendations #4 and #5**

Mark Fontaine stated the need to clearly define a difference between Recommendations #4 and #5.

Major Nathan Dinger noted that the Department of Education has annual requirements to meet in order to achieve their health education substance abuse goals. Major Nathan Dinger clarified that Recommendation #4 is to focus on an educational campaign and partners that would support the campaign, while Recommendation #5 is to focus on evidence-based programs for mental and emotional health in educational settings.

Mark Fontaine recommended adding a reference around the drug awareness campaign.

**Recommendation #6**

Council had no recommended changes.

**Recommendations #7, #8 and #9**

Council had no recommended changes.

**Recommendation #10**

Lori Reeves updated the Council on feedback from AHCA that was added to this recommendation stating that Medicaid covers naloxone at the pharmacy and on the medical side without prior authorization. Jessika Forbes suggested additional language stating that naloxone is a preferred drug and no prior authorization is required.

**Recommendation #11**

Mark Fontaine suggested that the 2021 Annual Report be updated under Recommendation #11 to identify Florida counties that have passed a syringe exchange ordinance for clarity.

**Recommendation #12**

Council had no recommended changes.

**Recommendation #13**

Mark Fontaine suggested the addition of the specific number of physicians who completed the required survey when they renewed their license highlighting the number of Florida physicians certified in addiction medicine. Mark Fontaine stated the importance identifying the number in the 2021 Annual Report to emphasize the need to do more work to reach more physicians.

**Recommendation #14**

Council had no recommended changes.

**Recommendation #15**

Council requested the addition of language that addresses federal changes to the buprenorphine waiver rules that enable physicians to become qualified to prescribe buprenorphine for up to 30 patients without completion of the education requirements.

Jeff Cece noted that the State Opioid Response (SOR) grant funds continue to require that entities receiving funding must complete the full waiver process.

Jessika Forbes updated that AHCA made changes in the availability of medication-assisted treatment (MAT) that activated in July of 2021 and requested removal of the paragraph on prior authorization.

**Recommendation #16**

Jessika Forbes noted that the 2021 Annual Report needed updating to reflect 4.9 million Medicaid recipients for the fiscal year 2020/2021 and a budget of \$26 billion.

**Recommendation #17**

Council had no recommended changes.

**Recommendation #18**

Mark Fontaine suggested a future update from agencies on the background screening process be added to a 2022 meeting.

Jessika Forbes requested removing the Medicaid managed care plans due to different screening requirements for Medicaid managed care plans than there are for private payers.

### **Recommendation #19**

Judge Steve Leifman stated that the language within Recommendation #19 is predominantly addressing the Baker Act, but the language is essentially the same for the Marchman Act. Florida currently does not collect data for the Marchman Act, similar to the Baker Act, and Council recommends incorporating into the language for this recommendation.

### **Recommendation #20**

Major Nathan Dinger suggested the addition of a recommendation to encourage Florida legislators to draft policy to support the implementation of the 988 Prevention Lifeline. The National Suicide Prevention Lifeline is in operation, providing suicide prevention and mental health crisis assistance to those in need. The National Suicide Hotline Designation Act became law in 2020 and defines that a state may impose and collect a fee for providing 988 related services, but notes that fees must be held in a designated account to be spent only in support of 988 services, and the Federal Communications Commission must provide an annual report on state administration of these fees. The rules require phone service providers to direct all 988 calls to the existing National Suicide Prevention Lifeline by July of 2022. The new number is intended to provide an alternative to 911 or the current 10-digit national suicide hotline and assist in reducing stigma associated with mental health.

### **Approval of Content for 2021 Annual Report**

Nathan Dunn called for a motion to approve the 2021 Annual Report with the incorporation of changes and updates discussed during the meeting. Judge Steve Leifman provided the first move to approve. Mark Fontaine seconded the motion. The 2021 Annual Report was approved with no opposition.

## **4. Agency and Member Updates:**

### **Rachel Kamoutsas, Office of the Attorney General**

The Office of Statewide Prosecution continues enforcement efforts related to drug trafficking prosecutions. The Office of the Attorney General recently secured a 25-year sentence and a 50-year sentence for two opioid traffickers. The 50-year sentence was imposed on the head of a trafficking organization. The Attorney General remains vigilant and concerned with respect to the increasing presence of fentanyl in the state of Florida and its counties. Attorney General Ashley Moody continues efforts to raise awareness about the spike in fentanyl. A recent media release was issued on a large fentanyl seizure conducted by the United States Drug Enforcement Administration that reflected 1.8 million fentanyl-laced pills seized in a two-month nationwide sting.

The Office of the Attorney General launched a Florida Opioid Settlement Portal to be a resource to counties, municipalities, and the public about the opioid settlements and participation in the settlements. More information can be viewed at [www.myfloridalegal.com](http://www.myfloridalegal.com).

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

The Florida Department of Law Enforcement (FDLE) has ended their 20-member deployment of primarily special agents but included criminal analysts, to the southeast Texas/Mexico border. FDLE completed a total of four deployment waves. All FDLE agents have returned to Florida. FDLE continues to utilize data from their statistics unit viewing the fentanyl-related arrests over the past couple of years and basing it off the fingerprint system. FDLE's statistics unit has noted an increase in fentanyl-related arrests. John McClellan confirmed for 2019, approximately 800 fentanyl-related arrests were made; for 2020, approximately 1,202 fentanyl-related arrests were made; and for January through August of 2021, approximately 1,597 fentanyl-related arrests were made throughout the state of Florida. FDLE will continue to monitor and work with state and local partners on prevention.

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

On September 1, the Department of Children and Families (DCF) submitted their fiscal year 2022-2023 combined application plan for the Substance Abuse Prevention and Treatment (SAPT) block grant. The application is in support of Florida's annual SAPT block grant award of approximately \$111.3 million. Portions of the application describe key system gaps and objectives to address them in the state of Florida.

DCF recently released the first round of COVID Relief Act supplemental funding to the managing entities through the SAPT block grant for the fiscal year 2021-2022 schedule of funds. Details regarding plans for the second round of supplemental funding in future fiscal years from the American Rescue Plan Act are still being confirmed and reviewed by Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) officials.

Plans for the use of supplemental funds are as follows:

- DCF will focus on developing systematic and innovative ways to support prevention and integration goals, which entails providing seamless and readily accessible behavioral health services and supports upstream, before families need deeper end services or experience crises, unemployment, or dysfunction.
- Funds will be set aside specifically for primary prevention services that prevent or reduce the use of alcohol and other drugs among universal, selective, and indicated populations. Various primary prevention strategies include, but are not limited to: information dissemination (specifically clearinghouse/information resource centers, resource directories, information lines, and health promotion), educational programs, problem identification and referral, community-based processes, drug-free alternative activities, and environmental strategies. Funds will also be used for evidence-based substance use and suicide prevention campaigns.
- Each of the seven regional DCF managing entities will receive an allocation, in accordance with [Chapter 394.9082](#), Florida Statutes, to fund a comprehensive array of treatment and recovery support services for uninsured and underinsured individuals with substance use disorders. Funds will be used to address system top unmet needs and gaps, which will be identified in a variety of different ways (e.g., analyses of waitlist records, service utilization data, surveys, and focus groups). These supplemental funds represent a rare opportunity to clear waitlists for a variety of evidence-based treatment services.

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

The Department of Corrections is preparing for legislative session and fielding questions for the committee weeks. The Department of Corrections had no additional updates for the Council.

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

The Department of Juvenile Justice had no additional updates for the Council.

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

The State Board of Education has adopted new student performance standards aimed to ensure that all students have the skills and knowledge necessary to confidently make positive decisions for their education, personal growth and health, coupled with character education standards. The Substance Abuse Prevention Standards (SAPS) set clear expectations for students and teachers that are specific to overall student development and success. SAPS will give students an opportunity to develop awareness on the dangers associated with the use and abuse of harmful substances. To support educators, the Florida Department of Education (DOE) is building an online toolkit to provide instructional resources at no cost to Florida educators, students, and support services staff.

SAPS will be complemented by new initiatives, including Hope Ambassadors advocating for Florida's families and students. Governor and First Lady DeSantis launched the program with the goal of creating

clubs for student and peer-to-peer mentorship opportunities. In the pilot year of 2020 and the 2021 school year, 25 schools started Hope Ambassador Clubs with more than 300 student participants and an additional 100 schools will be eligible for \$500 grants to develop and launch their Hope Ambassador Clubs for the 2021 and 2022 school years. These clubs were designed to foster kindness and compassion in school environments promoting healthy drug-free lifestyles among students. DOE continues to support the implementation of mental health and student support services provided to 18 rural Florida school districts through the Governor's emergency education relief funds, which was part of a \$2 million grant for expanded student telehealth services. Additional student support services and programs include the Youth Mental Health Awareness Training Plan and this year nearly 200,000 staff completed training which included learning to identify, understand and address the signs of emotional disturbance, mental illness and substance use disorders. These evidence-based initiatives and investments into mental health substance abuse deterrence and student support services will mitigate the likelihood for students to experience substance abuse. DOE is thankful to state agency partners at the Agency for Health Care Administration, DCF and the Florida Department of Health for continued support and collaboration.

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

The Florida Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles continued to work with the Florida Highway Patrol over the past three months. The Florida Highway Patrol deployed troopers to areas of the United States/Mexico border to assist and support the Texas Department of Public Safety with drug interdiction efforts in collaboration with FDLE. Troopers were deployed for two-week periods to assist with the largest occurring interdiction effort in the summer of 2021. The Florida Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles joined after Hurricane Ida made landfall in Louisiana and provided troopers for two weeks to assist the residents. The Florida Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles continues to assist Louisiana and other first responders to help and support community efforts.

#### **Major Nathan Dinger, Department of Military Affairs**

Major Nathan Dinger reminded the Council that October is Red Ribbon month. Red Ribbon month is the largest prevention month within the school systems for young people across the state and the country. The United States Drug Enforcement Administration will host the National Prescription Drug Take Back Day on October 23, 2021. Any prescription medications can be safely disposed of at collection sites statewide. The Department of Military Affairs is available to organize prevention-focused presentations for Council members and their agencies. The night vision presentation covers five gateway drugs and is a 45-minute session. Presentations are not solely for school events and are available for all community groups.

Additionally, the Department of Military Affairs thanks the Council and all the efforts put forth this year. The Council's willingness to work together will make a difference.

#### **Robert Heere for Senator Darryl Rouson (Florida Senate)**

Senator Darryl Rouson has again filed the bill titled Mental Health and Substance Use Disorders, Senate Bill 282, commonly referred to as the Peer Specialist Bill. The bill addresses industry issues with certification for peers in recovery, which is referenced in Recommendation #18 of the Council's Annual Report. Senator Rouson was appointed to the Commission on Mental Health and Substance Abuse, which is part of the package that was approved by the Florida legislature last year. The Commission met for the first time in September and the second meeting is scheduled for October 20, 2021. The 19-member Commission will be drafting an interim report to release by September of 2022, with a final report released by September of 2023. The Commission is overseen by DCF.

#### **Judge Steve Leifman, 11th Judicial Circuit Court of Florida**

Judge Steve Leifman emphasized the success with micro-dosing by using psychedelics for post-traumatic stress disorder and depression. Judge Steve Leifman noted reports on the amazing successes patients have received from these treatment therapies, and the extensive training program that is underway. Experts from around the country have made presentations and there are discussions on expanding to

prosecutors and defense attorneys. Judge Steve Leifman updated that a new website has been established for judges to be able to access information more quickly.

**Mark Fontaine, Florida Behavioral Health Association**

Workforce improvement remains a major priority of the Florida Behavioral Health Association. The association is continuing efforts on revising background screening limitations and eliminating administrative barriers to care. The Florida Behavioral Health Association was awarded a United States Department of Labor grant to develop an apprenticeship program designed to recruit and retain behavioral health staff. The initial apprentice will be for a behavioral health technician position with other positions to follow. A Learning Collaborative has been formed for the 15 Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinic grant awardees in Florida.

The association recently commenced working with the Department of Corrections to provide training to all Department of Corrections probation officers on addiction and medication-assisted treatment.

**Ramon Maury, Informed Families**

After 40 years of partnering with schools, as well as state agencies, Informed Families has improved services with a back-to-school digital resource being deployed in Miami-Dade County Public Schools. Along with the Red Ribbon campaign, Informed Families is providing free expert leadership for professional learning and classroom resources. Informed Families is also providing digital lessons and easy access by using digital phones, which is a primary platform for middle school and high school students to receive information. A topic of focus is teen vaping, prevention, and tools to quit. Informed Families is continuing to support students with mental health needs with expanded prevention and education programs

**Roaya Tyson, Gracepoint**

Roaya Tyson updated on the recent implementation of primary care within Gracepoint's behavioral health program. Changes confirm that services are fully integrated rather than just co-located and enables Gracepoint to start addressing the physical health issues that come along with substance use disorders.

**Jessika Forbes, Agency for Health Care Administration**

The Agency for Health Care Administration had no additional updates for the Council.

**Lauren Lange, Governor's Office of Policy and Budget**

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

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

No public comments received.

Council meetings for 2022 will be held on January 25, April 19, July 19, and October 11.

**6. Adjournment:**

Motion was entered to adjourn. Motion carried with no opposition. Meeting was adjourned at 12:30p.m.