

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

Meeting Date: October 10, 2023

Present: Christi Hankins– Escambia County Senior Assistant Attorney
John Mathis - Chair
Catherine White – Vice Chair
Tommy White
Matthew Infinger
Elizabeth Kissel – County Admin (Sitting in for Tina Arroyo)

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 August 7, 2023.

Motion: To approve the minutes from August 7, 2023
Made by: Matt Infinger Seconded by: Tommy White
Disposition: Motion unanimously passes

4. Annual Election of Chair and Vice Chair.

Motion: That the current Chair and Vice Chair continue in the same positions
Made by: Matt Infinger Seconded by: Tommy White
Disposition: Motion unanimously passes

5. Sunshine Law Presentation - Christi Hankins - I gave each one of you a form that's the form 8B and you'll see that I put in brackets, a section that says each elected or appointed local officer must abstain from knowingly voting on a measure which would endure to the special gain or loss of a principal other than a government agency by whom he or she is retained including the parent subsidiary or sibling organization of a principal by which he or she is retained to the special private

gain or loss of the relative or to the special private gain or loss of a business associate. This does include the members of this board.



Form 8B-Sunshine
Law.pdf

(Right click, object, open)

Last year we talked about the pork chop gang from 1956. (Shown in the picture below)



It was the North Region of Florida, they ran everything and there wasn't proper apportionment in the state and after apportionment things started to change but leading up to that, you'll remember we talked about John Pennekamp from the Everglades. The poker party that he went to, an interesting fact was the poker party he ended up going to was at Florida Power and Lights cabin and one of the vice presidents from Florida Power and Light was interested in helping with the Everglades, so he helped us set up the game. You'll recall that the pork chop gang one of the gentlemen that that was there said what do you want, how much do you need? Whatever you need just ask for it, we'll give it to you but quit taking it out of our pockets.



We talked about Emery Cross, and I found another interesting fact about him. When I-75 was being developed and was going to be put in, there was a road board that was set up and he caught wind that they were helping their buddies buy tracks in the path of the future interstate and that was one that really fired him up. Because of this, he was the one that kept pushing for the new for the changes in our public records our public meetings policies he kept pushing it and kept getting defeated and finally 1967 was the reapportionment and Florida changed as we know it, in fact that was considered Usher in the Golden Age of politics in the State of Florida in the 1970s it's so important to the people of the State of Florida that we actually were the first state to put it into our constitution in 1992.

The original public records law was passed in 1909 then the government and the Sunshine Law which was passed in 1967 and of course the state constitution. The reason why the law had to change is because it had been interpreted up to that point to only apply to when a full board was in session. It didn't apply when only two people were meeting outside of the presence of the public so when the government in the sunshine law changed in 1967 as it went up, the judicial branch got a hold of it they said if they didn't mean for it to include anytime two people are together that are on the same board then there would be no reason to change the law so that's how it was interpreted after 1967 and that's why we have such a solid public records. The Sunshine Law policy is why I come see you about this and that's why I harp on you. No one wants to get in in trouble for something we can avoid.

In the *Government in the Sunshine Law*, meetings must be open to the public, there must be reasonable notice and minutes must be taken and promptly recorded so here is the specific language out of this statute. All meetings of any board or Commission of any state agency or authority or of any agency or authority of any County Municipal Corporation or political subdivision must provide reasonable notice of all meetings. That's why we make sure that it's been published and then the minutes must be recorded and as you're aware, you approve of those at the next meeting every time we hope you approve of them every time. This was one that passed in 2013 where we give the public a reasonable opportunity to be heard, that's your public forum. The opportunity to be heard doesn't have to be at the same meeting, but it does have to be in reasonable proximity to when the vote will occur. Before the vote occurs does have to be during the decision-making process but also the fact that it must be allowed doesn't prohibit that it must be orderly conduct and proper decorum.

6. Public Speakers – Shawn Salamida – President at Lakeview Center- The Trace Program has been in existence for five years. we've been funded through a Federal samsa Grant. It is a program geared for young adults ages 13 to 21. The program serves 90 persons per year. If you include family members because we treat the whole family so it's closer to 150. The Trace program is an evidence-based model, and it is community based, we have many programs where we go into homes, into schools, into partner agencies, in the community so kind of think of the DART program which we talked about was residential, this is kind of an intensive level program that doesn't have walls. Unfortunately the five-year Grant cycle ended Friday. We have been working with our primary funder which is our Managing Northwest Florida Health over the last six to eight months to identify continuation funding that has not occurred yet. They're still working on it, the program costs just under \$500,000 a year and it is staffed by licensed credentialed professionals and it's an evidence-based model so it's intensive. Hence the cost, so we continue to look for funding options to continue this program because again it's serving the population that's been a topic of discussion for the board and it's a very effective program. We believe preventing these young adults from going into adulthood with ongoing addiction risk and so we're going to continue to work with Northwest Florida Health on funding options. We're continuing to operate the program even though the federal funding has ended and will continue overcoming months to try to identify how we're going to keep this program going so again we brought this to the board today to make you aware. I'm still figuring out the opioid settlement dollars and how they flow and how they can be allocated and things like that but again with the topic being so critical to this community and this program serves Escambia and Santa Rosa County and I'm aware this board is limited to Escambia County but I also have with me our director of family-based intervention treatment, Patty Hyde she's a licensed clinical social worker and she has operated this program for some time and either one of us would be glad to answer any questions you might have.



Trace Program.pdf

(Right click, object, open)

Rodney Jones – I have an evidence-based program and we're going to do residential treatment and we are going to create a therapeutic community. I've had the opportunity to operate a therapeutic community where we had great success. Friends if you do the research, you'll find out that therapeutic communities are very impactful when it comes to treating substance abuse issues. Our organization has been providing services in Escambia County since 2004. First with adults who have come back from an incarcerated environment. People with lived experience meaning people who may have been incarcerated and may suffer from substance abuse or mental health issues, we've been providing these services for several different cities. The Department of Juvenile Justice, & Escambia County we've contracted with these entities. We currently contract with Escambia children's trust providing services for them so in our presentation we hope to show you guys that we are capable, and we have the capacity to do it. We'll provide all our information that's necessary and associated with what we're asking for and what we're proposing to do. I had the opportunity to become a social worker and a mental health counselor through several universities that I had the opportunity to matriculate through and pass the national counseling mental health exam to become a licensed mental health practitioner as well as a certified anger management therapist and I've been out here in this community working and providing services for at least 20 years. We have a site location as well as we're proposing to put in this Therapeutic Community so that we'll not only be able to serve the individuals who are suffering from substance issues abuse and use, but their families as well. We have a history of serving Youth and families, individuals who have lived experience and individuals who

are coming from incarcerated environments who their primary issue is substance use or abuse, so we look forward to being able to present that proposal to you guys at some point in time.

7. **New Business** – Next meeting Monday November 6, 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.