Call to Order and Roll Call
Chairman Robins called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m. Ms. Smith called the roll. Captain Anderson was absent, with City of Daytona Beach Paramedicine Officer Timothy “TJ” Nicastro sitting in (non-voting). Reverend Kemp-Baird and Mr. Pappalardo were also absent. The meeting began with a quorum of nine members.

Item 1 - Approval of minutes – meeting of February 24, 2023
Captain Yates made a MOTION to approve the minutes as recommended. Mr. Parrington SECONDED the motion. The motion CARRIED 9-0.

Item 2 – Board member alternates
Mr. Soria explained that this advisory board is governed by the Interlocal Agreement, which is between the County and participating municipalities. Board members have inquired about assigning an alternate voting member in the event of their absence. Mr. Soria stated he could draft an amendment to the Interlocal Agreement, and distribute it for comment to the County and the cities. The respective commissions would need to approve the amendment and simultaneously appoint their alternate. Someone of authority like a staff member or knowledgeable citizen may be appointed as the alternate; they need not be an elected official. Sunshine Law dictates the alternate may discuss board business with the original member from the same government, but may not discuss board business with any
other board member or alternate outside of meetings. An alternate would be a voting member only when the original member was not present at the meeting.

Sheriff Chitwood made a **MOTION** to amend the Interlocal Agreement as needed. Mayor Partington **SECONDED** the motion. The motion **CARRIED** 9-0.

**Item 3 - Presentations**

1) Steve Civitelli, Administrator, Volusia Department of Health – Volusia County CORe Program
   
   Mr. Civitelli discussed CORe activities, including background, purpose and progress since July 2022. He noted key partners, including SMA Healthcare, Halifax Medical Center, Daytona Beach Fire Department, and Volusia Recovery Alliance. The State provided start-up funds of over $600,000 for a year, which have served 96 individuals so far. This full-circle continuum of care—having a community paramedicine (DART) paired with the hospitals, a 24-hour hotline, and an agency like SMA—is an important model for ending the cycle of addiction. One major issue in Volusia is the high number of recurring opioid instances by the same individuals. The goal COReis to provide targeted wrap-around care and reduce recurring encounters, while lessening strains on the care system.

2) Nicole Sharbono, Chief Operating Officer, SMA Healthcare
   
   Ms. Sharbono discussed services for opioid and substance use disorders offered by SMA Healthcare. SMA’s comprehensive slate of services enable services for individuals with substance use issues no matter what healthcare door they enter. Medication assisted treatment (MAT) is now the standard of care for opioid use disorder, and SMA is working to expand MAT to DeLand. SMA is also working toward universal peer coverage in the hospitals. Residential programs offer beds for women, men, youth, crisis care and detoxification. Most have a wait-list. SMA distributes Narcan at all levels of care and distributed 2,993 kits last year. Current areas of opportunity include expanding DART and CORe, MAT, peer intervention in ERs, and treatment for individuals who suffer from complications due to IV drug use. She estimated the total cost of these opportunities could be around $5 million. For only MAT, peers, and DART, the cost may be $1.5 million. She noted that the inconsistency of funding for sustaining programs is an ongoing concern.

3) Karen Chrapek, Executive Director, Volusia Recovery Alliance (VRA)
   
   Ms. Chrapek presented data illustrating the impacts of recovery support. Although data shows that Volusia’s overdose rate is slowly decreasing, there is still an opioid crisis in our community. Every dollar invested in treatment and recovery offsets $4 in healthcare costs and $7 in criminal justice costs. She reviewed the services provided by VRA. She noted that many overdoses occur after leaving treatment because individuals use the same amount of the drug as they did before treatment, but they no longer have the high level of tolerance. She added that VRA’s greatest needs at this time are staffing and support of current and future initiatives.

4) Captain Daniel Shivers, School Safety and Security Director, Volusia County Sheriff’s Office – Volusia County Schools Narcan Initiative
   
   Captain Shivers started an initiative to get Narcan in schools. So far this school year, on multiple occasions parents or other adults have accidentally dropped drugs in the parking lot or inside the school, although it was caught in time. Currently the school system does not equip anyone with Narcan. He noted that there have been 17 juvenile overdoses since the beginning of the year, and only five Narcan deployments.
The Governor enhanced the Good Samaritan Law making school employees immune from liability when using Narcan properly. The FDA approved Narcan for over the counter use. It has no harmful side effects. Every school guardian has been trained for Narcan use. The Sheriff’s Office can also train school nurses and administrators at no charge. He provided these statistics and a draft set of policies and procedures to the School Board attorney for review. Captain Shivers requested that the advisory board help keep the Narcan policy issue relevant with the School Board through a letter of support.

Chairman Robins noted that an Automated External Defibrillator (AED) has the same liability as Narcan but that AEDs are currently in all schools. Chief Mahoney suggested that Captain Shivers also make a presentation to the Volusia Flagler Police Chiefs Association. Mayor Partington felt that the opioid abatement advisory board should write a letter of support to the School Board, as well as urge County Council and each of their respective city commissions to lend their support.

Mr. Soria stated that the function of this board is to recommend the expenditure of funds to the County Council, but as an independently functioning advisory board it can write a letter to another group. Discussion clarified that the board could also send letters to the County Council and each of the cities represented on this body. Mr. Tiamson suggested that Mr. Soria, as the lawyer for this board, also talk to the School Board lawyer and try to get on the School Board agenda; Sheriff Chitwood concurred. Chairman Robins asked that Captain Shivers make this presentation to Council with the goal of Council writing a letter to the School Board.

It was suggested that the board not forget early education and awareness programs such as the former DARE program. Captain Shivers noted that deputies are in DARE training and it was hoped to bring dare DARE back next fall. Sheriff Chitwood will provide the number of DARE officers currently trained county-wide.

Staff acknowledged that Mr. Tiamson had joined the meeting during the Presentations. Ten members were then present.

**Item 4 – Volusia County Schools letter of support**

After discussion by the board and Captain Shivers, Mayor Partington made a MOTION to send a letter of support on behalf of the advisory board members to the Volusia County School Board as well as the Volusia County Council and each of the city commissions represented by this board. Each of the members would sign the letter. Chief Glazier SECONDED the motion. The motion CARRIED 10-0. Staff will prepare the letter for signatures at the next board meeting on April 21st.

**Item 5 – State payment update**

Ms. Smith reported that the first payment of regional funds has been received as of Friday, April 7th in the amount of $5,304,561.07. She compared the breakdown of the separate settlement amounts with the initial estimate, The payments are paid by the State fiscal year July to June.

**Item 6 – First State report – year 1 funding plan – due June 30th**

Ms. Smith noted that the first of two annual reports to the State would be due in June. This report deals with stating the planned uses for the funding in the coming year (State fiscal year July – June). Staff recommends the board create an addendum to the approved Volusia County Opioid Abatement Plan with its top 3-5 priority uses of funds as allowable in Schedule B, and stating that the board would issue related NOFAs for funding in the coming year. The board will need to set these priorities as its
recommendation by the next meeting on April 21st in order for the County Council to approve the plan and submit to the State by June 30th.

It is staff’s understanding that the full payment amount does not need to be expended by the end of the first year. Mr. Soria explained that the second annual report mentioned will be an expenditure report of the actual funds used in the previous year, due each August.

**Item 7 – Prioritization of funding uses**

Mr. Soria addressed a previous inquiry about using funds for law enforcement salaries. Funds may support Schedules A and B approved uses for abatement related programs. Funds may be used for a portion of salary for direct or indirect support; however, not for salaries related to usual law enforcement duties.

Ms. Butler explained what information the State is looking for in a funding plan. Their recommendations can be flexible. Mayor Partington suggested making the recommendation with the maximum latitude for flexibility and to maximize the benefit and efficiency for Volusia County residents. MAT, DART, fentanyl testing, treatment, and Narcan, would be his recommendations.

Mr. Tiamson suggested early intervention could be a broad priority, and also sees value in the services that VRA provides, as well as veterans’ needs, the DART program. Officer Nicastro with Daytona Beach Fire Department explained more about DART.

Sheriff Chitwood concurred about early education, MAT, and DART, along with efforts to stop dealers. Chief Gardner suggested the need for hands-free CPR devices on all fire and EMS trucks in the county to enable responders to provide more direct life-saving efforts. It was also suggested that a percentage support education efforts from training responders to youth education.

In summary, the board suggested five priorities for year one, including MAT, DART, fentanyl testing, hands-free CPR devices, and early education and prevention. In addition, Schedule B: H-4 could be addressed immediately at no cost through the School Board. Staff will draft an Addendum to the Abatement Plan for approval at the next meeting.

Sheriff Chitwood asked about statistics and best practices related to reducing repeat overdoses based on peers and providers seeing overdose victims in the hospital within a certain period of time. Ms. Chrapek will check with CCAR in Connecticut and perhaps invite them to speak to the board.

Sheriff Chitwood made a MOTION to ask Ms. Chrapek to invite CCAR to attend the next meeting. Captain Yates SECONDED the motion. The motion CARRIED 10-0.

Mayor Partington excused himself early from the meeting. Nine voting members were then present.

**Board discussion of matters not on the agenda – No Comments**

**Staff items for discussion**

Ms. Smith highlighted upcoming meetings and workshops related to opioid issues that she would be attending in the coming weeks.

Mr. Soria introduced Maureen Sikora, Assistant County Attorney, who will be stepping into Mr. Soria’s place as legal advisor to the board.
Public participation -- No Comments

Next meetings
Friday, April 21, 2023, 9:00 a.m. until around Noon, DBIA McGee Room
   1) Carrie Baird, Flagler Cares – Flagler County CORe Initiative
   2) Sergeant Dwayne Harris, Seminole County SCORE Program/Behavioral Services Unit

The board was asked about going on field trips to community providers such as SMA and VRA. The board did not wish to schedule a field trip at this time.

The Airport is tentatively booked for a meeting on May 15th. The board will consider meeting frequency and a possible May meeting at the April 21st meeting. Mr. Hartman noted that he would not be able to attend on May 15th.

Adjourn
Chief Gardner made a MOTION to adjourn the meeting. Sheriff Chitwood SECONDED the motion. The motion CARRIED 9-0.

The meeting was adjourned by Chairman Robins at 2:51 p.m.

Respectfully submitted for approval on April 21, 2023 by Jessi Smith, Special Projects Coordinator – Opioid, Volusia County Community Services.