

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

Meeting Date: August 7, 2023

Present: Chris Shaffer– Escambia County Senior Assistant Attorney
John Mathis - Chair
Catherine White – Vice Chair
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 June 20, 2023.

Motion: To approve the minutes from June 20, 2023
Made by: Cathy White Seconded by: Tommy White
Disposition: Motion unanimously passes

4. **Presentation by the Pensacola Police Department** - Handheld Narcotic Analyzers
Eric Randall - Police chief for the City of Pensacola and I come before you today to talk about an item in reference to our experiences with opioid and Fentanyl in the community. We want to make a request for the Pensacola Police Department for some opioid funding to be able to purchase three **True Narc** narcotics identification devices to help us in the field as we continue our efforts to combat the opioid and Fentanyl epidemic in the community. Just last week I went to a press conference where Pensacola medical examiner's office has been designated as the deadliest per capita in the State of Florida when it comes to opioid and Fentanyl overdoses. Three of these **True Narc** machines at about I believe about seventy-eight thousand dollars per um a total of about 78,000 with training about eighty thousand dollars for the machines. These will be very beneficial in the field for our Patrol officers and narcotics officers as we go out to proactively address the opioid epidemic, we have in our community to help us safely identify narcotics without having to open and expose ourselves or others to the known derivatives of opioids and fentanyl.

Motion: To put before the Board of County Commissioners to approve the three True Narc units and kits in the amount of \$80,379.00 from the Opioid Abatement Fund

Made by: Cathy White
Seconded by: Tommy White

Disposition: Motion unanimously passes



PPD True Narc.pdf

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5. Chief Torsell – Update - when we last met, we had a discussion we were talking about our plan for how we would get everything together and what our intentions were with the core program that we've had sponsored through the State of Florida. The coordinated opioid recovery effort since that time we've had some tremendous things happen for us, certainly we have our staff in place, we have registered nurses on our team as well as EMTs that are assisting with the transport of these patients. I too was at the same press conference with Chief Randall last week and we're taking a different approach, obviously the drugs in our community are a problem, and as EMS providers those responsible for medical and health care you know we don't have the ability to get the drugs off the street so what we've done is taken the approach of if we can't control the supply we'll control the demand and the demand is making people better, giving them Better Lives, making better choices to where they're no longer utilizing these drugs. For us we did our first induction on April 19th, an induction is where we identify someone that meets all the criteria to be placed on medication assisted therapy, we, utilize Suboxone medication to treat them. The plan for us is to treat them in the field wherever they are, whether they're unhealthy. whether they're staying at a shelter, whether they're staying at a friends, whether they are some of our younger folks. We've had one who was still living with parents so we will go wherever we need to because that's what we felt was one of the big identifying missing pieces.

Going with our current numbers we've had 32 people completely go be inducted into our program. Some of those either initially did not meet the qualifications because of the drugs they were using or their circumstances. There are very strict criteria they must meet to do it. You just can't go out and start giving them these medications because that can cause adverse effects. Of the 32 we've had 13 successful what we call graduates already. They've already been on these medications they've already come off drugs, we've gotten them jobs, we've gotten them clothes, we've gotten them food, we're taking them to regular appointments whether it's Healthcare appointments, Mental Health appointments and what have you.

Our plan initially was a seven-to-ten-day process where they would be with EMS to try to have a limited time where we could get them over to the Community Health Northwest Florida for that long-term addiction therapy, mental health therapy, and eventually get them on a prescription of Suboxone.

When someone tells you they're alive and you have changed their life because of your efforts period the end. I will argue that with anybody anywhere anyplace anytime you're talking about people that were at the lowest of lows people who just needed to be able to make a difference in their life didn't know where to turn have experienced bad things and we said hey, you know

we're going to offer a little tough love as I've mentioned before but we're also going to be there with you to follow you through this journey and not just to the health center where they go for this long term but we're going to continue to follow you, if you need us, you need transportation services; we're going to give it to you.

The hospital recognizes, especially Sacred Heart has recognized that when these patients come in, let's say someone brought them in by car so EMS never had contact, they will call our team and say hey we have we have a patient here we believe is a very good candidate for your program if you can come on over. We go over we meet them, it's private one-on-one sometimes two on one but we don't overwhelm them we just let them know this is an option that's available to you a couple of the things that I want you to realize what it is we're doing.

Of the 13 patients we've had, the successful graduates ,10 of them have gone to Community Health Northwest Florida through their processes and their program. Two of those patients have gone through Lakeview and one of those patients got into Outpatient Treatment in Birmingham. We set them up with family members that are in Birmingham. A good family support system after talking with them and kind of working collaboratively and said we feel you've got the support there they've proven to us that they're here for you if we can get you into that program there where you have someone to assist you and have that family support we feel that would be best for you we still continue to follow up even though this patient's out of state and I mean you know Alabama's not that far away but still it's not somewhere where our team can respond and this patient is doing wonderful.

I do have to say thank you to **Clay Romano** at Waterfront, they have dedicated six beds for our patients for these specific processes. It's become quite prevalent that we'll get someone in, we'll get him the Suboxone, they're getting the treatment, but they don't have the shelter, they don't have the shower, they don't have a place to stay, they don't have a place to do their laundry and get food and they've dedicated that to us as well and been assistive in those processes along with of course the entire community.

6. Purchasing - Jeff Lovingood - I want to thank the panel for allowing me to come in and speak on this topic, my aide has just passed out what we call a cheat sheet that discusses the county procurement policy.



Solicitation
Requirements Cheat (Right click, Object, Open)

I'd like to go over that real quick just for a moment. If you'll turn your attention to the cheat sheet, you will see that anything that's under five thousand dollars can be purchased by any individual with a county p-card. All we need is typically one quote, although I always prefer three whenever possible, but policy allows any purchase up to \$4,999.99 with a single quote. After \$5000.00 and up to below \$50,000.00, those do require three written quotes. They can be from a multitude of vendors with the same product, or they can be from multiple vendors providing similar products. Just think of different brand names if you will, anything along that line will suffice and then of course anything that's fifty thousand and over requires a formal solicitation, which is issued by my department.

There's an invitation bid which is strictly based on price, we provide all the requirements, all the specifications and if you match those specifications and requirements whoever has the lowest price is the vendor that will be awarded the agreement. Then you'll find an invitation to

negotiate, that's a little more complex and very infrequently used. It's something where we can still provide all the requirements and specifications, but we still leave the option for open to negotiate, potentially to obtain a better price. Request for proposal is typically used in the event where we have a general idea of what it is that we're looking for.

On the back side of the cheat sheet you'll see what's required for each different type of solicitation. I want to make sure that we understand that a lot of times when dealing with procurement you hear *no* a lot, and I do say no a lot but, what I also do is find a way to **yes** whenever possible. We are always looking outside the realm of possibility and what we've done before to determine what's the best path forward. Today I was handed a quote from Fishers scientific, there's a couple of options that and a couple of questions that I would have about that. Generally I do not take quotes unless I know what the specifications are. I say that because there are multiple agreements that are out there whether it be through the State of Florida or other Cooperative purchasing organizations such as sourcewell, naspo the Florida Association of procurement professionals. There are numerous organizations that have different agreements so for example I've already pulled up the State of Florida agreement with Fisher Scientific. I can't pull up the exact price for these products based on that state pricing agreement but that's my first question, how did we come to Fisher Scientific for this product and how did we come to the pricing that's listed on the quote? As a as a good Steward of the tax revenue that is provided to us that we spend, it's my job to find the best opportunity and best value for the county.

7. Public Speaker - Rodney Jones - Listening to Mr. loving good my questions have changed. I want to be able to put in or present a proposal to you guys regarding a community-based program from a holistic approach to address the substance abuse issues amongst teens and Families. Is that possible or can I do that?

Jeff I'm going to refer that to you, I don't know the program you're talking about Rodney.

I'm looking for a little help here because I don't know what program you're talking about putting forward proposing until we have something and know exactly what it is in writing.

I'm asking for community-based organization that's designed to implement programs to address substance abuse issues amongst teens and do this holistic approach that also address issues with the family will I be able to present a proposal of such nature without having a problem with that?

My suggestion would get with Jeff and discuss what it is you want to do and see if there's any way we can work within the purchasing type procurement processes of the county. Jeff, do you got something going to add to that?

If I could, first, thank you for being here. The county and the State of Florida has very specific rules regarding what are considered unsolicited proposals and what I would need is if you were to present something that would have to come before this board to determine if that's something that they would like to consider; at that point we would have to open the floor for any other entities.

8. New Business – Next meeting Monday October 2, 2023, at 10:00am

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