

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

Date: June 20, 2023

Present: Christi Hankins – Escambia County Senior Assistant Attorney
John Mathis - Chair
Catherine White – Vice Chair
Irv Williams
Tommy White
Matthew 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 May 8, 2023.

Motion: To approve the minutes from May 8, 2023
Made by: Dr. Irv Williams Seconded by: Cathy White
Disposition: Motion unanimously passes

4. United Way Representative – **Laura Gilliam** - I'm the president and CEO of United Way of West Florida and I just wanted to share some information that I thought might be helpful. Dr Williams and I have worked together for the last year or so on the mental health task force. I've been here since 2018. I moved here from Huntington West Virginia, and I was with United Way of River Cities in Huntington for 12 years and for those of you who may not know, Huntington West Virginia unfortunately when I moved here was known as the overdose capital and the opioid capital of the world. That's not a good title to have. The last two years before I left, we spent considerable time on substance use disorder related issues. We had a youth prevention Coalition that was established in 2005 and one of the things that I learned about being part of that program is the need to ensure that the community is ready for programming whatever it is that you're trying to implement before you implement it, because if they're not ready, if they don't recognize the problem, they don't understand the problem then they're going to have a hard time accepting it and agreeing to some of the programming and the solutions. So for anybody who was in Huntington on August 14th of 2016, that's a date that's just kind of burned in our memory there were 28 overdoses in the span of just a few hours in a very small geographic region and just to give you a little context, Huntington is maybe about the size maybe actually a little bit larger than Pensacola but our United Way

served a five-county area, one of which was in Ohio. That entire Five County area population is the population of Escambia County, very rural, very spread apart but just in that on that one day in that short span of time there were 28 overdoses. I'd like to give you as quick as I can an overview of some of the solutions that have worked some of the things that have worked in Huntington. A lot of what Huntington did was to look at other communities to find out what was working there, and I know that's happening here, but I can't emphasize enough the importance of looking at what's working someplace else bringing that here and figuring out how it's going to work in this community. What you're hearing about happened at a time when there was very little money for treatment for intervention and for prevention. Between 2018 and 2019 there was a 40 percent drop in non-fatal overdoses and a 20 percent drop in fatal overdoses. The very first thing that they did after August 14th was to convene leaders, and I mean leaders from everywhere. From local government, law enforcement, faith-based hospitals, medical communities, across the board and they got really hard and fast into community-wide discussions. What they found was that there were a lot of groups that were working independently. A lot of work was going on, but it wasn't coordinated and so that resulted in a lot of duplication of effort and an unintended waste of resources due to some overlapping work that was occurring. What resulted then and one of the reasons I think they've been able to move forward is that out of that came this unified collaboration and this agreement that they had to work together and that might mean that some entity had to give up a little bit for another entity to do this or to come together as a group but in the end that has been recognized nationally and internationally as a success and that is one of the big things they say has worked and the reason that that this community has made some strides.

Marshall University, which is the major institution in Huntington developed a campus-based coalition, so these were working in concert and the most important First Step that they did was to collect data and the right data. They wanted to know what the substances were, how many people were struggling, the cost, which is exceptionally important, the overdose numbers, the overdose deaths where the geographic centers were, and then out of that they developed a comprehensive database. One of the things I remember them saying is that they found that some of the data that was being reported by the medical examiner's office there not listing overdose deaths but they were listing something else so there was some conversation that had to take place with some of these entities that were reporting the deaths. They were reporting it accurately, but it wasn't helpful the way it was being reported so they had to get down to why was there a heart attack or why was there a drowning well it was because the result of an overdose. Marshall University was a key partner, they provided evaluation of Grants, they hosted trainings, they provided counseling on campus, they trained future behavioral health workers. They were a key partner, lots of departments and colleges got involved. One of the advantages up there that they have is that there's a med school and a pharmacy that are associated with Marshall, but even so, they included they got the psychology department, social work counseling, Public Health, all of those involved so just because there's not a med school in a pharmacy school here that doesn't mean that we couldn't get UWF involved heavily if they aren't already at the end of the day they formed the division of addiction Sciences in the department of family and Community Health. If after that first convening of Gathering data, they decided that the focus was on keeping people alive prevention that was important and they needed to make sure that people weren't dying. Some of the early interventions law enforcement again was overwhelmed and they had exhausted their resources so one of the things that they did involve law enforcement was called a lead program and that embedded a mental health provider to provide Pathways

to treatment so they would go out to the homes with a mental health provider and as a result over 50 percent of the individuals who were contacted entered some form of treatment and what that did was increase access to these people who needed help, but it also normalized having a mental health professional within law enforcement.

Harm reduction was the next step. Cabo Huntington Health Department open to harm reduction program was the first in the state. It combated substance use disorder and protected Public Health by incorporating peer Recovery Specialists, it drew people out of the shadows and provided this essential access point and it was a needle exchange. They were having people come in who were using needles and instead of discarding them in the parks around our building they were bringing them in and while they were in there getting needles, they were meeting with these people, developed a sense of trust and eventually found their way into treatment. As a result it was through that work that they discovered a cluster of HIV and were able to begin to address that if they hadn't done the harm reduction program, I don't know that they would have captured that information.

They started project engage and so when someone enters the hospital they're screened. The hospitals then invested in recovery coaches in the emergency departments and inpatient floors as well as addiction specialists, so they were able to treat these folks when they were in the hospital as opposed to that being kind of an issue that they were trying to work around. Within the hospital there's a maternal opioid medical support program called moms and that provides substance use recovery support for both postpartum women and babies and it's near the unit that takes care of the exposed babies. Another thing that they recognize is that you can get people through treatment but to put them back into the communities they came from is often an issue and that often there's relapsing. Project Hope is a residential treatment program that encompasses all pathways to recovery that's for women and their children. As a result of a lot of this collaboration they started to discover a significant gap in the continuum of care and so in 2018 they opened something called **PROACT** which is **P**rovider **R**esponse **O**rganization for **A**ddiction **C**are and **T**reatment. Which is an outpatient treatment facility that allows immediate access for individuals struggling with addiction and it covers all forms of treatment.

5. Presentation by the Sheriff's Department - Chief Simmons - Laura did a really good job of giving you an idea of what we're seeing but I can tell you from law enforcement standpoint what we're seeing is at the bottom level.

We deal with fentanyl all the time, fentanyl dust, fentanyl bricks and pretty much every situation you can think of, so let me start with what our request is so you understand when I give you the why we are asking for to purchase.



Handheld
Nardcotics Analyzer: (Right click, Object, Open)

14 handheld narcotics analyzers, they are a total of four hundred ninety thousand dollars and the reason we're doing this is because the each one of these analyzers will analyze 498 suspected controlled substance in a single definitive test. Sheriff's Office Personnel will be able to analyze key drugs of abuse, specifically Fentanyl and they can do it through plastic and through glass. We see here in Escambia County that we've had 225 overdoses reported last year at the Escambia County Sheriff's office however that's not counting the ones the Pensacola Police Department has responded to, it's not counting the ones that EMS is responding to, that's not counting the ones that self-drove, or someone drove them to the hospital. That number is nowhere near as high as it is, and we almost have one every day. These are overdose we go to probably over one a day overdoses, but they don't result in a death so the reason I say that is because we're increasing our cooperation with our federal authorities. This is something that we must hit with a multi-prong approach and so what we're doing is we're partnering with DEA, partnering with ATF, partnering with FBI. We had a rather large fentanyl seizure and I think at the time I made a mentioned that we seized enough fentanyl to kill for everyone from here to DeFuniak Springs if it were, you know brought down to that level so we're using Narcan more. The bottom line is fentanyl has become our number one priority at the Escambia County Sheriff's Office because it is our number one priority.

Motion: To put before the Board of County Commissioners to approve 14 handheld narcotics analyzers in the amount of \$490,000.00 to come from the 2.5 million Opioid Abatement Fund.

Made by: John Mathis Seconded by: Cathy White
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Disposition: Motion unanimously passes

6. Budget Update – County Administrator – **Wes Moreno** - 2.5 that's the balance and it's in our account, we just checked last week. A recommendation will be put together to go to the July 18th meeting for the Commissioners to vote on.

7. CDAC – Update from Opioid Summit – **Denise Manassa** – I wanted to give an update from the opioid Summit that we did on this last Thursday, June 15. I gave you some of the questions that we asked the audience members during the summit.



Questions from
Opioid Summit.pdf

(Right click, Object, Open)

The other thing that I handed you was the sheriff was asked during the opiate Summit about the fentanyl strips. I gave you a sheet on what that looks like as far as what the CDC has reported on what that is.



Fentanyl Test
Strips_ A Harm Redu (Right click, Object, Open)

Some positives that came out of the opiate Summit is we had some great phenomenal speakers, great feedback from it, the audience members learned a lot. We had an addictionologist speak, we had somebody speak on medically assisted treatment, David Torsell from EMS spoke give a Narcan training, The Sheriff spoke, representative Salzman spoke, the mayor was there. I think from what I heard from the audience members they'd like more involvement. We had about 165 people attend the opiate Summit.

8. New Business – Next meeting Monday August the 7th

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