Opioid Abatement Funding Advisory Board
MINUTES

Friday, February 24, 2023
9am – Noon, Daytona Beach International Airport, McGee Room, 700 Catalina Dr., Daytona Beach

**Board Members:**
Travis Anderson - Daytona Beach  
Mike Chitwood - Deltona  
Beau Gardner - Port Orange  
Jeff Glazier - Ponce Inlet  
Michael Grebosz - DeLand  
Randy Hartman - New Smyrna Beach  
Robert Kemp-Baird - Daytona Beach Shores  
Jim Pappalardo - DeBary  
Bill Partington - Ormond Beach  
Danny Robins - Volusia County  
Alex Tiamson - Orange City  
Edgewater - Vacant  
Holly Hill – Vacant (Captain Chris Yates pending)  
Lake Helen - Vacant

**County Staff:**
Dona Butler, Director, Community Services  
Jessi Smith, Sp. Proj. Coord - Opioid  
Paolo S. Soria, Senior Assistant County Attorney

**WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS:**
Ms. Butler made welcome and stated the purpose of the Opioid Abatement Funding Advisory Board. By interlocal agreement between Volusia County and thirteen eligible participating municipalities, the Board was established to ensure that the County’s Regional allotment of opioid settlement funds are used to address opioid-related impacts within Volusia County.

Board members and County staff introduced themselves. Sheriff Chitwood, Chief Gardner, and Rev. Kemp-Baird were absent. The seats for Edgewater, Holly Hill, and Lake Helen were still vacant. Captain Chris Yates, the pending appointee for Holly Hill, was present although did not vote. Chief Deputy Brian Henderson sat in for Sheriff Chitwood although did not vote. Chief Glazier and Captain Yates noted they would need to step out early for another meeting on-site; Chief Glazier returned after that meeting. There was a quorum of eight members present for the voting items.

**ELECTION OF CHAIR AND VICE CHAIR:**
Mr. Soria called for nominations from the members for a Board Chair and Vice Chair.

Mr. Pappalardo made a **MOTION** to nominate Mr. Robins as Chair. Mayor Partington seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously 8-0.

Mr. Robins made a **MOTION** to nominate Mayor Partington for Vice Chair. Chief Glazier seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously 8-0.
**STAFF PRESENTATIONS:**

**Sunshine Training:** Mr. Soria presented the Sunshine guidelines with highlights including: requirements for public notice of meetings; taking of meeting minutes; restriction from discussing opioid funding-related issues by any two or more members outside of board meetings; the right of public participation before any substantive voting action; penalties; public records laws and requests – forward issues to Mr. Soria or Ms. Smith.

**Opioid Settlement Background:** Mr. Soria gave an overview including: nationwide opioid class action lawsuit, and the Florida Plan; the City/County Fund, Regional Fund, State Fund; Volusia County is a Qualified County which manages the Regional funds for this region in lieu of a managing entity; the Interlocal Agreement between the County and a majority of the cities governs use of the Regional funds; general timeline and allowable uses; intent for this Board to prioritize approved uses specific to Volusia County needs; reporting elements and timeline; Board member guidelines, duties and functions; next steps and future Board actions; online resources. Mr. Soria also presented the Board Bylaws document.

Mr. Tiamson inquired as to who paid for our settlement legal expenses. Mr. Soria explained that legal fees were covered by the overall settlement before the funds were divided into the three funds.

Mayor Partington inquired if the 2021 version of the Opioid Abatement Plan is the current plan, and whether it is funded at a certain level. Mr. Soria explained that the current Abatement Plan is an overview of what is happening currently in Volusia County, and includes the approved uses for abatement in the county.

Chief Glazier asked for clarification about the two cities that have a different agreement with the County for another set of funds. Mr. Soria explained two cities have assigned their allotment of City/County funds along with related management and reporting requirements to the County in order to make a more impactful use of those funds than could be done on its own.

**Best Practices:** Ms. Smith made a presentation highlighting several publications by national and state entities about opioid settlement spending and abatement best practices, including those by Johns Hopkins, the CDC, Arnold Ventures, the State Opioid Task Force, and the State Commission on Substance Abuse and Mental Health. She noted that healthcare best practices and evidence-based strategies should be incorporated in proposed projects by applicant organizations, and considered by the board when prioritizing and making funding recommendations.

**Current Volusia County Initiatives:** Ms. Butler made a presentation about current Volusia County goals and strategies. She highlighted recommendations reported in the recent UCF Gap Analysis Report, and in the Volusia County Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP) and the Volusia County Health Department’s Strategic Plan.

**BYLAWS:**

Mr. Partington made a MOTION to enact the Bylaws as presented. Chief Glazier seconded the motion. A question was asked about administrative costs. The Regional fund allows a cap of 5% administrative costs per year. The motion carried unanimously 8-0.
A 10-minute break was called at 10:05.

**OTHER PRESENTATIONS:**

**UCF Gap Analysis:** Ms. Randa Matusiak from Volusia County Public Protection made a presentation reviewing the findings of the recent *Volusia County Mental Health and Substance Use Gap Analysis Report*, by the UCF Institute for Social and Behavioral Science. She discussed the secondary data resources utilized and comparisons between Volusia County and statewide figures, which on whole show Volusia’s needs are greater than the state averages. She noted examples of questionable issues with the local data, such as the remarkably low number of substance misuse beds shown available compared to actual numbers, and emphasized the potential need for improvement in data collection. She also highlighted service provider surveys and current client interviews. The report made six concluding recommendations: 1) Increasing treatment capacity; 2) Focusing on special populations; 3) Increasing access to care; 4) Expanding support services; 5) Treating substance misuse and mental health as co-occurring; and 6) Data-drive prevention. The final report is being finalized and edited for forthcoming distribution.

Mr. Pappalardo inquired if we could see the different types of treatment providers and their distributions, and their capacities based on their populations; and as far as MAT programs are concerned, do we know if there is more than one active MAT provider in the County. Ms. Butler noted there are two providers, both located on the east side of the County. Types of treatments available and where could be the subject of a future presentation. Additionally, he noted the low absenteeism rate on the dosing portion of MAT programs, but a lack of adherence on the counseling portion, and asked if the report addressed this issue. Ms. Matusiak noted that this report does not cover that issue specifically, due to the interviewees being clients in active treatment being either incarcerated or in a residential treatment program.

**Volusia County Initiatives:** Mr. Ethan Johnson, Assistant Director of the Volusia County Health Department, made a presentation about two of its primary opioid and substance misuse and overdose prevention initiatives funded by grant programs: Overdose to Action (OD2A), and Coordinated Opioid Recovery Project (CORe). The Path4Hope Search Conference, a data dashboard, educational outreach, and marketing activities were among accomplishments of the OD2A grant, along with MAT transporters providing access to services for individuals living on the west side of the County. In 2021 Volusia County was ranked the second highest county in the state for fatal overdoses, and was included as a core community in the first iteration of the Governor’s new CORe initiative. A team of partners including DOHV, SMA, Halifax Health, and Daytona Beach Fire implemented funds vehicles, case managers, and officers supporting the DART response program in Daytona Beach, a nurse navigator, an addictionologist, and an additional crisis counselor. Mr. Johnson provided some current data about substance misuse and overdoses in Volusia County. He further emphasized that CHARTS does not always show real time information, but DOHV data does reflect real time information due to the good partnerships formed locally.

Ms. Nicole Sharbono of SMA Healthcare, a public attendee, was asked to provide some clarification regarding the number of residential beds in Volusia County, which seemed to be underrepresented by the AHCA numbers seen in the CHARTS data in the UCF report. She noted that SMA alone has 19 detox beds for men and women, 54 men’s beds in DeLand, and 24 adolescent beds in Daytona Beach, and an additional 70 beds for women in Flagler County, which accepts Volusia County patients when needed. She also emphasized there is still an ongoing waitlist for most types of beds. With regard to medication assisted treatment (MAT), she noted that there are two methadone clinics in east Volusia although
they are not run by SMA. However, SMA does provide other forms of MAT. SMA offers mobile units that provide services around the County, including at least 65 from the West Volusia area.

**MEMBER DISCUSSION:**
Mayor Partington stated he is looking forward to hearing from partners on the front lines, and wanted to see this Board’s recommendations of funding benefit all of Volusia County and make the most bang for the buck. He also sees great value in MAT treatments, and MAT used with therapy and other wrap-around services; education and awareness; the availability of NARCAN; looking at availability of treatment beds and the cost per bed; and the beneficial effect of services for pregnant women.

Mr. Robins drew attention to Schedules A and B, and questioned whether, under Prevention Program, we might expand training and hiring toward an opioid task force through law enforcement, such as funding additional positions to be proactive on enforcement. Ms. Butler stated more research would have to be done by staff on the intent of these very broad state guidelines.

Chief Glazier stated it was important to look at the root causes of substance misuse issues and the traumas that may underly, and not simply looking at the symptoms. He agreed with the need for treatments such as MAT.

Mr. Tiamson inquired whether the intent of the funding is to assist those whose opioid addictions began from illicit drug use versus prescription medicine use. Deputy Henderson responded that, in the early 2000s, there was no prescription monitoring program in Florida when the epidemic first escalated. As soon as legislation was enacted, new prescription-based addictions halted quickly; however, the opioid needs of those already addicted was still a major issue, and those individuals turned to illicit sources. He further noted that, to date in 2023, 36 individuals have died from opioid overdose in Volusia County.

Mr. Robins questioned whether there was a shortage of NARCAN and inquired about its shelf life, and should Volusia pre-order a large quantity. Deputy Henderson clarified that the shelf life is two years, and there isn’t currently a shortage of NARCAN in Volusia. SMA helps purchase NARCAN. Discussion ensued about expiration dates.

Henderson further noted that Flagler County Schools now has NARCAN in the schools. There has been fentanyl found in Volusia schools; however, Volusia County Schools does not permit school staff to have NARCAN on hand. He inquired whether this Board could write a letter to Volusia County Schools to encourage such. Mr. Soria stated that this Board could write such a letter once the data is researched to support it. Mr. Robins suggested reaching out to Jessie Thompson at VCS as a liaison. Chief Glazier added that we should get NARCAN out to as many places as possible. Ms. Butler suggested maximizing NARCAN sounds like one of the Board’s growing priorities; we will work with the Sheriff’s office and SMA to gather some data and draft a letter. Mr. Robins questioned how many units of NARCAN are currently available. Deputy Henderson can pull the NARCAN data.

**PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:**
Randy Margrave of Holly Hill Pharmacy and Live Love Life, Inc. spoke about the HIV and Hepatitis C clinic that he operates. He noted the success of clean needle programs and his desire to implement a syringe exchange program in Volusia County. The needle programs related to HIV and Hepatitis C that Mr. Margrave provides has been a highly effective “back door” solution to helping IV drug users
recover from opioid addiction. His organization also distributes NARCAN. Live Love Life does not use government funding but rather is financially supported through discounts from drug manufacturers. He would like to see healthcare workers represented on the Board, and would be interested in joining or advising the Board or otherwise providing any information.

NEXT MEETING:
Regarding a long-term schedule, Ms. Butler stated staff would like direction from the Board about how to move forward. Suggestions for presentations at the next meetings included: Seminole County SCORE program; SMA Crisis Center and substance use services, beds, MAT; Flagler Cares/One Voice for Volusia CORe program; Volusia Recovery Alliance; Volusia School Board about NARCAN, and awareness and early intervention programs; and others to help narrow priorities and prepare for a NOFA. Ms. Butler suggested scheduling meetings more frequently up front and then perhaps consider quarterly moving forward. Staff could lay out some options for setting up the proposal and recommendation process. The timeline for these processes is still uncertain but there is at least a month’s submission time in advance of a Council meeting to consider. We are still awaiting the receipt of year one funds and any reporting data the state will require from us.

Mayor Partington suggested that the Board meet monthly for a couple more months, and we can decide on a regular schedule at a later meeting. Chief Glazier noted that the regular Chiefs’ meeting is always the last Friday of the month if it could be avoided. The Board felt that the airport would be a good location to continue meeting. March 24th was suggested.

ADJOURN:
Mr. Pappalardo made a MOTION at 11:33 to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Mayor Partington. The motion carried unanimously 8-0.

Respectfully submitted for approval on April 11, 2023 by Jessi Smith, Special Projects Coordinator – Opioid, Volusia County Community Services.