

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

Date: March 6, 2023

Present: Christi Hankins – Escambia County Senior Assistant Attorney
John Mathis
Catherine White
Irv Williams
Matt Infinger

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. Approval of the minutes from February 13, 2023.

Motion: To approve the minutes from February 13, 2023
Made by: Catherine White Seconded by: Irv Williams
Disposition: Motion unanimously passes

4. **Public Forum** - Speakers limited to 2 minutes each.

1. **Stephanie Shepard** – Update about the round table last month, Hope Above Fear has been able to contact more people who are interested in participating. We spoke to Rachel Kelly with the Pensacola Police department. Vanessa Phillips from the Health Department. Patty Hightower from the School Board. Susan Bergosh with Health and Hope Clinic. The medical examiner's office was able to provide statistics from 2016-2022. The 2022 statistics are not completely updated yet. One of the questions that has come to me multiple times, is this board acting as the Opioid Task Force, or just the Fund Advisory Board? **John Mathis:** This board is just a fund advisory board.
Stephanie Shepard – Is there an Opioid Task Force in Pensacola? Just wanting Clarity of what exactly is the task or role of this board regarding addressing and decreasing opioid addiction and overdoses in Escambia.

The opioid crisis board is to function as the eyes and ears of the community and to present our information to the Board of County Commissioners for the final approval of any expenditures from the funds that come in.

Denise from the CDAC - I just wanted to give you a quick update. CDAC and the task force is planning an opioid summit on June 15th we already have a keynote speaker Dr Stavros and then we will have other invites family members that have been involved with um the crisis and so we are looking at an all-day Summit and I will be reaching out to our state representatives as well law enforcement to make sure they're at the table as well and so please put it on your agenda. The mayor has given us Sanders Beach and I have reached out to EMS and they will be there as well to explain Narcan training and we will have Narcan available to distribute that day as well.

Rodney Jones 2112 West Young Street - Good morning I just wanted to talk to you a little bit about what we do. I'm a clinical mental health counsel of psychology been working in the addiction field for quite some time I am a recovering addict and a returning citizen all in one which are some of the mixtures in that scenario being recovering addict and a returning citizen which puts me in a unique situation where I deal with a lot of people who are in both categories. What we do at New World Believers Hope is provide services for individuals who may be suffering from substance abuse and who may be returning to free world society and we help them navigate work with a lot of agencies and organizations in our community.

5. Representative from Lakeview – Did not show up but plans on being at a future meeting.

6. SIM - Sequential Intercept Mapping - Cathy White - I just wanted to give you a brief description of what it is and how I feel like that this potentially could help us Identify some service Gap areas as well as some services available in our community. It's a creation of the map of the criminal justice system which includes different points of intercept as people move through the system it has basically six distinct intercept points. Community services, law enforcement, Emergency Services, initial detention first appearance, jails courts re-entry and Community Corrections but it gives us an opportunity to try to help people divert out of the criminal justice system. The process has included many different people from many agencies from the sheriff's department Community providers court system Lakeview

7. Narcan distributor – Caty White - After our last meeting and just taking some time to really research some of the things that I feel like this board could act on and maybe move forward one of the core strategies is to save lives and I feel like Narcan distribution is something that we could really push forward I don't believe that everybody in the community has access to Narcan so I was thinking that maybe we could host a community event where we could purchase Narcan and have just an educational opportunity maybe get with Public Safety, maybe a partner with community health or someone to come in and help provide services that day, maybe have counselors on site but really to get Narcan in the hands of anybody that needs it. We want everybody to have that so I believe the county has received 210 000 roughly around that so far from this opioid funding but this would be an easy purchase honestly for the county to you know procure the Narcan that would be easy and something we could present to the board of course for their approval if they felt like this was something that would be a worthwhile cause but I'd like I said I really feel like everybody needs Narcan everybody needs to know how to use Narcan and we really need to educate the community.

Florida Department of Health and Escambia County also has it for free in every Health Department even in Santa Rosa County has it for free so that is available. If someone would like Narcan they can also go to a pharmacist and the pharmacist can write a prescription for it, but there is a cost to that. The State of Florida is also looking at another potential substance like Narcan's four milligrams. A lot of times with fentanyl they have to administer more than one spray up the nasal passage, so they are looking at another drug that is actually eight milligrams. We are just waiting for an approval on that. That may be where we may be able to use potential funding for. I do not know the detail on that yet, but it may be more effective than using two nasal sprays of Narcan.

Christi Hankins - As of March of first we have not received any funds put into the budget yet or into the treasury. The clerk has made a first Revenue deposit of \$215 770.76 but it must be recognized by the board of County Commissioners which has not occurred yet. Before it becomes available for expenditure.

Since CDAC has an event already scheduled in June, that might be the steppingstone that we need to do a public outreach and it does not require any voting. Work with CDAC and let them help you put together the next time you want to meet in a public outreach.

8. Round table Workshop discussion -I believe CDAC would be a much more fitting vehicle for this type of thing as discussed earlier. The summit really is the vision for us to get the information out but also get our community leaders and community members to learn about what is going on in the community.

9. New business - Cathy White - I did have one other thing in one of the core strategies it really talks about evidence-based prevention programs in the schools, and this is an area that we really could invest in, youth prevention and trying to get ahead of the problem instead of behind it. We could partner with them potentially to provide since they are not offering anything right now. Resource officers are currently carrying Narcan but that is the only Narcan that is in the in the schools. There are currently no prevention programs and that was one of the reasons I presented something to the school board and want to collaborate with them.

Rodney or Miss Shephard do you all know what the school board or what they are doing at all as far as prevention with the substances in the school is there an app or anything where students can send something to the school resource officer to let them know people are selling or have narcotics at school?

For the record was that there were multiple people in the audience saying there is nothing at all.

Also miss Shepherd - I looked at your surveys that you sent over to us, thank you for doing that. Has the school board been receptive to somehow making this accessible to students at all?

Stephanie Shepard - So as of right now they have spoken to me in regards of wanting to meet. we have not actually sat down and had a conversation, but they have expressed the willingness and the desire to learn more and to collaborate in some form or fashion.

Monday the 8th at 10:00am will be the next meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

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