

MINUTES

Purpose: Engage Okaloosa County community members in a health improvement process through an open, two-way dialogue to provide feedback for each OCHIP group and ensure continuity, especially regarding substance use activities.

Present: Elizabeth “Beth” Smith, Florida Department of Health in Okaloosa County (DOH-Okaloosa); Emily Pickens, DOH-Okaloosa; Petra Maddens, DOH-Okaloosa; Lynn Wadsworth, DOH-Okaloosa; Ardelle Bush, Healthy Start Coalition of Okaloosa and Walton Counties; Deb Willis, West Florida Area Health Education Center; Mayor JB Whitten, City of Crestview.

Absent: Danielle Wilson, Emerald Coast Children's Advocacy Center; Crystal Harrison, Homelessness and Housing Alliance; Amanda Colwell, DOH-Okaloosa; Sgt. Jessica Trimboli, Okaloosa County Sheriff's Office; Robert Bage, Fort Walton Beach Police Department; Kylee Gallavan, Community Member.

Opening – Elizabeth “Beth” Smith

- Elizabeth “Beth” Smith opened the meeting and welcomed attendees.
- Minutes from the March 8, 2023, meeting were reviewed and approved.
- Emily Pickens reviewed the meeting's purpose and agenda. She also shared results from the Community Engagement Survey from the previous meeting.

OCHIP Group Reporting – OCHIP Champions

- Ardelle Bush provided an update for Healthy Moms and Babies.
 - Healthy Start purchased Hear Her campaign materials and plans to distribute them to local providers. The group is looking into ways to effectively spread maternal advocacy messaging to combat maternal and infant mortality.
 - The Florida Perinatal Quality Collaborative developed a Social Determinants of Health screening. Healthy Start is working with HCA Fort Walton Beach Destin Hospital and Ascension Sacred Heart to distribute the survey to women delivering in their hospitals. If moms answer yes to any of the questions, they will be automatically connected to relevant services in the community.
 - The Healthy Start legal team determined Senate Bill 1718 would not impact maternal and child health care. People cannot be turned away from care.
 - However, Ardelle did share some potential clients did not want to receive a referral for their services out of fear of their immigration status.
 - Beth shared the most recent federal budget included cuts to WIC and SNAP funding. They are currently unsure of the impact it will have locally.
- Mayor Whitten reported out for Healthy Communities.
 - The group is working on videos to share during pedestrian safety month.
 - He is working with the Citizens Advisory Council in Crestview to sponsor a contest among local schools to develop posters for pedestrian safety month.
 - They are discussing logistics like timeline, awards, permissions, etc. and working to address them.

- He stated there has been less enthusiasm from the public for a follow up Opioid Summit after the success of the January event.
- Rotary International has adopted a new priority area to address substance use. Mayor Whitten plans to work with the Crestview Rotary Club to assess their efforts and partner to have greater impact. If their efforts are successful, he would consider merging the Task Force with their membership for greater continuity.
- He stated he called the Coordinated Opioid Recovery (CORE) program leads to request funding for Okaloosa.
 - Beth explained that [CORE](#) funding is being disseminated to each county through DCF and not the Department of Health.
 - CORE funds will be shared with 17 new counties and Beth is confident Okaloosa will be included since we are in the top 20 counties and received Overdose to Action funding this past year.
 - Currently, there has not been a plan announced for CORE funds locally. The state's new fiscal year begins on July 1, so news is anticipated after that point.
- Emily shared information from Shelia Fitzgerald regarding the county's opioid progress.
 - Okaloosa County will receive an estimated \$3 million in Opioid Settlement funds to be spent over 18 years. Municipalities will also receive approximately \$1 million to be spent over the same timeline.
 - To date, the county has received around \$135,000. The next payment date is currently unknown. The Board of County Commissioners (BCC) has not made any decisions on the use of funds received, but they may choose to allocate all or a portion of funds to supplement or offset existing expenditures including:
 - Mental health programs local match, drug treatment (including while in jail and pretrial release), Sheriff's efforts (including training for law enforcement on appropriate precautions when responding, treating, or dealing with overdoses or fentanyl), and drug or other specialty courts.
 - The BCC may also choose to allocate a portion of funds to non-profits who are engaging in opioid mitigation efforts through a competitive process. Over the next few months, county staff will:
 - Continue to participate in opioid recovery education opportunities
 - Assess fiscal year 2024 budget requests to see if any align with eligible uses for possible allocation
 - Engage with municipalities to see if any wish to partner with the county or delegate their funding to the county
 - Engage with community partners, such as DOH-Okaloosa and Bridgeway, etc. to discuss gaps and needs in community opioid mitigation efforts
 - Beth explained that funding from the [Opioid Settlement](#) is separate from CORE funding. The Attorney General's website breaks down funding allocations [here](#).
- Emily provided an update for Healthy Children from Jessica and Danielle.
 - In May, the National Alliance for Drug Endangered Children trained more than 30 community members. 14 attendees completed the train-the-trainer program.
 - Jessica is meeting with the school district soon to discuss notification opportunities for childcare facilities, etc. related to lock down and lock out.

- The group hopes to work on increasing community engagement over the summer and into the new school year. A new goal is to partner with Big Brothers Big Sisters to host a field day activity to help garner support for older kids. Jessica hopes to partner with Emerald Coast Social Sports again to accomplish this.
- The group wants to increase DEC trainings in the community. Organizations interested in being trained can reach out to Jessica, Danielle, or Emily.
- Jessica shared that Handle with Care will be established in all municipalities by the group's next meeting. This has been in the works for over two years. Jessica hopes to train all involved agencies before the new school year begins.
- Deb Willis reported out for Healthy Behaviors.
 - She recently completed a teen pilot for anti-vaping. In July, they will have their data report and determine if the program will continue. AHEC is working to host more in person tobacco cessation classes across the county.
 - Emily shared the group is going to begin working on reintegration efforts in July.

Action Item Updates – OCHIP Champions

- Due to low attendance, Emily will email the substance use rack card to the group. She will also attach the QR code and link to the resource webpage. Members should review the materials and provide feedback to ensure it meets the needs discussed previously.

Closing – Emily Pickens

- Emily thanked attendees for participating and asked them to complete the meeting evaluation form to provide feedback.

Next Meeting – Wednesday, September 13th at 9:00 AM at DOH-Okaloosa

Action Items	Owners	Deadline	Status
Share substance use rack card and QR code for feedback before finalizing	Emily Pickens	June 29 th	Not Started
Review and provide feedback	ALL	July 7 th	Not started