

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; Elizabeth Smith, DOH-Okaloosa; Stephanie Wedel, Freedom Life Compass; Vanessa d'Aquin, Crossroads Center; Kat Beedie, DOH-Okaloosa; Robert Bage, Fort Walton Beach Police Department; Tanya Gonzales, Healthy Start Coalition of Okaloosa and Walton Counties; Mandy Bricker, DOH-Okaloosa; Greg Cain, Okaloosa County EMS; Erica Francis, Head Start; Jason Fulghum, Okaloosa County Sheriff's Office, Shawnette Hummer, CDI Head Start; Ken LaPee, Okaloosa County Sheriff's Office; Brian McCallum, Crestview Police Department; Troy Williams, City of Destin; Clint Naples, Niceville Police Department; Joseph Dillon, DOH-Okaloosa.

Welcome & Introductions – Petra Maddens

- Petra opened the meeting and welcomed attendees.
- She shared Community Engagement Survey responses from the previous meeting. Attendees reported that the topics discussed were relevant and impactful.
- Minutes from the previous January 11, 2023, meeting were reviewed and approved.

Action Plan Updates – Stephanie Wedel

- Attendees briefly reviewed the International Overdose Awareness Day (IOAD) event. The event received strong public support with 250 community members attending.
 - The group proposed organizing data workshops/an educational series to further the community discussion on substance use and overdose.
 - Emily reminded attendees to complete the survey for event feedback. Responses are anonymous.
- Stephanie announced there will be a Post Overdose Support Team (POST) community event at Champion Life Church on September 14th from 10:00 am – 1:00 pm.
 - On September 6th, volunteers will visit the neighborhood surrounding the church to drop off door hangers to advertise the event.
 - Freedom Life Compass will provide the food, grill, and cookware at the event.
 - Joe Wilson will provide the sound system.
 - Meeting attendees identified community hubs to drop off flyers for the event.
- Stephanie Wedel gave a brief overview of Unite Us and reminded the group to respond to the onboarding email to begin the sign-up process.

Action Items – Stephanie Wedel

- Share the POST community event flyer and drop off doorhangers within the neighborhood the event is taking place in.
- Complete the survey to provide feedback on the IOAD community event.

Partner Updates – Stephanie Wedel

- Vanessa d'Aquin stated that Crossroads is extending their hours to full business days (8:00 am – 5:00 pm) due to a 50% increase in patients.
- Ken LaPee stated that on November 2nd there will be a community rodeo event in Baker. Contact Community Resource Deputy Chris Fordham for details.

Closing – JD Dillon

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

Next Meeting – Thursday, October 3rd, 2024, at 10:00 AM at Crosspoint Church in Niceville

Action Items	Owners	Deadline	Status
Share the POST community event flyer	All	09/14/2024	In Progress
Complete the IOAD event feedback survey	All	-	In Progress