

# **City of Jacksonville**

*1st Floor - Council Chamber  
117 W. Duval Street*



## **Meeting Minutes**

**Thursday, November 21, 2019**

**2:00 PM**

**Council Chambers 1st Floor, City Hall**

### **Special Committee on the Opioid Epidemic**

*CM Ron Salem, Pharm.D., Chairman*

*CM Michael Boylan*

*CVP Tommy Hazouri*

*CM Brenda Priestly-Jackson*

*CM Randy White*

*Legislative Assistant: Juliette Williams*

*Research: Colleen Hampsey*

Meeting convened: 2:04 pm Meeting adjourned: 3:02 pm

**1. Call to order, introduction of Committee members - CM Ron Salem**

Committee Chair Salem welcomed the group and called for introductions.

**2. Update on Project Save Lives - Dr. Raymond Pomm, Gateway**

Dr. Pomm, Gateway/UF Health, provided an update on Project Save Lives (PSL). PSL has had 661 patients consent to services since the program's inception and currently has 211 actively engaged participants. Of those who elected to participate, there have been 5 opioid related deaths since November 2017. Dr. Pomm said that contract negotiations with the UF Health Emergency Department have almost concluded and the expectation is to start in that location after the first of the year. The program is now active in Memorial Hospital as well. Dr. Pomm also mentioned the danger of recreational drug use and the frequency of other drugs laced with fentanyl derivatives aside from heroin, such as cocaine and methamphetamine.

CM Priestly Jackson requested more information or a presentation on fentanyl derivatives, particularly Acetyl fentanyl.

**3. Report on overdose trends/Narcan Grant - Laura Viafora Ray, JFRD**

Laura Viafora Ray, JFRD, provided an update on opioid overdose treatment and transports since the last meeting. The trend line for Narcan dose usage and opioid overdoses is continuing to inch upward. Ms. Viafora Ray also spoke about a federal grant JFRD has been awarded which will cover the costs for roughly 5000 Narcan doses to be distributed to community groups and individuals, and provide training on how to administer it. When asked, Ms. Viafora Ray told the committee that the shelf life for Narcan is about two years. CM Hazouri requested opioid overdose data sorted by zip code or council district, which JFRD will provide.

**4. Update on Opioid Trust Fund - Bill Spann, Director of Military and Veteran's Affairs**

Bill Spann, Director of Military and Veteran's Affairs, spoke briefly about the other Opioid Committee and the Opioid Trust Fund. The Trust Fund currently has \$5000 given by doctors from St. Vincent's Hospital and is open for donations from other entities.

**5. Update on Opioid Lawsuit - Peggy Sidman Martin, Office of General Counsel**

Tiffany Pinkstaff shared an update on the City's litigation against opioid producing pharmaceutical companies. The multi district lawsuit was remanded to federal court and is currently stayed while the judge hears selected bellwether cases and considers a global settlement resolution. Any potential legal/financial settlement will not be in the immediate future.

**6. Report from Sheriff's Office - Dir. Nick Burgos, JSO**

Assistant Chief Gallaher, Jacksonville Sheriff's Office, spoke about the opioid epidemic from an enforcement perspective. JSO has noticed a decrease in heroin and cocaine seizures, but an increase in seizures of methamphetamines. Assistant Chief Gallaher noted that Jacksonville is a destination city for narcotics, not a source city like Atlanta and Miami. Assistant Chief Gallaher also commented on the presence of multidrug toxicity.

**7. Report from State Attorney's Office - Linzee Ott, State Attorney's Office**

Linzee Ott, State Attorney's Office, conveyed Melissa Nelson's support for the City's and JSO's efforts in combatting the opioid epidemic.

**8. Report on data collection - Dr. Lori Billelo, UF Health**

Dr. Lori Billelo, UF Health, spoke about data collection and how they are expanding the geographical area in which they are tracking opioid patients/overdoses. Dr. Billelo also said they hope to learn more about the outcomes for patients who refuse PSL services.

**9. E-Cigarettes and Vaping Epidemic Discussion - CM Ron Salem**

Chair Salem spoke about a conference on vaping he attended this morning. The lung infections and deaths associated with vape usage are closely tied to black market THC vaporizers and the CDC is following the cases closely. The Chair also talked about options for local governments to regulate vaping products (some states are considering bans, some locations are considering raising the age of sale to 21). The Chair suggested a public education campaign to inform the public, especially youth, about vaping risks.

**10. Comments from the public (time permitting)**

Public Comment: One attendee spoke about raising the age of vape product sales to 21; one attendee spoke about involving River Region in Project Save Lives to offer more treatment capacity.

**11. Adjourn meeting**

The next Opioid Epidemic Committee meetings will be: January 16, 2020, March 12, 2020 and May 14, 2020.

Minutes: Colleen Hampsey, Council Research

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