

# Statewide Drug Policy Advisory Council



## Public Meeting Book

July 19, 2022  
8:30AM-12:30PM

**Mission:**

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



**Ron DeSantis**  
Governor

**Joseph A. Ladapo, MD, PhD**  
State Surgeon General

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

## Statewide Drug Policy Advisory Council (DPAC) Meeting

**July 19, 2022**  
**8:30 am to 12:30 pm**

Meeting Location:  
4052 Bald Cypress Way, Conference Room 301, Tallahassee, FL 32399

### AGENDA

Time	Item	Topic	Topic Facilitator/Presenter
8:30 am – 8:50 am	1	Welcome/Introductions/Opening Remarks	Melissa Jordan, MS, MPH Assistant Deputy Secretary for Health Florida Department of Health
	2	Approval of April 19, 2022 Meeting Minutes	Council Members
8:50 am – 9:30 am	3	Addiction Stabilization Centers	Kenneth A. Schepke, MD, FAEMS Deputy Secretary for Health Florida Department of Health
9:30 am – 10:45 am	4	Progress on 2021 Annual Report Recommendations	Council Members
10:45 am – 10:55 am	5	Break	
10:55 am – 12:00 pm	7	Agency and Member Updates	Council Members
12:00 pm – 12:15 pm	8	Public Comments	
12:15 pm – 12:30 pm	9	Next Steps/Future Meeting Date  Motion to Adjourn	Melissa Jordan, MS, MPH Assistant Deputy Secretary for Health Florida Department of Health

# Statewide Drug Policy Advisory Council Meeting Minutes

**April 19, 2022**  
**8:30 am – 12:30 pm**

Meeting Location:  
4052 Bald Cypress Way, Conference Room 301  
Tallahassee, FL 32399

## **Welcome/Introductions**

Joseph A. Ladapo, MD, PhD, State Surgeon General, opened the Statewide Drug Policy Advisory Council (Council) meeting. Dr. Ladapo thanked all members of the Council, designated appointees, and other participants for their continued partnership in this critical work, the meeting was opened for introductions with agency affiliations in lieu of a formal roll call.

## **The following members or designees were in attendance:**

Joseph A. Ladapo, MD, PhD, State Surgeon General  
Maggie Agerton for Ricky Dixon (Department of Corrections)  
Jeffery Cece, MS, CPM for Shevaun Harris (Department of Children and Families)  
Major Nathan Dinger for COL John Steele (Department of Military Affairs)  
Dottie Grover-Skipper (Governor Appointee, Faith-Based Substance Abuse Treatment, HeartDance Foundation, Inc.)  
Timothy Hay for Richard Corcoran (Department of Education)  
Gary Howze for Ashley Moody (Office of the Attorney General)  
Jennifer Johnson for Mark P. Fontaine (Governor Appointee: Substance Abuse Treatment, Florida Behavioral Health Association)  
Judge Steve Leifman (11<sup>th</sup> Judicial Circuit Court of Florida)  
John McClellan for Rick Swearingen (Florida Department of Law Enforcement)  
Lt. Christopher Proctor for COL Gene Spaulding (Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles)  
Peggy Sapp (Governor Appointee: Substance Abuse Prevention, Informed Families)  
Tracy Shelby, PhD for Eric Hall, Ed.D. (Department of Juvenile Justice)  
Doug Simon for Chris Spencer (Governor's Office of Policy and Budget)  
Roaya Tyson (Governor Appointee, Expertise in Drug Enforcement and Substance Abuse Services, Gracepoint)

## **Guests and Staff:**

Brittany Blasko (Department of Health)  
David Bullard (Florida Department of Law Enforcement)  
Melanie Castro (Department of Children and Families)  
P.J. Duncan (Florida Department of Education)  
Nathan Dunn, MSA (Department of Health)  
Jesseka Forbes (Agency for Health Care Administration)  
Aaron Gerson (Office of the State Courts Administrator)  
Cindy Huffman (Florida Department of Education)  
Beth Jones (Agency for Health Care Administration)  
Melissa Jordan, MS, MPH (Department of Health)  
Natalie Kenton, MBA (Department of Health)  
Ramon Maury (Informed Families)  
Cassandra Pasley, BSN, JD (Department of Health)

Rebecca Poston, BPharm, MHL, FCCM (Department of Health)  
Lori Reeves, MPH, Staff Liaison (Department of Health)  
Kelly Rogers (Department of Health)  
Estefania Rubio (University of South Florida)  
William Sappenfield, MD, MPH (University of South Florida)  
Kenneth Scheppeke, MD, FAEMS, Deputy Secretary for Health (Department of Health)  
Anna Simmons, MSW (Department of Health)  
Rita Smith, DNP, MPH, APRN, NP-C (Department of Juvenile Justice)  
Ellen Snelling, MS (Hillsborough County Anti-Drug Alliance)  
Stuart Waldo (Florida Department of Health)  
Jennifer Wenhold (Department of Health)  
Lauren Whiteman, MPH, CPH (Department of Health)  
Troy Wolfer (Florida Department of Law Enforcement)

### **Opening Remarks**

Dr. Ladapo reflected on the efforts within the Florida Department of Health (FDOH) related to the Council's work to address substance use in the state of Florida. Work continues on the State Health Improvement Plan (SHIP) and the implementation of Priority Area Workgroups (PAWs), the Overdose Data to Action (OD2A) grant program, the Helping Emergency Responders Obtain Support (HEROS) program, and the partnership with the Florida Perinatal Quality Collaborative (FPQC) to reduce neonatal abstinence syndrome (NAS) statewide.

Dr. Ladapo provided an overview of the meeting agenda and the presentations to follow.

### **Business**

#### **1. Review and Approval of Meeting Minutes from January 25, 2022:**

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

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

- a. **Legislative Updates and Emerging Drug Threats** – Doug Simon, Office of Drug Control Director, and Ellen Snelling, MS, Hillsborough County Anti-Drug Alliance Board Chair  
Doug Simon presented an update on recent legislation related to controlled substances, mental health, and substance use disorder (SUD) via Senate Bill 282, which adds coverage for peer specialists. Mr. Simon reviewed Senate Bill 95 (SB95) which adds methamphetamine to the list of controlled substances and enhances penalties for the sale of a controlled substance within 1000 feet of a treatment center. SB95 increases mandatory minimum sentences for selling fentanyl or fentanyl analogs. SB95 had not been signed by the Governor at the time of the Council's meeting.  
Ellen Snelling, MS, Board Chair of the Hillsborough County Anti-Drug Alliance discussed the emerging drug threat of delta-8 tetrahydrocannabinol (THC), hemp-derived CBD products being sold throughout the state with lack of restrictions. Delta-8 THC products can be sold in packages nearly identical to popular candies, making them especially appealing and dangerous for children. Judge Steve Leifman entered a motion for the State Surgeon General to review the issue. Motion carried with no opposition.
- b. **Substance Abuse Education Resources** – Cindy Huffman, Director of Healthy Schools, Bureau of Standards and Instructional Support, Florida Department of Education  
Cindy Huffman presented on standards and instructional support for comprehensive health education that includes substance use and abuse education. Ms. Huffman demonstrated the Florida Required Instruction Portal at [www.flrequiredinstruction.org](http://www.flrequiredinstruction.org). Educators, stakeholders, and the public can access standards for substance use and abuse education through the portal. Ms. Huffman reviewed the school assembly's toolkit for "The Facts. Your Future." The website [www.thefactsyourfuture.org](http://www.thefactsyourfuture.org) includes social

medial tools, and a toolkit on resiliency to help teachers with the development of resilient and healthy students.

- c. **Florida's Fentanyl Crisis: Law Enforcement Efforts and Overdose Deaths** – Inspector David Bullard, Statewide DARE Coordinator, Florida Department of Law Enforcement, and Troy Wolfer, Crime Laboratory Analyst and Technical Leader, Florida Department of Law Enforcement  
Inspector Bullard presented on updates to the Drug and Alcohol Awareness Education (DARE) curriculum to incorporate new information on the dangers related to emerging drugs as well as fentanyl. Mr. Wolfer discussed the chemistry of an emerging class of opioids nitazenes. Nitazenes, first identified in seized drugs in Florida in May of 2020, have been increasing in prevalence. Nitazenes are currently regulated as drugs that are substantially similar to fentanyl but can be 100 to 1000 times more potent than morphine, fentanyl is 30-100 times more potent than morphine.
- d. **Maternal Opioid Recovery Effort (MORE)** – William Sappenfield, MD, MPH, CPH, Florida Perinatal Quality Collaborative Director  
Dr. Sappenfield presented an overview of the Maternal Opioid Recovery Effort (MORE), a hospital quality improvement initiative designed to address needs of pregnant women with SUD. Dr. Sappenfield shared data demonstrating rates of NAS in infants are leveling out, but associated changes are probably due to improvements in how newborns are diagnosed and treated, rather than a true decline the total number of newborns exposed to opioids during pregnancy.

### 3. Agency and Member Updates:

#### **Doug Simon, Governor's Office of Policy and Budget**

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

#### **Gary Howze, Office of the Attorney General**

The Office of the Attorney General updated that the opioid-related civil litigation cases have settled, apart from Walgreens. Walgreens is the twelfth and final defendant in the Office of the Attorney General's cases against opioid distributors. As of the morning of the Council meeting, the trial is ongoing and being litigated by the Attorney General's office with an expected positive outcome. Approximately \$3 billion has been secured by Florida in settlements and funds will be used for abatement, prevention, treatment, and recovery. A large majority of the funds are planned for distribution directly to counties and cities through Florida Department of Children and Families (DCF) grants.

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

The Florida Department of Law Enforcement (FDLE) presented an overview of the agency's role in providing investigative support to local, state, and federal law enforcement partners from headquarters in Tallahassee, Florida and in seven regional operations centers (ROC's) around the state. ROC's are located in Jacksonville, Tallahassee, Orlando, Tampa Bay, Ft. Myers, and Miami. Within each ROC is a designated organized crime squad that specializes in illegal drug investigations and the squad works with law enforcement agencies in their Area of Responsibility (AOR) to combat local drug trafficking organizations. Also imbedded in the organized crime squads are FDLE special agents who are deputized as United States Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) Task Force Officer's (TFO's). TFO's have the same federal jurisdiction as DEA special agents to investigate international cartels that are responsible for the surging domestic supply of fentanyl.

FDLE remains committed to combatting the problem of illicit narcotics throughout the state, and welcome the opportunity to partner with state, federal, and local agencies to provide investigative, analytical, and crime lab assistance.

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

The Florida Department of Education had no updates for the Council.

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

DCF's drug prevention activities continue to routinely reach large numbers of Floridians. During calendar year 2019, the Substance Abuse Prevention and Treatment (SAPT) Block Grant set-aside funds to support (in total or in part) programs and strategies that reached 757,270 people. Those persons received individual-based prevention programming, including curricula-based skill-building programs for both youth and parents. Additionally, over 20 million people received population-based prevention programs and strategies (e.g., environmental strategies, one-time events like school assemblies, and the distribution of materials through health fairs).

From September of 2020 to April of 2022, DCF's prevention providers deployed State Opioid Response (SOR) grant-funded media campaigns, generating nearly 74 million media impressions. The media campaign provided information and strategies for safely using, storing, and disposing of prescription opioids and stimulants. The campaign included video, audio, and print ads that communities utilize to inform the public and begin conversations about prescription medication misuse and abuse.

DCF continues to collaborate with FDOH on the SHIP PAW on mental well-being and substance abuse prevention objectives. Focus areas include reducing deaths caused by opioid overdose and increasing the number of formal addiction stabilization centers statewide.

Jeffrey Cece recommends the need to focus on low-barrier access to antidotes for overdoses (naloxone) and medications for opioid use disorders (particularly buprenorphine). DCF's Overdose Prevention Program (OPP) aims to reduce opioid overdose deaths by distributing naloxone. Approximately 260 providers currently enrolled in the OPP have distributed 273,713 naloxone kits since 2016, with 16,795 rescues or reversals being self-reported, representing a fraction of the lives saved by this program.

DCF, FDOH, the Agency for Health Care Administration (AHCA), the Florida Hospital Association, and pharmacy representatives, among others, are part of an ad-hoc workgroup developing plans and protocols to expand access to naloxone (and buprenorphine) in emergency departments prior to discharge. This highly targeted naloxone distribution is in development as a priority going forward to increase the number of rescues and reversals.

Council member Major Nathan Dinger inquired regarding outcomes for Floridians if grant funds cease. Kenneth Schepke, MD, FAEMS, Deputy Secretary for Health clarified that addiction differs from dependence. Many chronic disease patients are dependent on medication and may encounter negative health consequences if treatment stopped, but do not have negative societal behaviors from treatment, as would occur in addiction. This is true for methadone and buprenorphine as well.

**Maggie Agerton, Department of Corrections**

The Department of Corrections had no updates for the Council.

**Tracy Shelby, Department of Juvenile Justice**

Rita Smith, DNP, MPH, APRN, NP-C is the new Chief Medical Officer for the Department of Juvenile Justice.

**Lt. Christopher Porter, Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles**

The Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles has completed statewide distribution of naloxone, totaling approximately 2500 doses across the state. Lt. Christopher Porter updated that efforts continue daily to combat the emerging drug issues that were discussed today, and Lt. Porter stated that he would be happy to advise any members with questions.

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

Major Nathan Dinger offered a suggestion regarding section 397.333, Florida Statutes, which specifies the Council shall submit a report to the Governor, the President of the Senate, and the Speaker of the House of Representatives by December 1 of each year, containing a summary of the Council's work during that year and the recommendations for the succeeding year. Interim reports may be submitted at the discretion of the chairperson of the Council.

Major Dinger suggested that the Council publish the report earlier or bi-annually to meet the timelines of all legislative bill submissions. Many bills are submitted as early as July and August. If the Council submits an interim report in June, prior to the submission of bills, the Council increases the opportunity to impact legislators before session begins.

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

Judge Steve Leifman updated that work continues on standards for problem-solving courts. In addition, Judge Leifman will be participating in the regional Conference of Chief Justices on making structural changes to help courts do a better job of serving people with substance use and mental illness.

### **Peggy Sapp for Informed Families**

Peggy Sapp provided an overview of events that may be of relevance to the Council.

- **Family Day** (September 26, 2022) – Emphasizes regular family activities (such as eating dinner together) to encourage parent-child communication.
- **Red Ribbon Week** (October 23 – 31, 2022) – The oldest and largest drug prevention campaign is an ideal way for people and communities to take a visible stand against drugs.
- **Lock Your Meds** (January and February 2023) – Asks parents to secure medications, take inventory of medicine cabinets, safely dispose of unused medication, and spread the word to family and friends.
- **Safe Homes, Smart Parties** (March and April 2023) – Helps adults be aware and set firm guidelines surrounding acceptable choices and behaviors, especially during times when socializing peaks.

These four events provide year-round prevention activities and education focusing on the risks, protective factors, and prevailing drug trends. Drug trends change, but by focusing on protective factors for family, school, and community, when the next drug trend emerges, people will be prepared to respond appropriately. Ms. Sapp provided an infographic, to be added to the public book, and encouraged council members and guests to visit <https://www.informedfamilies.org/> for more information.

### **Jennifer Johnson, Florida Behavioral Health Association**

The Florida Behavioral Health Association (FBHA) represents many of the mental and substance abuse agencies across the state. The SHIP objectives were approved at the end of March 2022, and are now in the process of developing activities, focusing on areas such as reducing opioid-related deaths around the state. Agencies interested in being involved with the SHIP may contact Lori Reeves, MPH, Staff Liaison. The SHIP ensures all appropriate partners are involved in the development and implementation of the PAWs.

Jennifer Johnson updated that the FBHA Conference will be held in August. This large conference hosts a diverse group of participants. The conference is occurring in Orlando and registration is open at <https://web.cvent.com/event/ceb9abd0-b7b6-432f-ada1-06472f3ae328/summary>.

FBHA is also assisting with administering opioid settlement dollars in partnership with DCF.

**Dottie Grover-Skipper, HeartDance Foundation, Inc.**

Dottie Grover-Skipper had the honor of standing with Governor DeSantis and First Lady DeSantis as the “The Facts. Your Future.” program was unveiled to schools. Ms. Grover-Skipper spoke as the parent of an adult child in recovery, discussed work in rolling out these programs in schools, and described the partnership efforts to facilitate a tremendous number of programs in all areas of substance use and addiction. HeartDance Foundation, Inc. is also working to secure and facilitate the “Drug Take Back Day” on April 30, 2022.

A new high school, Victory High School, enrolls students who have substance use disorders, and is graduating a first class this year in Pasco County.

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

AHCA has increased the amount of Narcan® a Medicaid patient can receive to four sprays (two kits) per 365 days.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has drafted an update to the prescribing guidelines from 2016 to ensure patients have access to safer, more effective treatment while also reducing SUD and overdose. The guidelines were reviewed, and it was determined that there is no effect on Florida Medicaid pharmacy policies at this time. A draft of the 2022 guidelines can be viewed at <https://www.regulations.gov/document/CDC-2022-0024-0002>.

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

No public comments received.

Lori Reeves, Staff Liaison, reminded the Council to review and revise the 2022 Annual Report. Following the meeting, materials will be distributed to each Council member to begin drafting proposed updates. The remaining Council meetings for 2022 will be held on July 19 and October 11, 2022.

**5. Adjournment:**

A motion was entered to adjourn. Motion carried with no opposition. Meeting was adjourned at 11:46 am.



# Florida Department of Health

Statewide Drug Policy Advisory  
Council Meeting

July 19, 2022



# Agenda

July 19, 2022

- |                     |  |
|---------------------|--|
| 8:30 am – 8:50 am   | Welcome/Introductions/Opening Remarks        |
| 8:50 am – 9:30 am   | Addiction Stabilization Centers Presentation |
| 9:30 am – 10:45 am  | Progress on 2021 Recommendations Discussion  |
| 10:45 am – 10:55 am | Break  |
| 10:55 am – 12:00 pm | Agency and Member Updates                    |
| 12:00 pm – 12:15 pm | Public Comments                              |
| 12:15 pm – 12:30 pm | Next Steps/Adjourn                           |

# Section 397.333, Florida Statutes

The Advisory Council shall:

1. Meet at least quarterly or upon the call of the chairperson;
2. Conduct a comprehensive analysis of the problem of substance abuse in this state and make recommendations to the Governor and Legislature for developing and implementing a state drug control strategy;
3. Review and make recommendations to the Governor and Legislature on funding substance abuse programs and services;
4. Review various substance abuse programs and recommend, where needed, measures that are sufficient to determine program outcomes;
5. Review the drug control strategies and programs of other states and the Federal Government;
6. Recommend to the Governor and Legislature applied research projects that would use research capabilities within the state;
7. Recommend to the Governor and Legislature changes in law which would remove barriers to or enhance the implementation of the state drug control strategy;
8. Make recommendations to the Governor and the Legislature on the need for public information campaigns.
9. Ensure that there is a coordinated, integrated, and multidisciplinary response to the substance abuse problem in this state;
10. Assist communities and families in pooling their knowledge and experiences with respect to the problem of substance abuse;
11. Examine the extent to which all state programs that involve substance abuse treatment can include a meaningful work component;
12. Recommend to the Governor and the Legislature ways to expand and fund drug courts; and
13. Submit a report to the Governor, the President of the Senate, and the Speaker of the House of Representatives by December 1 of each year.

# 2021 Recommendations

## Objectives of Discussion:

- Five-minute discussion on each recommendation.
- Identify what progress has been made on each recommendation.
- Identify if Council has determined that the recommendation is complete, or sufficiently in progress to be removed for 2022.
- Identify what progress is still needed on each recommendation.
- Identify new recommendations for the 2022 Annual Report.

# Recommendation #1

- Establish the Florida Office of Drug Control.

# Recommendation #2

- State agencies and commercial health plans provided service delivery flexibilities to respond to challenges related to the delivery of mental health and SUD care during the COVID-19 pandemic. It is recommended that the state agencies, commercial health plans, and other private payors permanently adopt these flexibilities, specifically:
  - Waiving prior authorization requirements and services limits (frequency, duration and scope) for all behavioral health services (including targeted case management).
  - Maintaining payment parity for telehealth services by reimbursing services provided via telemedicine at the same rate as face-to-face encounters.
  - Expanding coverage of telehealth services to include telephone communications, only when rendered by licensed psychiatrists and other physicians, physician extenders and licensed behavioral health practitioners.
  - Requiring managed care plans to waive limits on medically necessary services when additional services will maintain the health and safety of an enrollee diagnosed with COVID-19 or when it is necessary to maintain an enrollee safely in their home.
  - Using audio-only services when video capability is not available, and services can only be provided telephonically, which should be thoroughly documented.

# Recommendation #3

- To effectively address the opioid crisis, the impact of the pandemic, and the anticipated growth in mental health and SUD service needs, it is critical that a vibrant, stable, and well-trained workforce be available to provide prevention, treatment and recovery services. To address the workforce crisis, the Council recommends adopting changes in payment methods, background screening, exemptions for peer specialist applications, and greater flexibility with telehealth, reimbursing providers the same amount for telehealth and in person visits.

# Recommendation #4

- Develop and implement a substance-use prevention strategy designed to reduce drug use among youth 12–17 years of age. The strategy should focus on;
  - (1) deployment of a unified anti-drug messaging campaign,
  - (2) increasing/maintaining substance use prevention efforts by securing/sustaining front-end prevention funding, and
  - (3) expanding state partnerships with anti-drug coalitions, educational institutions, law enforcement, and other members of the 12 Community Sectors.



# Recommendation #5

- Deploy an evidence-based substance use prevention program designed to reduce drug use among youth 12–17 years of age. The curriculum should focus on evidence-based and/or evidence-informed prevention strategies proven to reduce substance use, while also increasing youth resiliency, coping strategies, positive mental health and responsible decision-making. DCF should lead, in collaboration with FDOH and the Florida Department of Education (DOE), a statewide initiative designed to increase and coordinate prevention efforts across Florida through a partnership with coalitions, community SUD providers, school districts, faith-based groups, and business entities. The end goal is to better link existing prevention education programs with Florida's educators, and to reduce substance use and abuse among Florida's youth.

# Recommendation #6

- Develop and implement a stigma reduction campaign designed to reduce the negative feelings associated with a SUD and other mental illness/injuries. Messaging should increase the awareness of medically assisted treatment options, reduce the stigma associated with addiction, and inform the public of the many benefits that come with obtaining psychiatric, psychological and/or therapeutic services from a licensed professional.

# Recommendation #7

- Encourage pharmacies to educate consumers on safe medication storage and disposal procedures when filling prescriptions for controlled substances. Establish a media campaign to educate consumers on reason for safe use, safe storage, and safe disposal as well as the location of safe disposal boxes in each community.

# Recommendation #8

- Establish medical marijuana advertisement standards that restrict the advertising methods of medical marijuana/cannabis evaluation clinics, conveyance shops and other services or businesses not currently governed by Amendment 2 (section 381.986, Florida Statutes.)

# Recommendation #9

- Establish legislation to regulate
  - (1) preparation, distribution and sale of kratom-based products (Myragyna Speciosa) that contain the alkaloids myragynine and/or 7-hydroxymitragynine;
  - (2) prohibit the preparation, distribution and sale of adulterated or contaminated kratom products;
  - (3) assign authorities and responsibilities to ensure compliance standards are met and/or maintained; and
  - (4) establish corrective actions/penalties for actors/agencies that would violate such legislation.

# Recommendation #10

- Expanding naloxone availability among people who use drugs and their peers through hospital emergency departments (ED) and floor units (with little to no paperwork, and no separate trip to the pharmacy), Emergency Medical Services and fire rescue naloxone leave-behind programs, county health departments (CHDs), and any Federally Qualified Health Center (FQHC). Eliminate barriers that prevent direct dispensing of naloxone kits to all hospital patients at risk of overdose.

# Recommendation #11

- Expand efforts to encourage county commissions to establish syringe exchange programs (SEPs).

# Recommendation #12

- Encourage the continued establishment of warm handoff programs through hospital EDs to community opioid use disorder (OUD) treatment providers to address opioid overdoses. In addition, issue naloxone to overdose patients before they leave the ED; and have AHCA report on the extent warm handoff protocols have been implemented in EDs across the state.



# Recommendation #13

- Expand additional fellowship and residency programs for physicians to obtain a specialty in addiction medicine with a goal of increasing physicians with an addiction medicine specialty.

# Recommendation #14

- Pass model legislation that will align Florida law with the federal Mental Health Parity and Addiction Equity Act (MHPAEA) and require all state health agencies, health plans, and commercial insurance to report annually on the implementation of the parity act in Florida. These reports should be transparent and available to inform the public.

# Recommendation #15

- Require state health agencies, health plans and commercial insurers to remove prior authorization requirements for evidence-based medication-assisted treatment (MAT) to allow for use of medications such as buprenorphine, naltrexone, naloxone and methadone.

# Recommendation #16

- Promote legislation that adds the Secretary of AHCA and the Commissioner of the Office of Insurance Regulation as members to the Council.

# Recommendation #17

- Continue the statewide Recovery Oriented System of Care (ROSC) initiative designed to promote and enhance recovery efforts in Florida and support the continued development of the Recovery Community Organization (RCO) and a statewide RCO that helps link community initiatives.

# Recommendation #18

- Evaluate the impact of Senate Bill 1120 (2020): Substance Abuse Services on agency background screening requirements related to the eligibility of individuals with lived experience/peers attempting to enter the workforce; continue efforts to reduce the administrative burden of the background screening and exemption process; promote consistency among state agencies related to the background screening exemption process; ensure an individual with lived experience is part of the exemption review panel; and have AHCA, DCF, and the Florida Department of Corrections (FDC) provide an annual report on the number of individuals that applied for an exemption, actual timeframes for the process, and the number approved/disapproved with reasons for the decisions.

# Recommendation #19

- The Council recommends the modernization, improvement and appropriate funding for the Baker and Marchman Acts to increase effectiveness of the Baker and Marchman Acts to serve the people of Florida.

# Recommendation #20

- Encourage Florida legislators to draft legislation/policy to support implementation of the 988 National Suicide Prevention Lifeline to begin July 16, 2022.



# Contact Information



Lori Reeves, MPH

Staff Liaison

Bureau of Family Health Services

Florida Department of Health

[Lori.Reeves@flhealth.gov](mailto:Lori.Reeves@flhealth.gov)

# Florida Department of Health



**10 MINUTE BREAK**



# RED RIBBON CREATES A THREAD THAT TIES US ALL TOGETHER

SHARE: 

THOUSANDS OF KIDS  
THROUGHOUT FLORIDA  
CELEBRATE RED RIBBON WEEK



## JEREMY PETERS, STAR STUDENT AMBASSADOR

Our Robert Morgan Educational Center Student Ambassador, Jeremy Peters, worked with his administration to pass out pins, create and regulate a bulletin board, create a red cup tower, as well as create a community service certificate and "Wear a Red Shirt Day" flyer. Thank you, Jeremy!

## DRUG FREE PLEDGES

Third graders signing the Drug Free Pledge at Four Corners Charter. A bright future shines ahead for all of you!



## RED RIBBON CERTIFICATION

Arbor Ridge K-8 School in Orange County, FL celebrates Red Ribbon Week and Red Ribbon re-Certification! They are so proud to be a Red Ribbon Certified School again.

# HERE'S MORE OF THE GREAT WORK LOCAL LEADERS DID IN 2021 TO CELEBRATE RED RIBBON WEEK

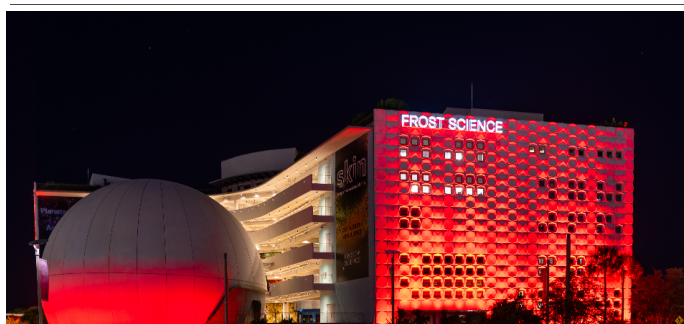
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## FTX ARENA

Thank you to:

**Michael McCullough**, Executive Vice President, Chief Marketing Officer

**Lorenzo Butler**, Director, Business Communications



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## PHILLIP AND PATRICIA FROST MUSEUM OF SCIENCE

Thank you to:

**Joseph A Quiñones**, Vice President, Marketing

**Elizabeth Golshteyn**, Miami-Dade Beacon Council

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## MIAMI TOWER

Thank you to:

**Raquel Pinto**, Property Administrator, Transwestern

**Andrea Muñoz-Rodríguez**, Property Manager, Transwestern



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## MDC FREEDOM TOWER

Thank you to:

**Allison Horton**, Media Relations

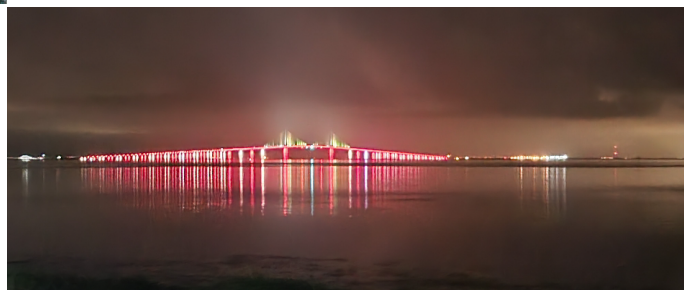
**Maryam Laguna Borrego**, Chief of Staff and VP of External Affairs

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## SUNSHINE SKYWAY BRIDGE

Thank you to:

**Marianne J. Dean**, Office of Overdose Prevention



WILL YOU HELP US CONTINUE THIS IMPORTANT WORK?  
SUPPORT INFORMED FAMILIES & RED RIBBON TODAY!

DONATE



Drug Free Looks Like Me was the 2021 Theme. Miami-Dade Schools participated with pride. Here is a peek of many activities.



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