

**JACKSONVILLE CITY COUNCIL**

**RESEARCH DIVISION**

**OPIOID EPIDEMIC SPECIAL COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES**

**June 20, 2019**

**2:00 p.m.**

**Lynwood Roberts Room**

**First Floor, City Hall**

**117 W. Duval Street**

**Topic:** Opioid Epidemic Special Committee

**Attendance:** Council Members Bill Gulliford (Chairman), Matt Schellenberg, Jim Love, Tommy Hazouri, Greg Anderson; Council Member Elect Ron Salem; Colleen Hampsey – Council Research Division; Chiefs David Castleman and Mark Rowley- Jacksonville Fire and Rescue Department; Dr. Raymond Pomm- UF Health/Gateway; Juliette Williams – Legislative Services; Carol Harper – ECA District 13

See attached sign-in sheet for additional attendees.

**Convened:** 2:02 pm

Councilman Gulliford convened the meeting and asked for introductions. As this was the last committee meeting of Mr. Gulliford’s term, he took a moment to thank everyone, particularly the peer recovery specialists who have been integral to the success of Project Save Lives. Dr. Pomm, UF Health/Gateway, thanked CM Gulliford for his advocacy, commitment and leadership in the fight against the opioid epidemic.

Dr. Pomm updated the group on the latest status of Project Save Lives (PSL). Since PSL began in November of 2017, there have been 606 patients eligible for the program, 384 who consented to services, 158 who completed the program, and two drug related deaths among participants. There currently are negotiations in progress to expand PSL to the Emergency Department in Baptist Hospital North. Dr. Pomm said that there is capacity shortage in the detox units, necessitating some outpatient detox and shorter detox durations. One member of the audience questioned why there are not detox units in all emergency departments, which comes down to a lack of funding. River Region has some beds available for inpatient treatment, but not detox. Dr. Pomm also mentioned mental health, despair and suicides as companion issues to the opioid epidemic.

JFRD Chief David Castleman and Chief Mark Rowley spoke about overdose responses. Chief Castleman said that there have been decreases in overdose responses among PSL participants, but only a small decrease among the general population. Chief Rowley said that JFRD’s Narcan usage has declined slightly, from 12 doses per day to 9 per day. CM Hazouri asked if other cities are seeing overdose/Narcan usage reductions as well and Chief Rowley said he would look into it and report back. From the data report distributed at this meeting, there have been increases in overdose responses in some zip codes such as 32204,32210, 32222, 32244, 32258 and decreases in overdose responses in other zip codes such as 32202,32206, 32209, 32257, 32266 (full zip code list is included in posted handout). Assistant Chief Gallaher, Jacksonville Sheriff’s Office, spoke about the enforcement side of the opioid epidemic. It was noted that opioid seizures are relatively consistent and that increased prosecutions have begun related to opioids. It was also said that fentanyl is being found in various other drugs like cocaine and methamphetamine, not just heroin.

Councilman Gulliford spoke briefly about the reduction in Endocarditis cases at St. Vincent’s Hospital, which treated 126 cases in the first quarter of last year and only 28 cases in the third quarter of the year. Endocarditis is a bacterial or fungal infection of the endocardium, the inner lining of the heart chambers and heart valves, associated with intravenous drug use and contaminated needles and syringes. The treatment includes lengthy and costly antibiotic regimens or surgery. There have been occurrences of endocarditis reductions in other locations which have syringe exchange programs in place. While it may be premature to confirm causation, there seems to be a correlation between the decrease in endocarditis cases and PSL participation and the reduction in repeated overdoses.

Before concluding, CM Gulliford reminded the attendees about the Opioid Trust Fund, established by the City to receive funds which will be allocated for various opioid addiction treatment and prevention. With no further business, Councilman Gulliford adjourned the meeting.

**Adjourned:** 3:07 pm

Minutes: Colleen Hampsey, Council Research

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6.25.19     Posted 5:00 p.m.

* Tapes:  Opioid Special Committee – LSD

6.20.19