

## 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; Jenna McElyea, Bridgeway Center; Stephanie Wedel, Freedom Life Compass; Vanessa d'Aquin, Crossroads Center; Kat Beedie, DOH-Okaloosa; Veronica Ebuén, Division of Vocational Rehabilitation; Shawn Nickel, NWFHealth Network; Mandy Bricker, DOH-Okaloosa; Darrel Clah, Emerald Coast Life Center; Allison Dozier, DOH-Okaloosa; Erica Francis, Head Start; Jason Fulghum, Okaloosa County Sheriff's Office; Shawnette Hummer, CDI Head Start; Autumn McAllister, Lakeview Center; Melissa Sidoti, Department of Children and Families; Joe Wilson, Gods Glory Recovery; Bethney Sikes, Northwest Florida State College; Kevin Kirkpatrick, Okaloosa County Sheriff's Office.

### Welcome & Introductions – Petra Maddens

- Petra opened the meeting and welcomed attendees.
- She shared Community Engagement Survey responses from the previous meeting. The results indicate that the topics are relevant, and the attendees are engaged.
- Minutes from the previous July 18th, 2024, meeting were reviewed and approved.

### Action Plan Updates – Stephanie Wedel

#### Post Overdose Support Team (POST)

- Stephanie Wedel provided an overview of the POST team. The POST pilot concluded and program launched county wide as of August 1<sup>st</sup> with the addition of Community Resource Deputies from the Okaloosa County Sheriff's Office.
- POST visits have 50% engagement and has been well received by the community.

#### International Overdose Awareness Day Event (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.
- Stephanie reminded attendees to post the event on social media and share flyers.

#### POST Community Event

- Stephanie provided an overview of the first POST community event on September 14th from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at Champion Life Church in Fort Walton Beach.
  - The event will include a cookout, local vendors with various programs assisting the community. The POST members will have a booth to educate and interact with the community regarding the program.
- Attendees discussed an outreach plan. Stephanie suggested door to door outreach prior to the event, possibly with the help of Community Resource Deputies. Emily will develop a flyer to share with city/county PIOs and leadership at Champion Life Church.
- The next POST community event will be held in January. Vanessa d'Aquin will request using the parking lot of their clinic in Crestview adjacent to a church.

**Unite Us**

- Stephanie provided a brief overview of the Unite Us platform. Emily stated the platform is open to community partners. Partners will receive a sign-up email and will have access to Unite Us support professionals and training to learn how to use the platform.

**Action Items – Emily Pickens**

- Attendees will spread the word about the IOAD event through social media, email, and pass out flyers to the community.
- Emily will apply feedback to the child and family community resource sheets and email them to the group for further review.
- Emily will develop a flyer for the first POST community event and share with the group.

**Partner Updates**

- Freedom Life Compass is hosting the Niceville Bazaar on October 19<sup>th</sup>. Partners are welcome to set up vendor booths.

**Closing – JD Dillon**

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

*Next Meeting – Thursday, September 5th, 2024, at 10:00 AM at Crosspoint Church in Niceville*

Action Items	Owners	Deadline	Status
Edit child and family community resource sheets	Emily Pickens	9/5/2024	Completed
Share IOAD flyers and event details with community.	All	8/29/2024	In Progress
Develop POST event flyer and share with group.	Emily Pickens	9/1/2024	In Progress