

City of Jacksonville

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



Meeting Minutes

Thursday, March 11, 2021

2:00 PM

Council Chambers 1st Floor, City Hall & Virtual

Special Committee on the Opioid Epidemic, Vaping & Mental Health Resources

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

Meeting Convened: 2:00 pm Meeting Adjourned: 3:13 pm

Attendance:

Council Members Salem, White, Boylan, Pittman, Freeman (Zoom), Morgan (Zoom)
Excused: CM Priestly Jackson

Also: Peggy Sidman, Office of General Counsel; Colleen Hampsey, Council Research

- 1. Call to Order, Introduction of Committee Members - Council Member Ron Salem**
- 2. Harm Reduction Subcommittee - Council Member Boylan**

CM Boylan said that he has not had meetings related to harm reduction since the last committee meeting. Mark Rowley, JFRD, said that he has been in communication with the harm reduction collective and will have more to report back at a future meeting. Two factors receiving attention are the alignment of providers to avoid silos and streamlining duplicative services.

- 3. Update on Project Save Lives - Courtney Robinson, Gateway**

Courtney Robinson, Gateway, was in attendance as Dr. Pomm was unavailable. Ms. Robinson said that 176 participants consented to services in February, and that overall there have only been 8 overdose deaths of those in the program. Ms. Robinson also said that PSL will soon be in operation in the Baptist Main Emergency Department.

4. Report on Overdose Trends/Narcan Grant - Chief Mark Rowley, JFRD and Laura Viafora Ray JFRD

Chief Mark Rowley, JFRD, discussed the data trends for overdose responses and Narcan usage, both of which are at a 2 year low. In February 2021, there were 291 doses of Narcan given on dispatch and 154 opioid related overdoses. In February of 2020, there were 394 doses of Narcan given on dispatch and 224 opioid related overdoses.

Laura Viafora Ray, JFRD, 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, 3156 doses have been given out, with 53 percent distributed in high need zip codes. There have been 71 training sessions and more than 1200 people have completed the trainings. Anecdotally, there have also been 19 voluntary reports from those who have used the Narcan to stop an overdose death. Ms. Ray also spoke about the Narcan training session held on February 23, 2021 in City Hall for any interested council members and staff. CM Pittman said that she learned a lot during the training and asked if such events would be planned for high school students. Ms. Ray said that there may be some trainings for college aged students at some point, but that the target group is older as the frequent age of overdoses tends to be over 25. Ms. Ray said they are working with two new partners, JASMYN and Lakeview Health.

CM Boylan asked about training staff in businesses where overdoses are likely to occur, like music venues, bars and restaurants. He also suggested trainings in fraternity houses and for residential assistants in college dorms. Ms. Ray said that the plans to train hospitality workers was delayed due to the COVID-19 pandemic but will be moving ahead as 'normal' life starts to return, and for laundromat employees. CM Salem said that he may be able to assist in making a connection with the security firm that staffs local music venues for training opportunities.

5. Update on Opioid Lawsuit - Tiffany Pinkstaff, Office of General Counsel

Peggy Sidman was in attendance for the Office of General Counsel and shared an article about the manner in which the state is addressing funds received from opioid lawsuit settlements. Ms. Sidman indicated that council could draft a resolution to share how they feel the money should be allocated. CM Salem said that he will coordinate with the Mayor's Office to see what steps they are taking on the issue.

6. Report on Sheriff's Office - Assistant Chief Steve Gallaher, JSO

No representatives from JSO were in attendance.

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

Ms. Ott said that there was nothing new to report, but that the SAO continues to collaborate with JSO on opioid related cases.

8. E-Cigarettes and Vaping Initiative - Vaping Campaign Update Cantrece Jones, Acuity Design Group

Ms. Jones and Mr. O'Sullivan spoke about the vaping awareness media campaign that has been in operation since January. They have seen positive signs of engagement on the various platforms, Facebook, Instagram, Snapchat and Youtube in the first phase. Phase two is slated to roll out from April until June. There will be a survey of youth some time this summer to assess effects of the campaign.

9. Mental Health Offender Program (MHOP) - Cindy Funkhouser, Sulzbacher

Cindy Funkhouser, Sulzbacher, spoke about MHOP, the mental health diversion pilot program. The program is 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, and includes pre-trial release and wraparound services for those with mental health issues as an alternative to jail. MHOP began on February 1, 2021. Ms. Funkhouser, said the pilot program has eleven participants thus far, all of whom have a large amount of challenges - particularly two of them who are receiving 24 hour inpatient care at Sulzbacher until they are stabilized and ready to move to the hotel accommodations. The participants have experienced multiple arrests, suffer from mental health illnesses and were all homeless.

CM Salem noted that they are looking to find a sustainable funding source for the program after the City funds are spent. CM Boylan spoke about the need for continuous mental health training for law enforcement.

CM Freeman spoke briefly about 2021-81, just approved by council, that authorizes the service contract with Hearts 4 Minds for digital and non-digital educational, outreach and media content and materials throughout a 36-month contract period to raise awareness about the importance of mental health, break down the stigma of mental illness and connect people to providers.

10. Comments from the Public (timer permitting)

CM Salem said that there will not be an April meeting, the next meeting will be in May 2021. He also mentioned that there is \$5000 in the Opioid Trust Fund and that he is looking for suggestions as to how to decide where to direct those funds.

Public Comment

Ms. Rodriguez and Ms. Salazar spoke about neighborhood outreach in areas with high amounts of overdoses to distribute Narcan to those who may need it.

Ms. Armstrong talked about having Narcan trainings with the Bar/Restaurant Association, the Duval Medical Society and Volunteers in Medicine. Mark Rowley suggested coordination with the athletic training department at UNF also.

Ms. Piner spoke about the strategic plan she has been working on and said that there will be a component in it that addresses the trust fund and how it is allocated. The plan should be completed by the end of April.

11. Adjourn Meeting

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