



JACKSONVILLE CITY COUNCIL

Member to Member Noticed Virtual Meeting on the Opioid Epidemic, Vaping & Mental Health Resources

Thursday, November 12, 2020

2:00 PM

No Physical Location

Committee Members

CM Ron Salem, Pharm.D., Chairman

CM Michael Boylan

CM Terrance Freeman

CM Ju'Coby Pittman

CM Brenda Priestly-Jackson

CM Randy White

Legislative Assistant: Juliette Williams

Research: Colleen Hampsey

Amended Meeting Minutes

Meeting Convened: 2:01 pm Meeting Adjourned: 3:30 pm

Attendance:

Committee Members Salem, Pittman, Priestly Jackson, Freeman, White and Boylan

Chair Salem welcomed the group and called for introductions of council members for the record.

Dr. Raymond Pomm provided an update on Project Save Lives, saying that to date, there have been seven known drug-related deaths among program participants. Dr. Pomm shared an emergency department comparison of those that are a part of PSL, St. Vincent's Riverside, St. Vincent's Southside, Memorial Hospital, Park West, Baptist North and UF Health Main. Memorial and UF Hospitals have the most cases. See full comparison in handout. Dr. Pomm also mentioned that the COVID 19 pandemic has impacted

treatment capacity, particularly for inpatient residential centers. In addition to social distance requirements affecting capacity, some seeking treatment are COVID positive and as such housing them with the other patients is complicated.

Chief Mark Rowley, JFRD spoke about overdose response trends and how the number has increased since March 2019. Comparing similar time frames prior to and during the pandemic (February 2019 until now), there was a 28% increase in OD responses. This equates to roughly 14 OD dispatches per day. Chief Rawley also spoke about a new street drug, purple heroin, which is a deadly cocktail of narcotics with high risk from the potency. The presence of this drug, and other fentanyl derivatives, have affected the use of Narcan by JFRD, in that multiple doses are required to revive patients. The elevated dosages affect the data trends. Chief Rawley talked about how the increase in OD responses has not correlated with higher death totals, as it has in other cities. This seems to indicate that Jacksonville has been successful in harm reduction, either through Narcan distribution, public awareness and/or the PSL program. Laura Viafora Ray spoke about the Safe Healthy Neighborhoods grant, which enables JFRD to distribute Narcan and training to individuals and organizations for free. Since the grant program began, 2000 doses have been given out, and the expectation is that 500 more will be before the end of the year. Anecdotally, there have also been 16 voluntary reports from those who have used the Narcan to stop an overdose death.

Keally West, OGC, provided an update on the lawsuit against opioid producing pharmaceutical companies. There have been no actions in the civil case since the last meeting. Ms. West also explained that the large settlement in the news recently was in relation to a criminal suit and not the one in which the City is involved.

Lt. Eric Redgate, JSO, spoke about enforcement aspects and said that opioid OD homicides are on a downward trend and that there have been 9 arrests for OD manslaughter/homicide in the past few months. Lt. Redgate said that arrests are highest in Patrol Zones 3 and 4, and that deaths are not usually in the same location as the point of purchase.

Tim Reddish, State Attorney's Office, said that the State Attorney's Office is working closely with JSO on enforcement, and that the SAO had received an advisory from the FBI about the emergence of purple heroin.

Dr. Lori Billelo, UF Health spoke about data collection and the progress of a review of the death records from the Florida Department of Health Vital Statistics Office. Dr. Billelo said that for the PSL program, death records from November 2017 through April 30, 2020 for the 5 county area (Baker, Clay, Duval, Nassau and St. Johns) were reviewed and compared with the PSL records of those who have been approached by the peer specialists in the participating EDs. This analysis included both those who declined services and those who accepted services. Cause of death was examined including primary and secondary diagnoses, the number days the death occurred after the initial overdose visit to the ED, and whether the deceased participated in substance use treatment. Thirty-six of the deaths of all patients approached by PSL were clearly diagnosed as "accidental poisoning" due to drugs. The remaining 17 nine deaths identified are likely overdose deaths since the majority of them had either respiratory or heart failure related diagnoses and many of them had died within 30 days of their initial ED overdose visit.

Of the 26 deaths who consented to PSL services, only 5 had participated in substance use treatment and the remainder had only received peer follow-up services. The overdose rate of those who participated in PSL was not statistically lower than those who did not participate in PSL. Dr. Billelo also noted that the goal is to keep tracking the data to gain a larger sample size to establish statistical significance.

Barry O'Sullivan, Acuity Design Group, talked about the vaping awareness campaign being created for schools. Mr. O'Sullivan said that the goal was to develop and implement an anti-vaping campaign targeting middle and high school students. The campaign aims to appeal across age groups and motivate youth through showing that vaping is act of unintended self-harm with real-world implications, instead of trying to instill fear.

Chief Judge Mark Mahon spoke about the Mental Health Pilot program that includes pre-trial release and wraparound services for those with mental health issues as an alternative to jail. Judge Mahon mentioned the challenge and importance of finding safe and affordable housing for this population, and about an effective Miami program that has led to the closing of a jail entirely.

Cindy Funkhouser, Sulzbacher Center, talked about the community costs for mentally ill persons experiencing homelessness, the average cost to the community is \$50,000 per person, per year. This includes jail time, emergency room visits, social services and other costs. When a permanent supportive housing solution is implemented, the average cost to the community is 25% to 50% less (between \$12,000 and \$24,000) when coupled with the necessary wraparound services. In Duval County, 2019: 925 people arrested with a mental health flag and 92 were homeless (10%). In 2020 (through Sept.): 658 people arrested with a mental health flag and 242 were homeless (37%). Sulzbacher, in collaboration with Duval County Judges, State Attorney's Office, Public Defender's Office, Jacksonville Sheriff's Office, Lutheran Services of Florida, and Gateway Community Services are rolling out a 9 month pilot program that will offer mental health treatment, free prescriptions, intensive case management; substance abuse treatment and scattered site housing (if needed); Wraparound services: job placement, SOAR processor for SSI/SSDI, peer specialist, and other supportive services as needed. Chief Rawley said he would like to be involved and, working within HIPAA guidelines, will coordinate to track recidivism.

Comments from the Public (time permitting)

One member of the public expressed support for all of the programs discussed in the meeting, and she asked if sobriety is required to participate in the mental health program. CM Salem indicated that substance abuse treatment will a part of the services.

The next meeting will be in January 2021.

Minutes: Colleen Hampsey, Council Research
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