

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; Taela Cintron, DOH-Okaloosa; Joseph Dillon, DOH-Okaloosa; Jenna McElyea, Bridgeway Center, Inc.; Stephanie Wedel, Freedom Life Compass; Shawnette Hummer, CDI Head Start; Candi Buttke, Bridgeway Center, Inc.; Robert Bage, Fort Walton Beach Police Department; Chrissy Nieten, District One Medical Examiner's Office; Amanda Colwell, DOH-Okaloosa; Greg Cain, Okaloosa County Emergency Medical Services; Joseph Kearns, Niceville Police Department; Autumn McAllister, Lakeview Center; Elizabeth Smith, DOH-Okaloosa; Christine Syfrett, DOH-Okaloosa; Stevie Wolfe, Oxford House Inc.; Kristina Wills, Gulf Coast Sexual Assault Program; Vanessa d'Aquin, Crossroads Center; Ross Haynes, Destin Code Compliance; Kat Beedie, DOH-Okaloosa; Mandy Bricker, DOH-Okaloosa; Stefanie Cardona, CDI Head Start; Brian Taylor, Destin Code Compliance; Ky Thomas, Transitions & Tender Hope Coalition; Shawn Nickel, NWFHealth; Karry Johnson, Fort Walton Beach Police Department; Erica Belton, CDI Head Start; Jason Fulghum, Okaloosa County Sheriff's Office; Erica Armstead, Vocational Rehabilitation; Mary Travis, Career Source Okaloosa Walton.

Welcome & Introductions – Petra Maddens

- Petra opened the meeting and welcomed attendees.
- Petra reviewed the meeting's purpose and agenda. She also shared the results from the Community Engagement Survey from the previous meeting. The feedback was positive and included that the topics being covered in the meeting were relevant and that there was good collaboration among attendees.
- Minutes from the May 2, 2024, meeting were reviewed and approved.

Action Plan Updates – Stephanie Wedel & Emily Pickens

Post Overdose Response Team

- Stephanie Wedel gave a brief overview of the Post Overdose Support Team (POST). The pilot will begin during the weeks of June 17th and 24th. The pilot team will include law enforcement, a community paramedic, and behavioral health clinician.
 - POST will be a separate meeting moving forward so that the group can focus on International Overdose Awareness efforts. She or Emily will report out on POST progress at future meetings until planning for the peer component begins.
- Emily Pickens shared POST resources with attendees for review.
 - Feedback was applied from women at the Freedom House, including changing the color to be bright and welcoming and using discreet wording for the door hanger. Attendees shared additional feedback:
 - Update Lakeview phone number and MRT phone number.
 - Add Emerald Coast Life Center as a resource.
 - After discussion, members agreed to develop a business card with contact information for the clinician and paramedic. The card will be attached to the door hanger so that follow up may be conducted if desired.

International Overdose Awareness Day

- Stephanie provided an overview of the International Overdose Awareness Day (IOAD) event on Thursday, August 29th from 6:00 – 8:00 p.m. The tentative schedule includes:
 - Free dinner and housekeeping from 5:30 – 6:00 p.m. Followed by a community data presentation (20 minutes), testimonials (30 minutes), community program updates (10-15 minutes), and a community panel discussion (45 minutes). The program will end with closing remarks and next steps with remaining time.
- Group members provided feedback and suggestions for speakers and panelists.
 - Petra requested someone from the Medical Examiner's Office provide the opening presentation to share data and insights. Chrissy Nietan stated she will talk with Dr. Olesky and one of them will agree to the presentation.
 - Emily reminded attendees that Mayor JB Whitten will emcee the event.
 - Chief Bage will facilitate the panel discussion. Sgt. Trimboli will replace him for the community program updates portion.
 - Previous panelist suggestions included Jenna or Candi from Bridgeway, Stephanie Wedel, and Vanessa d'Aquin.
 - Jason Fulghum agreed to participate. Autumn McAllister requested to be a panelist alongside Jenna. Stephanie will speak with her brother Rex.
- Attendees discussed the following topics of discussion: pathways to recovery, barriers to recovery and stigma, impacts of CORE/Opioid Settlement funding, aftercare/'what happens after detox', and impacts on the community, family, etc. Participants will not receive specific questions but will be provided with topics once finalized.
- Attendees discussed testimonials. Amanda will contact a colleague with familial experience. Stevie Wolfe will consider providing a testimonial and reach out to two Oxford House residents. Shawn Nickle also has contacts if needed.
- Emily shared marketing materials for IOAD. Stephanie emphasized the need for agencies to share messaging as soon as possible to market the event.
 - Attendees agreed to share on social media and via flyers to clients/contacts.
 - Emily will update the poster with logos for Oxford House, Emerald Cast Life Center, Destin Code Enforcement, and Valparaiso Police Department.
 - Members suggested sharing flyers with recreation centers, Chambers of Commerce, medical centers, gas stations, and restaurants.
 - DOH-Okaloosa staff will bring marketing materials to the next meeting and share digital materials via email for immediate use. They also suggested asking these agencies to provide raffle baskets to help recruit event attendees.
 - DOH-Okaloosa will explore paid targeted social media ads.
 - Attendees suggested working with news and radio stations to broadcast information about the event.
 - Emily will ask the PIOs for help with this task. Chief Bage will reach out to Get the Coast and the radio stations he works with.

Action Item Updates– Emily Pickens & Stephanie Wedel

- Emily will make suggested edits to the door hangers and IOAD marketing materials. She will share updated materials with attendees.

- Emily will recruit help from the PIOs to involve media and radio. Group members are encouraged to leverage any relationships they may have.
- Amanda, Stevie, and Shawn will reach out to potential testimonial candidates. Chrissy will determine who will speak from the Medical Examiner’s Office. Contact individuals who were mentioned for testimonials.
- Members will share IOAD flyers and media through networking channels and social media accounts. Partners will provide raffle baskets and/or request support from their partner agencies, as DOH-Okaloosa cannot solicit donations.

Closing – Petra Maddens

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

Next Meeting – Thursday, July 18th joint meeting with Healthy Communities at DOH-Okaloosa in Fort Walton Beach

Action Items	Owners	Deadline	Status
Edit doorhangers and IOAD marketing materials. Share with attendees	Emily Pickens	June 29 th	Not Started
Recruit POIs to assist with promoting IOAD event	Emily Pickens	July 7 th	Not started
Reach out potential testimonial candidates	Amanda Colwell, Stevie Wolf, Shawn Nickel	July 18 th	In Progress
Determine who will speak from the Medical Examiner’s Office	Chrissy Nieten	July 18 th	Complete
Share IOAD flyers and media	All	ASAP	Ongoing