

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; Shelia Fitzgerald, Okaloosa County Board of County Commissioners; Christine Syfrett, DOH-Okaloosa; Veronica Ebuon, Division of Vocational Rehabilitation; Mary Pitts, CDI Head Start; Stefanie Cardona, CDI Head Start; Tanya Gonzales, Healthy Start Coalition of Okaloosa and Walton Counties; Shawn Nickel, NWFHealth Network; Michael Whitfield, Niceville Police Department; Mary Travis, CareerSource Okaloosa Walton; Mandy Bricker, DOH-Okaloosa; Aaron Murray, Northwest Florida State College Police Department; Michael Jacobs, Shalimar Police Department; Ken LaPee, Okaloosa County Sheriff's Office; Larry McFarland, Bridgeway Center; Cheryl Pedone, Division of Vocational Rehab; Mary Pitts, CDI Head Start; Dana Clah, Emerald Coast Life Center; Darrell Clah, Emerald Coast Life Center; Alex Winkler, Niceville Fire Department; Ross Haynes, Destin Code Compliance; Erica Armstead, Vocational Rehabilitation; Scott Solomon, Vocational Rehabilitation; Shawnette Hummer, CDI Head Start; Steve McCosker, Crestview Police Department; Robert Bage, Fort Walton Beach Police Department; Kat Beedie, DOH-Okaloosa; Carl Bonham, Valparaiso Police Department; Joseph Kearnes, Niceville Police Department; Vanessa d'Aquin, Crossroads Center; Erica Francis, Division of Vocational Rehabilitation; Ross Haynes, Destin Code Compliance; Shawnette Hummer, CDI Head Start; Brian McCallum, Crestview Police Department; Brian Taylor, Destin Code Enforcement; Stevie Wolfe, Oxford House; Eric Aden, Okaloosa County Sheriff's Office; Rebecca Hunt, CDI Head Start.

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 April 4, 2024 meeting were reviewed and approved.

Action Plan Updates – Emily Pickens

Post-Overdose Response Team

- A Post-Overdose Response Team (PORT) Statement of Work was disseminated and reviewed by attendees. Emily Pickens explained the materials, described the team framework, and outlined implementation steps.
 - Larry McFarland stated they do not have licensed staff for the PORT, as they mostly have bachelor-level staff. Emily will update the verbiage.
 - Stevie Wolfe expressed the need for peer involvement. Stephanie Wedel explained she has advocated for adding peers and it will be included in Phase II

of implementation. She and Emily will work to build a peer support network and develop relevant documents, trainings, etc.

- Lack of access to phones for follow-up interactions was addressed by the group. Potential resources include the Homelessness and Housing Alliance, Overdose Data to Action Grant, Federal Programs, Eglin VA Clinic, and Assurance Wireless.
 - Vanessa d'Aquin will task her staff with learning more.
- Attendees discussed required training outlined in the SOW.
 - Agencies who may have multiple people designated to the program on a rotating basis requested agency or section-wide training.
 - Emily and Chief Bage agreed it would be possible and can be tailored to the agency's needs. Trainings can also be recorded and reviewed if needed.
- Attendees reviewed the proposed outreach schedules. Option two was preferred, and Stephanie encouraged an 8:30 a.m. start time. Emily will update the times.
- Emily will work to develop an implementation plan with greater programmatic details. Chief Bage offered to pilot the PORT in Fort Walton Beach prior to the county-wide launch in July. Another meeting will be scheduled to plan for a mid-June pilot.
 - Other agencies agreed to a July start date. Feedback from the pilot will be reviewed with interested agencies and a roll-out schedule will be developed.

Action Items – Emily Pickens

- Emily will update the SOW and develop a full implementation plan for review.
 - She will work with FWBPD, EMS, and Bridgeway to develop a program pilot.

Open Discussion – All

- Attendees discussed creating a version of the Your Life Was Saved Kits to share with the public. Emily's team will work to develop 'community kits' in the new fiscal year.
- Freedom Life Compass opened a second Freedom House location in Fort Walton Beach and moved their Spring Soiree to June 1st.
- FWBPD's next community bike ride is May 11th at The Landing beginning at 9:00 a.m.

Closing – Petra Maddens

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

Next Meeting – Thursday, June 14th at Fort Walton Beach Police Department

Action Items	Owners	Deadline	Status
Update PORT implementation plan to reflect discussion and updates from the meeting	Emily Pickens and Robert Bage	Ongoing	In Progress
Share ODMAP report/data with Stephanie	Kat Beedie	Quarterly	Ongoing
Develop implementation plan and schedule PORT Implementation Team Meeting for early June ahead of FWBPD pilot	Emily Pickens	6/3/2024	In Progress