



Statewide Drug Policy Advisory Council

Meeting Minutes

May 22, 2024

Meeting Location:

Florida Department of Health
4052 Bald Cypress Way, Room 301
Tallahassee, FL 32399, and

Meeting Time:

3:00 – 5:00 p.m.
Virtual Meeting via Microsoft Teams

Welcome/Introductions

Melissa Jordan, MS, MPH, Assistant Deputy Secretary for Health, Florida Department of Health, served as Chair, as the Designee of State Surgeon General Joseph Ladapo.

Staff proceeded with roll call.

The following members or designees were in attendance:

Melissa Jordan, MS, MPH, Florida Department of Health (DOH)
Joe Spataro for Ashley Moody, Office of the Attorney General (OAG)
Kristen Shipp Brennan for Mark Glass, Department of Law Enforcement (FDLE)
Jeffrey Cece, MS, CPM for Shevaun Harris, Department of Children and Families (DCF)
Maggie Agerton for Ricky Dixon, Department of Corrections (DOC)
Joy Bennink for Eric Hall, Ed.D., Department of Juvenile Justice (DJJ)
Jonathan Stephens for Manny Diaz, Jr., Department of Education (DOE)
Captain Derrick Rahming for Dave Kerner, Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles (DHSMV)
Major David Rodriguez for Major General John Haas, Department of Military Affairs (DMA)
Doug Simon, Governor's Office of Policy and Budget (OPB)
Sheriff Peyton Grinnell, Governor Appointee: Drug Enforcement, Lake County Sheriff's Office (LCSO)
Ramon Maury for Peggy Sapp (Governor Appointee: Substance Abuse Prevention, Informed Families)
Melanie Brown-Woofter (Governor Appointee: Substance Abuse Treatment, Florida Behavioral Health Association (FBHA)
Colonel Chris Rule for Sheriff Chad Chronister, Governor Appointee: Expertise in Drug Enforcement and Substance Abuse Programs and Services, Hillsborough County Sheriff's Office (HCSO)
Sheriff Chris Nocco, Governor Appointee: Expertise in Drug Enforcement and Substance Abuse Services, Pasco Sheriff's Office (PSO)
Aaron Gerson for Judge Steve Leifman, 11th Judicial Circuit Court of Florida

Guests and Staff:

Yolanda Bonds, DOH	Jesseka Forbes, ACHA
Deborah Babin	Nathan Hipps
Nancy Castillo	Jennifer Johnson, FBHA
Ashley Chern, DOH	Lynnora Elaine Planter Longley
Jeanette Cherubini, DCF	Tina Pettingill (Groups Recover Together)
Jon Conley, DOH	Mary Prim, DOH
David Devries, DCF	Lisa Rawlins
Maggie Dilger, DOH	Scott Tucker, Advent Health
Ala Orr	
Thomas Palacio	

Opening Remarks

The Chair reviewed the agenda, noting there would be no presentations due to a scheduling change. She highlighted that the week before the May 22, 2024, meeting was SAMHSA's National Prevention Week, promoting substance use prevention and mental health.

She also shared the following updates:

- June 6, 2024, is Revive Awareness Day, raising awareness about opioid antagonists like naloxone.
- Emergency response agencies can enroll at [FLoridaHealth.gov/HEROS](https://www.floridahealth.gov/HEROS) to receive naloxone through the HEROS program.
- The CORE Network ([FLCORENetwork.com](https://www.flcorenetwork.com)) treats substance use disorder with continuous care, similar to other diseases.

Business

1. Review and Approval of Meeting Minutes from February 29, 2024:

- The Council approved the Minutes with no opposition.

2. Review and Updates of Recommendation 1-6:

- DOH staff led the discussion for 2023 Recommendations 1-6 and invited revisions for 2024. Here is a high-level summary of the discussion:

Recommendation	Details
Recommendation 1: Strengthening the Workforce for Mental Health and Substance Abuse Disorder Services	Suggested collaboration with the Physicians Workforce Advisory Council to address workforce issues. Noted initiatives in support of the workforce issues: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The Live Healthy Act for social work and behavioral health staffing.• Coordination with the Mental Health Commission.• Creation of behavioral health teaching hospitals partnering with state university medical schools.• Increased interest in the Drug Demand Reduction Outreach program.
Recommendation 2: Develop ongoing Substance-Use Prevention Strategy for Youth 12-17	Chair proposed a presentation from The Facts. Your Future. Campaign. Requested feedback on trauma-related programs from agencies. Council member offered to contact mental health specialists.
Recommendation 3: Engage in an evidence-based substance use prevention program designed to reduce drug use among youth 12–17 years of age	Highlighted similarities to Recommendation 2. Staff is streamlining language for the Annual Report, to combine recommendations 2 and 3.
Recommendation 4: Regulation of Kratom-Based Products	Discussed goals related to kratom-based products and planned future presentations.
Recommendation 5: Transfer of Care and Naloxone Provision	DCF explained new guidelines for direct dispensing of naloxone, along with proposed technical assistance for hospitals on safe distribution of medications.

	<p>ACHA offered to research existing programs on warm handoff or education.</p> <p>There was mention of the FOCUS program, which is a public health initiative that enables partners to develop and share best practices in routine blood-borne virus and mention of recent pharmacy expansions for HIV screening and treatment.</p> <p>Suggesting providing Medication Assisted Treatment (MAT) bridge programs through pharmacies.</p>
<p>Recommendation 6: Support equal Coverage for Mental Health and Substance Use Disorders in Medical Insurance Policies</p>	<p>No additional feedback provided.</p>

3. Agency and Member Updates:

Key Themes	Details
<p>Combating Illegal Drug Activity:</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • FDLE, FDOT, and DHSMV collaborating on Operation Lone Star and Vigilant Century to curb the influx of illegal drugs, particularly fentanyl, into Florida. • HCSO continues to succeed in opioid overdose prosecutions and is launching a new interdiction unit to target fentanyl trafficking. • PCSO highlighted the success of its partnership with federal agencies to enhance interdiction efforts.
<p>Enhanced Resources and Support:</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DMA received increased funding for its Counterdrug program, significantly boosting recovery resources and equipment. • DJJ ensures naloxone availability across detention centers and other juvenile facilities, with trained staff to administer it. They also provide Medication-Assisted Treatment (MAT) as needed.
<p>Mental Health and Awareness:</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • FBHA celebrated Mental Health Awareness Month with various activities, emphasizing the importance of housing in healthcare for those in recovery. • Upcoming Behavior Health conference aims to continue raising awareness and provide extensive educational opportunities.
<p>Collaborative Efforts:</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Multiple agencies highlight the importance of collaboration at both state and local levels, working together to enhance drug interdiction and recovery programs. • Informed Families and DCF are focusing on prevention messaging, with updates on fund allocations for campaigns like The Facts. Your Future.

Notable Agency Activities:

- FDLE: Engaged in investigations and operations to combat illegal fentanyl activity.
- DHSMV: Partnering with various agencies for border control and executing operations focused on drug confiscation.
- DMA: Received funding boost for Counterdrug program and provided substantial resources to support recovery efforts.

- FBHA: Highlighted Mental Health Awareness Month activities and announced the Behavior Health Conference.
- HCSO: Success in opioid overdose prosecutions and launching a new fentanyl interdiction unit.
- PSO: Noted the importance of long-term recovery plans and partnerships with federal teams for effective drug interdiction.
- DJJ: Noted naloxone availability in all juvenile centers and provided access to MAT.

4. Public Comments/Open Discussion:

No public comments were received.

5. Adjournment:

The Chair announced that the date for the next Council meeting will be announced and publicly posted soon.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:02 p.m.