

## **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:** Emily Pickens, Florida Department of Health in Okaloosa County (DOH-Okaloosa); Petra Maddens, DOH-Okaloosa, Lauren Anzaldo, Gulf Coast Veterans Health Care System; Robert Bage, Fort Walton Beach Police Department; Greg Cain, Okaloosa County Emergency Medical Services; Clint Naples, Niceville Police Department; Kristen Pond, Niceville Police Department; Linda Finkelstein, NAMI Emerald Coast; Jacob Gilbertson, Banyan Treatment Centers; Joanna Devine, Banyan Treatment Centers; Tim Szuch, Bridgeway Center, Inc.; Autumn McAllister, Lakeview Center; Kendra Henderson, Ascension Sacred Heart; JB Whitten, City of Crestview; Mary Travis, CareerSource Okaloosa Walton; Melissa Sidoti, Florida Department of Children and Families; Dana Clah, Emerald Coast Life Center; Darrel Clah, Emerald Coast Life Center.

### **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**

- Attendees discussed the cold front that will be present during the event.
- Andrew Kindle stated he would get with the Sheriff's Office for their tent to keep attendees and vendors warm. Heaters can be secured from local restaurants, as well as carafes of hot coffee/hot chocolate.
  - Jacob and Jojo from Banyan offered to bring hot chocolate and cups.
- The team will conduct door to door outreach again on Friday, January 3<sup>rd</sup> at noon. All group members are encouraged to share messaging and spread the word.

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

- Emily shared the Peer Role Description, application, and MOA drafts with attendees. Members reviewed the documents and provided feedback.
- No additional feedback was shared. After a final internal review, the documents will be shared via email with participating peer agencies. Once the application is finalized, Emily will share it via email for dispersion.

### **Other – Emily Pickens**

- Emily shared updates across OCHIP groups. She invited attendees to take part in the development of a Substance Use Educational Series in partnership with the Healthy Communities OCHIP group. Their next meeting is Tuesday, January 14<sup>th</sup> from 9:30 – 11:00 a.m. at DOH-Okaloosa in Fort Walton Beach or via Microsoft Teams.
- She informed attendees there are two other OCHIP events in January.

- On January 28<sup>th</sup> from 9:00 – 11:00 a.m. there will be a substance use training at DOH-Okaloosa. The Chief Deputy for Health will speak about the Coordinated Opioid Response (CORE) Network and how opioids interact with the brain. Updates will be shared from POST, and Amber Williams from DCF will speak.
- On January 30<sup>th</sup> the second annual OCHIP Celebration will be held at The Clubhouse Grill in Fort Walton Beach. Doors open at 5:30 p.m. Awards begin at 6:30 p.m. You must RSVP to attend.
- Emily will share details and RSVP links via email.

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

- Members will spread the word about the community event.
- Emily will share final documents with peer agencies and email everyone when the peer application is officially live.
- Emily will send details about upcoming events via email.

**Partner Updates – Emily Pickens**

- Mayor Whitten shared plans for a Crestview Strong event mirroring what is done annually in Niceville. He will host the event at Crestview High School. He requested support from attendees to serve as vendors at the event to share resources and services. He will share more details as they develop.
- Freedom Life Compass is hosting a chili cookoff on February 15<sup>th</sup> at 11:30 a.m. at Emerald Coast Harley Davidson in Fort Walton Beach.

**Closing – Emily Pickens**

- Emily asked the group to combine the next meeting with the Healthy Communities OCHIP group to work on the Substance Use Training and March events. Attendees agreed. A new meeting date and time will be determined at the January 14<sup>th</sup> meeting.
- Emily thanked attendees for participating and asked them to complete the community engagement survey to provide feedback.

*Next Meeting – February 11<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 AM with Healthy Communities at DOH-Okaloosa in FWB*

<b>Action Items</b>	<b>Owners</b>	<b>Deadline</b>	<b>Status</b>
Share information and promote the POST Community Event via social media, email.	ALL	January 11 <sup>th</sup>	In Progress
Share drafts of MOA, peer application, and role description with peer agencies.	Emily Pickens	January 23 <sup>rd</sup>	In Progress
Share peer application with all members once finalized.	Emily Pickens	TBD	Not Started
Share details about OCHIP events via email.	Emily Pickens	Ongoing	In Progress