



MINUTES

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

Attendees: Elizabeth “Beth” Smith, Florida Department of Health in Okaloosa County (DOH-Okaloosa); Emily Pickens, DOH-Okaloosa; Taela Cintron, DOH-Okaloosa; Joseph Dillon, DOH-Okaloosa; Allison Dozier, DOH-Okaloosa; Mandy Bricker, DOH-Okaloosa; Stephanie Wedel, Freedom Life Compass; Amanda Colwell, DOH Okaloosa; Ken LaPee, Okaloosa County Sheriff’s Office; Greg Cain, Okaloosa County EMS; Claire Jones, A Bed4Me; Michael Griffith, Oxford House; Devon Ravine, City of Fort Walton Beach; JB Whitten, City of Crestview; Vanessa d’Aquin, Crossroads Medical Center; Trisha Dall, DOH-Okaloosa; Michael Jacobs, Shalimar Police Department; Troy Williams, City of Destin; Shawn Nickel, NWF Health Network; Autumn McAllister, Lakeview Center; Mary Travis, CareerSource; Chris Hawkins, CDAC Behavioral Healthcare; Kendra Henderson, Ascension Sacred Heart Hospital.

Welcome & Introductions – Elizabeth “Beth” Smith

- Beth opened the meeting and welcomed attendees.
- She reviewed the meeting’s purpose and agenda. She also shared the results from the Community Engagement Survey from the previous meeting. Results indicated meetings have great engagement and quality topics.
- Minutes from the June 13th, 2024, meeting was reviewed and approved.

Action Plan Updates – Stephanie Wedel & JB Whitten

Post Overdose Support Team

- Stephanie Wedel shared the Post Overdose Support Team (POST) has been well received by community members thus far. Around 20 people have received outreach, and six have entered treatment.
- She explained another aspect of POST is outreach events. The first even will be announced at the end of the International Overdose Awareness Day (IOAD) event.
 - Attendees determined the first POST event should be Saturday, September 14 in Fort Walton Beach. Stephanie will coordinate with two local churches to see who can assist with event planning and support. Details will be shared soon.

International Overdose Awareness Day (IOAD)

- Stephanie provided an overview of the IOAD event on Thursday, August 29th.
- Free dinner and tabling begin at 5:30 p.m. The program includes a community data presentation, testimonials, program updates, and a community panel discussion.
- The event ends with a call to action for attendees to get involved and share yard signs/pinwheels in observance of IOAD.
- Vanessa confirmed she has an individual who will provide a personal testimonial.
- Emily shared Mayor JB Whitten will serve as the emcee for the event.
- Stephanie confirmed panelists are Jenna McElyea, Stephenie Wedel, Vanessa d’Aquin, Jason Fulghum, Rex Fitzgerald, and Autumn McAllister. Chief Bage will facilitate.
- Emily opened discussion for topics to discuss during the panel.

- Attendees previously discussed pathways to recovery, barriers to recovery and stigma, impacts of CORE/Opioid Settlement funding, 'what happens after detox', and impacts on the community, family, etc.
- Vanessa believes barriers is a vital topic from her medical perspective.
- The group was in favor of discussing "wraparound services", including support groups, recovery programs, MAT, faith-based treatment, and more.
- Group members discussed addressing early warning signs, data on which groups are most affected, and ways to address prevention. Emily will share this information with Chrissy from the Medical Examiner's Office to address during her presentation.
- Attendees also discussed organizations to invite to table at the event.
 - Autumn McAllister will contact the Walton County Prevention Coalition. Vanessa will operate a table for Crossroads. Emily will reach out to service providers.
- The group also discussed how to address this crisis with youth and engage them with the IOAD event. Stephanie and Claire Jones will reach out to youth pastors. Emily and Stephanie will reach out to contacts at the School District.
- Emily stressed the importance of marketing the event. She asked attendees to share flyers with partners and the community. The group discussed sharing the event with Neighborhood groups, Concerned Citizen Facebook groups, ECAR®, Rotary Clubs, Boys and Girls Clubs, and Chambers of Commerce.
 - **Unite Us**
- Emily gave a brief overview of the Unite Us platform and stated that we are ready to onboard. She requested that interested organizations complete the sign-on.

Action Items – Stephanie Wedel & JB Whitten

- Stephanie will coordinate with churches for the first POST outreach event.
- Emily will invite attendees to table at IOAD.
- All group members will share IOAD marketing materials and invite others to the event.

Partner Updates

- Stephanie shared the next Niceville Bizarre is October 19th from 10 a.m. – 4 p.m. Vendor spots are \$100. Non-profits can table for free.

Closing – Joseph Dillon

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

Next Meeting – Thursday, August 15th at 10:00 a.m. at Crosspoint Church in Niceville

Action Items	Owners	Deadline	Status
Share marketing materials for IOAD	All	8/29/2024	Ongoing
Coordinate with churches for POST outreach event in FWB	Stephanie Wedel	8/15/2024	Not started