

# City of Jacksonville

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



## Meeting Minutes

**Thursday, September 16, 2021**

**2:00 PM**

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

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

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

*CM Michael Boylan*

*CM Randy DeFoor*

*CM Terrance Freeman*

*CM Ju'Coby Pittman*

*CM Randy White*

*Legislative Assistant: Juliette Williams*

*Research: Colleen Hampsey*

Meeting Convened: 2:00 pm      Meeting Adjourned: 2:55 pm

Attendance:

**Council Members Salem, Pittman, and Freeman**  
**Excused: CMs White, DeFoor and Boylan**

**Also: Kealey West and Tiffany Pinkstaff, Office of General Counsel; Trista Carraher, Council Auditor's Office; Colleen Hampsey, Council Research**

**1. Call to order, Introduction of Committee Members    Council Member Ron Salem**

**2. Harm Reduction Subcommittee Report**  
**Council Member Boylan**

**Postponed due to CM Boylan's absence.**

**3. Mental Health Awareness Campaign**  
**CVP Terrance Freeman**

**CVP Freeman said that Sheryl Johnson, Hearts 4 Minds, would provide an update on the mental health awareness campaign. Ms. Johnson spoke about the mural that was unveiled on Memorial Day - a dragonfly made of handprints with QR codes to connect folks to resources if needed - and about TV ads currently running through a partnership with WJXT. She also talked about a 24 hour crisis text hotline for mental health and about potential expansion sites for future murals.**

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

**Dr. Pomm provided an update on Project Save Lives. In August 153 participants consented to services, either with peer specialists or traditional treatment. Since the program began in 2017, 3624 have consented to services and there have been nine drug related deaths of participants. Dr. Pomm talked about effects from the COVID-19 pandemic, wherein there have been increases in drug/alcohol usage and overdoses and an increase of mental health issues across the country and in Jacksonville. Dr. Pomm said that PSL is in operation in 7 emergency departments and on the floor at Baptist Hospital. UF is the busiest PSL location. The continuation of the pandemic has led to a bed shortage in detox and residential treatment centers, particularly for male patients. Dr. Pomm said he is in negotiations with housing folks for transitional housing. CM Salem mentioned City-ARP funds recently directed to sober living housing and suggested that DR. Pomm connect with them. CM Salem also requested a list of other PSL funding sources and partnerships, and Dr. Pomm will provide that information at the next meeting.**

**5. Report on Overdose Trends/Narcan Grant**

**Laura Viafora Ray, JFRD**

Chief Rowley, JFRD, was not able to attend the meeting. Laura Viafora Ray, JFRD, spoke briefly about overdose response data trends which are continuing to increase. In August 2021, there were 466 OD dispatches, 469 doses of Narcan given, and 468 patients transported as overdoses. As a comparison, in August 2019 there were 378 OD dispatches, 296 doses of Narcan given, and 410 patients transported as overdoses.

Laura Viafora Ray, JFRD, provided an update on the Safe Healthy Neighborhoods grant, which enables JFRD to distribute Narcan and training to individuals and organizations for free. Since the grant program began, more than 100 training sessions have occurred, and 5225 Narcan kits have been given out. Anecdotally, there have also been 36 voluntary reports from those who have used the Narcan to stop an overdose death.

**6. Update on Opioid Lawsuit**

**Tiffany Pinkstaff,  
Office of General Counsel**

Tiffany Pinkstaff, Office of General Counsel, provided an update on the Opioid lawsuit. Ordinance 2021-659 has been introduced and if passed it will approve the Florida Memorandum of Understanding to set forth a framework of a unified plan for the proposed allocation and use of opioid settlement proceeds. Roughly \$1.6 billion will be allocated to Florida over a period of years and an estimated timeline for damages to be received may be in 2022.

**7. Report from Sheriff's Office**

**Chief Steve Gallaher, JSO**

Asst. Chief Gallaher, JSO, spoke about overdose homicide enforcement aspects. The highest amount of JSO overdose death responses occurred in 2021 so far in zones 4, 2 and 5. Zones 2 and 5 have exceeded last years total responses. There were 35 JSO OD death responses in August 2021, 43 in August 2020. To date in 2021, there are 94 active cases under investigation, and 45 have been cleared through arrest (33 for drug charges, 12 homicide/manslaughter).

**8. Report from State Attorney's Office**

**Timothy Quick, State Attorney's Office**

No report at this meeting.

## **9. Report on Data Collection**

**Lori Bilello, UF Health**

Dr. Lori Bilello, UF Health, provided an update on data collection. Using DOH death records, Dr. Bilello cross referenced individuals who died that participated in PSL and those who declined treatment in Baker, Clay, Duval, Nassau and St. Johns Counties. The PSL group had a lower death rate than the group that declined treatment. She mentioned that in the future she may try to drill down into the specifics for each individual, such as level of engagement, and type of treatment. Overall, the data support the mission of the PSL program, which was to reduce deaths from opioid use. CM Pittman asked about the effect of COVID-19 on the data. Dr. Pomm said that it is complicated, in that some patients are requiring more Narcan in the emergency rooms and longer hospital stays due to not just opioids, but the addition of benzos and alcohol. He also noted a shift in demographics and increases in usage among the black population. CM Pittman asked about use among the youth, and Dr. Pomm said that they are seeing some adolescent patients, some of whom have parents with addiction issues also.

## **10. Teen Anti-Vaping Campaign Update Cantrece Jones, Acuity Design Group**

Campaign report at the next meeting.

## **11. Mental Health Pilot Program Cindy Funkhouser, Sulzbacher**

There will be a full end of pilot program report from MHOP at the next meeting. Dr. Bell, Sulzbacher, said that there are 14 participants currently and 4 more in the processing phase. She also said that there will be a graduation ceremony in October for 6 individuals.

## **12. Comments from the Public (time permitting)**

No public comment at this meeting.

## **13. Adjourn Meeting**

At the next meeting there will be an update on the MHOP pilot program and from the Anti-vaping campaign.

The next meetings will be October 14 and November 10, 2021.

Minutes: Colleen Hampsey, Council Research

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