

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; Taela Cintron, DOH-Okaloosa; Jenna McElyea, Bridgeway Center; Elizabeth Smith, DOH-Okaloosa; Stephanie Wedel, Freedom Life Compass; Vanessa d'Aquin, Crossroads Center; Shelia Fitzgerald, Okaloosa County Board of County Commissioners; Kat Beedie, DOH-Okaloosa; Christine Syfrett, DOH-Okaloosa; Veronica Ebuena, Division of Vocational Rehabilitation; Denise Manassa, CDAC Behavioral Healthcare; Robert Bage, Fort Walton Beach Police Department; Mary Pitts, CDI Head Start; Stefanie Cardona, CDI Head Start; Tanya Gonzales, Healthy Start Coalition of Okaloosa and Walton Counties; Jennifer Luchek, Gulf Coast Sexual Assault Prevention (GCSAP); Shannon Grobelny, GCSAP; Shawn Nickel, NWFHealth Network. Joseph Kearns, Niceville Police Department; Carl Bonham, Valparaiso Police Department; Michael Jacobs, Shalimar Police Department.

Welcome & Introductions – Petra Maddens

- Petra opened the meeting and welcomed attendees.
- She shared Community Engagement Survey responses from the previous meeting. Attendees felt there was good discussion, their opinions were valued, and there was enough time. They wish there was greater participation from first responder agencies.
- Minutes from the previous January 11, 2023, meeting were reviewed and approved.

Action Plan Updates – Emily Pickens

Opioid Intervention Program

- Chief Bage shared information from his meeting with the Daytona Beach Fire Department regarding their Drug Abuse Response Team.
 - They partner with a behavioral health agency, SMA, for evaluation and case management. The outreach team includes a behavioral health specialist, police officer, and fire department representative from the paramedicine program.
 - The team meets on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday to review data and visit homes, keeping to the 24-72 hour post-overdose timeframe.
 - They reported outreach in the morning between 8:00 and 11:00 a.m. to be most successful, as more people were still at home.
 - Feedback from the community is largely positive. The program is well received and participants reported feeling cared for.
 - Around 50% of people they speak with during outreach were enrolled in some kind of program or local service.
 - Their program is funded through Coordinated Opioid Response (CORE) dollars and is well integrated with their community paramedicine program.
 - They operate with a business agreement between the city and SMA.

- Previously, their outreach team included six people, with the addition of another clinician, a faith-based representative, and other volunteer. Feedback was that the larger team was difficult to schedule outreach and all entities needed to be covered within the business agreement.
- They emphasized the importance of a clinician for on-scene assessment.
- Prior to the program, Daytona Beach had around 600 overdoses per year. They have seen a 30-40% reduction in overdose calls over the past three years since the program was put in place.
- Emily opened discussion about the program.
 - Stephanie Wedel encouraged peers be utilized in program development. Peer counselors need hours and having someone with lived experience on-scene can help reduce stigma and build connectedness.
 - Others agreed peers could be utilized and a counselor is paramount. Chief Bage suggested looking into other programs that utilize peers.
 - Jennifer Luchek suggested the Vet Court as a contact. Denise Manassa will connect Emily with Escambia County EMS for their CORE program that utilizes peers. Emily will reach out to Pinellas County regarding their Quick Response Team including peers.
 - Members also discussed incorporating other agencies that distribute Narcan into program development. Stephanie and Jenna suggested a QR code be developed that could be stuck to the boxes and would link recipients back to the resources on the first responder briefing materials.
 - Lauren Anzaldo stated the VA mails Narcan often and includes resource information, but likely could not include a QR.
 - Emily will reach out to Bridgeway and Emerald Coast Life Center to discuss opportunities to include linkage to care on Narcan boxes.

First Responder Briefings

- Stephanie Wedel shared the responder briefings have gone well. Niceville Police Department, Fort Walton Beach Police Department, and Shalimar Police Department received training, as well as the airport, East, and Central districts of the Okaloosa County Sheriff's Office. The North district will be completed the following week.
 - Carl Bonham with Valparaiso Police Department will coordinate with Stephanie to bring the briefing to their staff.
 - Emily will reach out to Greg Cain to see if EMS would allow briefings. She stated she is still lacking contacts at the fire departments to offer the training.
 - Captain Kearns will contact Niceville's fire chief.
- Stephanie asked if laminated resource briefing sheets could be brought to future meetings for any other agencies to utilize. Emily will begin this in April.

ODMAP

- Emily provided a brief overview of ODMAP and explained it could be better utilized for local non-profits or agencies like Freedom Life Compass who want real-time data to inform outreach efforts in high-need areas of the community.
- Kat Beedie explained that while many local agencies participate in ODMAP, the method of reporting and case definitions are not the same across agencies. This creates differences in what is being entered.

- Emily shared EMS data is automatically populated within the system. Other agencies must enter it manually and frequency of entry also varies.
- Stephanie requested a report with up-to-date hotspots. Kat will investigate different reports ODMAP generates and share with the group.

Unite Us Program

- Emily explained funding was finally received for the program and will be purchased soon. Once that process is complete, a representative will attend a meeting to explain onboarding and linkage between existing systems like HMIS.
 - This will be discussed further at the April and May meetings.

Action Items – Emily Pickens

- Emily and Chief Bage will investigate other models that utilize peer support specialists or other volunteers with lived experience.
- Emily and Kat will share ODMAP reports with Stephanie for outreach assistance.
- Emily will contact other agencies that distribute Narcan in the community to further discuss the QR code and opportunities for linkage to care and/or resources.

Open Discussion – All

- Stephanie shared Freedom Life Compass will host a Spring Soiree at the Niceville Senior Center on Saturday, May 11th beginning at 5:30 p.m.
- Chief Bage stated the police department's community bike ride and Family Community Day event with Greg Chapel Family Center was moved to May 11th.
- Amanda encouraged attendees to participate in the Run4Health 5K on Saturday, April 20th at Spanish Trail Park in Crestview. The event is hosted by the Healthy Children OCHIP group and will last from 8:00 to 11:00 a.m. Proceeds will benefit the Early Learning Coalition of the Emerald Coast. [Click here to learn more or register to run.](#)

Closing – Petra Maddens

- Petra thanked attendees for participating and asked them to complete the community engagement survey to provide feedback.

Next Meeting – Thursday, April 2nd, 2024, at 10:00 AM at Crosspoint Church in Niceville

Action Items	Owners	Deadline	Status
Meet with Escambia County EMS, Pinellas County Quick Response Team, and Vet Court Peer Program coordinator	Emily Pickens and Robert Bage	TBD	In Progress
Share ODMAP report/data with Stephanie	Kat Beedie and Emily Pickens	4/2/2024	Not Started
Discuss QR code with agencies distributing Narcan in the community	Emily Pickens	4/2/2024	Not Started