

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF
THE OPIOID ABATEMENT FUNDING ADVISORY BOARD**

Date: October 17, 2022

Present: Christi Hankins – Escambia County Assistant County Attorney
Rebecca Szuch – Escambia County Paralegal
Dr. Irvin Williams
Tommy White
Matt Infinger
John Mathis
Catherine White

Location: Ernie Lee Magaha Government Building, Board Chambers, First Floor
221 Palafox Place, Pensacola, Florida

Minutes prepared by Tina Arroyo – Assistant to the Board

1. Call to Order
2. Pledge Allegiance to the Flag.
3. Election of Chair and Vice Chair.

Motion: To nominate John Mathis for Chairperson and Catherine White for Vice Chairperson

Made by: Tommy White

Disposition: Motion unanimously passes, John Mathis will be Chair and Catherine White will be Vice Chair

4. Approval of the minutes from September 12 meeting.

Motion: To approve the minutes from October 12

Made by: Matt Infinger Seconded by: Catherine White
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Disposition: Motion unanimously passes

5. Public Forum - Speakers limited to 2 minutes each.
 1. No speakers

6. Discussion and voting on the by-laws.
 1. **Tommy White** – In the duties the board must make annual recommendations on funding programs and things of that nature, it reads as if the board will only do this one time. We need clarity on this.
Christ Hankins – The by-laws came directly from the Board of County Commissioners' resolution. The plan is to have a speaker to go over the procurement Process and it will be further defined after we have a better understanding.
7. Setting a required annual meeting.
 1. **Christi Hankins** –under article 4, Section 3 for a required annual meeting. You will need to set the date of the required meeting. The regularly scheduled meetings do not cover the required annual meeting.
John Mathis - At this time, we will hear from the procurement officer and determine a date for the annual meeting.
8. Questions from the last meeting.
 - 1a. **Christi Hankins** – Is CDAC, the task force, subject to public records and the sunshine law? This will depend on if they are a decision-making authority, information gathering or fact finding. They are going to be fact finding, they are not going to come to this board and tell you who to elect. The board will go to them with questions you need to know.
For example: How many providers are available in this region, the question would be- How many Narcan drugs, who has this and how many people can we get it to? As long as their job is fact finding and they are not making a dispositive decision.
 - b. There were some procurement questions that we will deal with at the next meeting procurement speaker and Wes Moreno and this also included the single budget question.
 - c. Contact with BOCC, you are not on the same board when it comes to contact with the BOCC. It will come down to what is the content of the discussion.
9. **Chief David Torsell from Escambia County EMS** – Escambia County has a dashboard that is updated regularly.
<https://myescambia.com/our-services/public-safety/emergency-medical-services/dashboard>
Three weeks ago, we were encroaching on the 1500 mark for overdoses for the year. Escambia County EMS handled 1095 overdoses last year. We were fortunate enough to be selected with other community partners, our three local hospitals, Baptist, Sacred Heart and HCA Florida West for the C.O.R.E program. Although this is team effort it really swings hard around EMS. For our service, a normal overdose response would be, we respond to the field, pick them up, transport to the hospital, they get whatever treatment necessary. Then potentially they would either get a referral for addiction therapy from the hospital, or they would be discharged without agreeing to receive those services only to go back to the community and we end up picking them up again, taking them back to the hospital, what I like to call wash, rinse, repeat. At what point can we do something that is going to change that cycle? The C.O.R.E. program is the Coordinated Opioid Recovery Effort. The E is supposed to be silent, but I added the E for effort because I think it is going to be a community effort amongst all our partners. We are changing the way we are providing service.

9. Cont'd

Once a patient goes to the hospital, the physician staff are training all their emergency staff. They offer services for addiction therapy through medicine which will get them to that level of even state, they will have normal though to make good decision to want a normal life. The biggest thing we have identified is when people who are addicted to drugs get discharged from the hospital, they are given a piece of paper that is a referral with a date and time. EMS will be the one to see them again when we pick them up again for an overdose.

How can we try to avert this? EMS staff along with Community paramedicine, which is also part of this program. We are going to meet with patients before leaving to let them know we will meet with you and give you medicine to keep you clear so you can make good decisions.

We are also going to find out what other resources the patient needs, phone, utilities, food, etc.

Community Health N.W. Florida is our community partner, they are bringing on additional staff through the funding coming from the state. Additional mental health professionals, social workers, case workers. Through this program I can hire additional staff, registered nurses, paramedics and two drivers. The drivers are because we found out getting to appointments is an issue. This program is going to be 24/7 no matter what time of day we are needed.

I have been working with Elizabeth Kissel on a transitional housing grant It is specific for homeless individuals with addiction. We have been looking at property in Escambia County for such a place.

10. Jan Durrani with Levin, Papantonio, Rafferty Law Firm – Expected revenues as shown on the below chart received from attorney generals' office.



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11. The next meeting will be Monday November 14 at 10:00am

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Board, Chairman Mathis declared the Opioid Abatement Funding Advisory Board adjourned.