

## **MINUTES**

**Purpose:** Engage Okaloosa County community members in a health improvement process through an open, two-way dialogue to reduce the number of residents engaged in substance use behavior.

**Attendees:** Elizabeth Smith, Florida Department of Health in Okaloosa County (DOH-Okaloosa); Amanda Colwell, DOH-Okaloosa, Petra Maddens, DOH-Okaloosa, Emily Pickens, DOH-Okaloosa; Danie Crowley, 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 Emergency Medical Services; Troy Williams, City of Destin; Clint Naples, Niceville Police Department; Tim Szuch, Bridgeway Center, Inc.; Jason Fulghum, Okaloosa County Sheriff’s Office; Mary Travis, CareerSource Okaloosa Walton; Autumn McAllister, Lakeview Center; Kendra Henderson, Ascension Sacred Heart.

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

- Petra opened the meeting and welcomed attendees.
- She shared Community Engagement Survey responses from the previous meeting. Attendees mentioned sound issues due to weather, with all other feedback being cited as positive. Minutes from the previous meeting were reviewed and approved.

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

#### **POST Community Event Updates**

- Stephanie shared the next POST Community Event will take place on Saturday, January 11<sup>th</sup> from 11:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. at First Baptist Church in Crestview.
- Emily stated vendors should email her to register. A link will be shared soon. Anyone is welcome to set up a table and share resources. Bring your own table, chairs, and tent.
- Stephanie shared Freedom Life Compass will provide food and drinks.
- Emily encouraged attendees to share the event via Facebook and email.
  - She will request support from the County and City of Crestview PIOs.
- Stephanie shared door hangers will be distributed the two weeks prior to the event. Members will go place door hangers on nearby residences to promote the event and share POST resource information.
  - Outreach will occur on Friday December 27<sup>th</sup> and January 3<sup>rd</sup> from noon – 1:00 p.m. Anyone can join. The group will meet in the First Baptist Church parking lot.

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

- Emily shared the Peer Role Description and application drafts with attendees. Members reviewed the documents and provided feedback.
- Members requested the following changes or updates to verbiage:
  - High school diploma, GED, or willingness to pursue it for educational requirement.
  - Must be 18 years or older.
  - Valid ID and own transportation required.
  - Must undergo drug testing and maintain DCF Level II background check.
  - Willingness to participate in weekend events and maintain a flexible schedule.

- Attendees discussed the need for a minimum participation commitment. Chief Bage and Stephanie suggested the following:
  - Event Peers: No hour requirement, volunteering is as needed.
  - Full Peers: 8 hours per month, with flexibility.
  - Members agreed failure to meet the 8-hour requirement would not be penalized if proper communication is in place, as flexibility is key in volunteer roles.

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

- Emily will share POST Community Event marketing materials via email. Members will share the information and promote the event.
- Emily will complete edits to the application and Peer Role Description. She will develop MOA verbiage and a peer training plan before the January meeting.

**Partner Updates – Emily Pickens**

- Vanessa d'Aquin shared the Destin and Freeport clinics of Hope Medical Center will close on January 1<sup>st</sup>. Crossroads Medical Center is absorbing their patient load and will be operating with increased capacity to transition their care.
- Emily invited attendees to the Healthy Communities meeting on Thursday, December 19<sup>th</sup> from 9:00 - 10:30 a.m. at DOH-Okaloosa. Discussion will include the development of a Substance Use Educational Series to debut in March. All are welcome.
- Emily shared OCHIP is hosting a Substance Use Training on January 28<sup>th</sup> from 9:00 – 11:00 a.m. at DOH-Okaloosa. Speakers will discuss the Coordinated Opioid Recovery (CORE) Network and how opioids impact brain chemistry, provide updates on POST, and share the importance of peers in combatting substance use and addiction.
- Emily reminded attendees the OCHIP Celebration is set for Thursday, January 30<sup>th</sup> from 5:30 - 8: 00 p.m. at The Clubhouse Grill. An RSVP will be shared soon.

**Closing – Emily Pickens**

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

*Next Meeting – Thursday, January 2, 2025, at 11:00 AM at Crosspoint Church in Niceville*

<b>Action Items</b>	<b>Owners</b>	<b>Deadline</b>	<b>Status</b>
Email POST Community Event materials to group members.	Emily Pickens	January 2 <sup>nd</sup>	Complete
Share information and promote the POST Community Event via social media, email.	ALL	Ongoing until January 11 <sup>th</sup>	In Progress
Update Peer Role Description and application based on feedback. Draft MOA language and develop peer training plan.	Emily Pickens	January 2 <sup>nd</sup>	In Progress