

MINUTES

Purpose: Engage Okaloosa County community members in a health improvement process through an open, two-way dialogue to reduce the number of adults engaged in substance use.

Attendees: Petra Maddens, Florida Department of Health in Okaloosa County (DOH-Okaloosa); Emily Pickens, DOH-Okaloosa; Lauren Anzaldo, Gulf Coast Veterans Health Care System; Amanda Colwell, DOH-Okaloosa; Ashli Tillman, Gulf Coast Sexual Assault Program; Jenna McElyea, Bridgeway Center; Elizabeth Smith, DOH-Okaloosa; Stephanie Wedel, Freedom Life Compass; Larry McFarland, Bridgeway Center; Emily Morgan, DOH-Okaloosa; Remeeka Wilson, Bridgeway Center; Candi Buttke, Bridgeway Center; Cozette Costanza, Bridgeway Center; Vanessa d'Aquin, Crossroads Center; Shelia Fitzgerald, Okaloosa County Board of County Commissioners; Kat Beedie, DOH-Okaloosa; Veronica Ebuon, Division of Vocational Rehabilitation; Lauren Hobbs, DOH-Okaloosa; Alicia Jackson, Freedom Life Compass; Denise Manassa, CDAC Behavioral Healthcare; Robert Bage, Fort Walton Police Department; Aaron Murray, Northwest Florida State College Police Department; David Glinka, Freedom Life Compass; Autumn McAllister, Lakeview Center; Mary Pitts, Head Start; Stefanie Cardona, Head Start; Mandy Bricker, DOH-Okaloosa.

Welcome & Introductions – Petra Maddens

- Petra opened the meeting and welcomed attendees.
- Emily Pickens reviewed the meeting's purpose and agenda. Emily Morgan shared Community Engagement Survey responses from the previous meeting. Attendees felt there was good discussion, their opinions were valued, and there was enough time.
- Minutes from the previous November 8, 2023, meeting were reviewed and approved.

Action Plan Updates – Emily Pickens

- Pre-Arrest Diversion Updates
 - Emily Pickens stated the pre-arrest diversion program started on January 1st in Escambia County; however, this is the only update she has.
- Opioid Intervention Programs
 - Emily opened discussion about opportunities for opioid intervention programs by inviting Jenna McElyea and Chief Robert Bage to share information.
 - Jenna stated she attended a meeting where someone shared about a Drug Abuse Response Team (DART) program and thinks it would be beneficial to start a similar program in Okaloosa County.
 - Chief Bage explained the DART program model used in Daytona Beach. A team of responders review Narcan administration data on a weekly basis, then visit the homes of persons who received Narcan. They share information about treatment and support services in the community, and assist people enroll in services of their choice, if desired. The team is made up of a law enforcement officer, community paramedic fire fighter, and licensed behavioral health counselor. The counselor is responsible for the treatment plan, case management, and program oversight.

- Chief Bage stated research shows that getting to an individual who has overdosed within a 24-48 window is critical.
 - The DART program in Daytona Beach showed a 30% reduction in overdoses over a 3-year period.
- Stephanie Wedel suggested having peer support specialists who need to get hours go out and assist as they do not need to be funded. Peer support specialists may also be able to relate to the clients better.
 - Others stated that it would need to be a licensed counselor that makes the initial visit, and potentially the peer support specialist could go and do a follow-up. This is because the licensed counselor can complete an assessment and reduce barriers.
 - Autumn McAllister stated that depending on the number of individuals, counselors at their detox center could possibly help with visits. Larry McFarland emphasized that the role could be a peer support specialist if there was no medical assessment being done, rather just sharing resources available in the community.
- Emily asked about resources needed for the program, particularly staffing. Chief Bage stated departments may absorb the time, depending on the volume by jurisdiction. It would help to know the number of responses by city.
- Chief Bage transitioned to discussing another opioid intervention program being modeled in Pinellas County called 'Your Life Was Saved' kits. The kits are distributed by EMS after a reversal drug is administered. They provide resource cards, Narcan, and a CPR mask.
 - Lauren Anzaldo suggested asking individuals who are involved in overdoses if they have served in the military because of the veteran population present in Okaloosa County.
 - Emily also stated that there is very little data regarding children being present at the scenes of events involving drugs. It would be helpful if it is noted whether a child or signs of children are present.
- ODMAP
 - Emily explained ODMAP is an online data interface that creates a map showing overdose response calls in the community. It is intended to be used as a real-time map to display hotspots, which is useful for a variety of efforts like outreach.
 - However, she shared there are barriers such as a lack of consistency in reporting, infrequency in reports being entered, and a lack of participation.
 - Kat Beedie explained to access to ODMAP, public health agencies need to register and sign a participation agreement.
 - Chief Bage emphasized the importance of identifying best practices when entering data into ODMAP. Emily will research this further.
- Responder Briefings
 - Responder briefings will provide local law enforcement agencies about the relevant resources readily available in Okaloosa County.
 - Stephanie stated a schedule needs to be made for responder briefings.
 - Any agencies that are interested are welcome to request a briefing. If interested, contact Emily Pickens.

Action Items – Emily Pickens

- Emily will gather more detailed information regarding the role of the licensed counselor in Daytona Beach's DART program.
 - Chief Bage will meet with program staff in February.
- Emily will request EMS overdose response data by city and research ODMAP practices.
- Emily and Stephanie will email law enforcement to begin scheduling briefings.

Open Discussion – All

- Emily announced that there will be an OCHIP Celebration on February 22nd at the Island in Fort Walton Beach. She will send out registration for the event.
- Vanessa shared Crossroads has a rummage fundraising sale on January 20th from 8:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m, including clothing for all ages, books, kitchen appliances, etc.
- Stephanie Wedel shared Freedom Life Compass has a celebrate recovery event on February 10th from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at Crosspoint Church in Niceville.
- Fort Walton Beach Police Department has a bike ride and helmet fitting January 13th. They are also partnering with the Chamber of Commerce for a three-part lunch-and-learn symposium. The first one will be on January 17th. Contact them to register.
- Petra Maddens shared they have emergency Narcan kits available for agencies, organizations, or businesses. If interested, contact her or Emily.

Closing – Petra Maddens

- Emily motioned to move meeting to Thursdays moving forward. Attendees agreed.
- Emily thanked attendees for participating and asked them to complete the community engagement survey to provide feedback.

Next Meeting – Thursday, March 7th, 2024, at 10:00 AM at Crosspoint Church in Niceville

Action Items	Owners	Deadline	Status
Get more information on role of counselor/managing entity	Emily Pickens	3/7/2024	In Progress
Request EMS overdose response data by municipality	Emily Pickens	3/7/2024	Complete
Meet with DART staff in Daytona Beach for program details	Robert Bage	3/7/2024	Complete
Research ODMAP best practices	Emily Pickens	3/7/2024	Complete
Schedule responder briefings & coordinate dates/times/presenters	Emily Pickens & Stephanie Wedel	3/7/2024	In Progress
Invite other relevant partners to next meeting	ALL	Next meeting	Ongoing