

## **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:** Elizabeth Smith, Florida Department of Health in Okaloosa County (DOH-Okaloosa); Amanda Colwell, DOH-Okaloosa, Petra Maddens, DOH-Okaloosa, Emily Pickens, DOH-Okaloosa; Christine Syfrett, DOH-Okaloosa; Lauren Anzaldo, Gulf Coast Veterans Health Care System; Stephanie Wedel, Freedom Life Compass; Vanessa d'Aquin, Crossroads Center; Robert Bage, Fort Walton Beach Police Department; Greg Cain, Okaloosa County EMS (OCEMS); Andrew Kindle, OCEMS; Shawnette Hummer, CDI Head Start; Troy Williams, City of Destin; Tim Szuch, Bridgeway Center, Inc.; Jenna McElyea, Bridgeway Center, Inc.; Erica Francis, CDI Head Start; Kat Beedie, DOH-Okaloosa; Shawnette Hummer, CDI Head Start; Autumn McAllister, Lakeview Center; Aaron Murray, Northwest Florida State College Police Department; Linda Finkelstein, NAMI Emerald Coast.

### **Welcome & Introductions – Petra Maddens**

- Petra opened the meeting and welcomed attendees.
- She shared Community Engagement Survey responses from the previous meeting. Attendees reported the topics discussed were impactful and cited good collaboration.
- Minutes from the previous October 3, 2024, meeting were reviewed and approved.

### **Action Plan Updates – Stephanie Wedel & Deb Willis**

#### **POST Community Event**

- The event will be held Saturday, January 11<sup>th</sup> from 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at Central Baptist Church in the parking lot. Providers may bring a table to share resources.
- Emily will develop a new flyer and create a Facebook event.
- Members should share the flyer and event on social media. Greg will contact the radio station to speak. Emily will ask for support from Mayor Whitten.
- DOH-Okaloosa will purchase yard signs. Group members will conduct outreach twice before the event to 500 hang door hangers with event flyers.
- Stephanie will ask Children in Crisis to support a kid area at the event.

#### **POST Phase II Discussion: Peers**

- Stephanie shared a role description and application with Emily via email. She will develop a draft to present at the December meeting for review.
- Peer requirements will mirror peer certification standards. They must be 'actively pursuing' certification and serve with a recovery community organization.
  - Organizations include NAMI, Freedom Life Compass, Emerald Coast Life Center, and Bridgeway Center, Inc.
- Attendees agreed applications should be online forms only. Applications will be reviewed by the POST Leadership Team.
- Stephanie raised concerns of disengaging those in recovery who do not meet the two-year sobriety requirement. Amanda suggested those with less than two years submit a different application to assist only with outreach events. Attendees agreed.

- Linda shared NAMI has trained 57 peers in the region, with 27 fully certified. They offer trainings including Wellness Recovery Action Plan (WRAP). Emily will update the POST training plan to add peer components, including WRAP and MAT.
- Emily opened discussion regarding the four-part approach for peer inclusion.
  - Peers will first be utilized at events. Then they will be added as a resource via phone/business card during outreach visits. Next, the group will explore adding follow-up with a peer and clinician to revisit POST clients who were interested in services but have not enrolled. Autumn will share FL LEADS follow up standards.
- Chief Bage suggested peers be grouped geographically to assist with logistics management. Regions could include North, South, and East.
- Attendees discussed the inclusion of randomized drug testing and criteria for removal from the program. Stephanie suggested relapse would be disqualifying. Procedures will be drafted for both recovery agencies and participating peers.

**Action Items – Stephanie Wedel & Deb Willis**

- Emily will develop a flyer, Facebook event, and yard signs. Everyone will share.
- Emily will draft a peer description and application. She will update the peer training plan and MOA language for recovery community organizations and peers.

**Partner Updates – Petra Maddens**

- Vanessa shared Crossroads is expanding their hours to meet client demand. She has exciting things in the works to share at a future meeting.
- Shawnette informed attendees Head Start will no longer be under CDI and will be moving to Lutheran Services as the new managing entity.

**Closing – Emily Pickens**

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

*Next Meeting – Tuesday, December 17th, 2024, at 2:00 PM at Crosspoint Church in Niceville*

<b>Action Items</b>	<b>Owners</b>	<b>Deadline</b>	<b>Status</b>
Create POST event flyer and Facebook event. Share with group via email.	Emily Pickens	November 25 <sup>th</sup>	In Progress
Promote event on social media, radio, and other channels.	ALL	January 11 <sup>th</sup>	Not Started
Purchase yard signs and print 500 flyers for door hanger outreach.	Emily Pickens	December 17 <sup>th</sup>	Not Started
Draft peer role description and application. Update training plan and MOA language for recovery agencies and peer code of conduct.	Emily Pickens	December 17 <sup>th</sup>	Not Started