# DAVID S. CASTLEMAN CHIEF OF RESCUE

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515 N. Julia Street Jacksonville Fire and Rescue Jacksonville, FL 32202

# CITY OF JACKSONVILLE • PROJECT SAVE LIVES STATUS REPORT

Through October 2021

#### PROJECT MANAGEMENT TEAM

NAME	ORGANIZATION	AREA OF RESPONSIBILITY		
David Castleman, MPA, RPM	Jacksonville Fire and Rescue Department	Contract Administration		
Dr. Raymond Pomm, MD	Gateway Community Services	Program Medical Director		
Dr. F. Huson Gilberstadt, MD, FACEP	St. Vincent's / Ascension Health	Chief Clinical Officer		
Rico Bodin, MS, LMHC, MCAP	Gateway Community Services	Peer Coordinator		
Mark Rowley, BSN, RN, RPM	Jacksonville Fire and Rescue Department	Data & Reporting		
Dr. Lori Bilello, PhD, MBA, MHS	UF College of Medicine – Jacksonville	Research and Analysis		

#### PROJECT OBJECTIVE

The purpose of the Opioid Epidemic Project dubbed "Project Save Lives" is to establish a program within Duval County that provides specialized, coordinated, and seamless services for the treatment of drug addiction and substance misuse, thereby reducing dependence on drugs and alcohol and reducing drug-related deaths. The targeted services are provided by healthcare providers and include but are not limited to stabilization and treatment for withdrawal, connection to a Peer Specialist, medication assisted treatment and seamless transfer to detox/recovery services. Program services are currently provided through a partnership with the City of Jacksonville, Jacksonville Fire and Rescue Department, Gateway Community Services, St. Vincent's/Ascension Health, Memorial Hospital, Orange Park Medical Center, Baptist Health and UF Health.

#### **PROJECT OPERATIONS**

When overdose patients arrive at a participating hospital emergency department (ED), lifesaving stabilization is the priority. Once stabilized, patients are met by a Peer Specialist who is housed in the ED. The Peer Specialist establishes a rapport with the patient and works as part of the multidisciplinary healthcare team to aid in the early recognition and treatment of withdrawal symptoms. The Peer Specialist also offers recovery services as appropriate. Patients who elect to participate are provided transportation directly to Gateway Community Center or another local provider. Patients who refuse services are closely followed by a Peer and are offered Nasal NARCAN®. The continued follow up and connection encourages patients to enter treatment later. In addition to Peer Specialists being housed in the ED, the program also places Peers in the hospital and maternity units, functioning as Peer Navigators. This ensures that mothers and families of newborns with neonatal abstinence syndrome are provided a *Plan of Safe Care* to advance personal and family recovery and resiliency.

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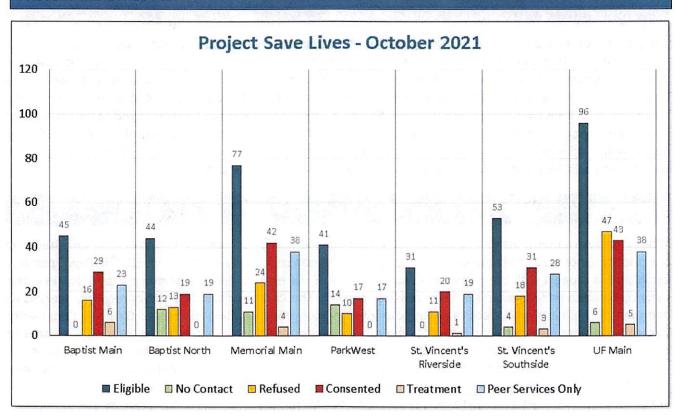
# **PROJECT STATUS**

Project Save Lives began on November 16, 2017. Below is the activity for October 2021 and program totals.

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	HOSPITAL							OCT 2021	PROGRAM
DESCRIPTION	BM	BN	MM	PW	RS	SS	UF	TOTAL	TOTAL
ELIGIBLE FOR SERVICES	45	44	77	41	31	53	96	387	8212
NO PROGRAM CONTACT	0	12	11	14	0	4	6	47	837
REFUSED ALL SERVICES	16	13	24	10	11	18	47	139	3340
CONSENTED TO SERVICES	29	19	42	17	20	31	43	201	4035
DRUG-RELATED DEATHS	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	9
TRADITIONAL TREATMENT	6	0	4	0	1	3	5	19	583
PEER SERVICES ONLY	23	19	38	17	19	28	38	182	3443

BM = Baptist Main, BN = Baptist North, MM = Memorial Main, PW = ParkWest, RS = St. Vincent's Riverside, SS = St. Vincent's Southside, UF = UF Main

# PROJECT MONTHLY ACTIVITY



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#### **PROJECT OUTCOMES**

Initial analysis revealed a 52% decrease in JFRD's overdose responses to program participants who accepted services in 2018. The analysis was performed by comparing the number of JFRD overdose responses to each participant for 12-months prior to accepting program services and 12-months post-services. The same analysis was conducted for participants who accepted services in 2019. The post analysis for the 2019 participant group ran through June 2020 (during the COVID-19 pandemic). While JFRD experienced a 27% spike in overdose calls to the general public, overdose responses to participants of Project Save Lives decreased by 28%. To better understand program outcomes, a comparative analysis was conducted in March 2020 between the program participant group and the non-participant group. The analysis was conducted by reviewing death records from the Florida Department of Health Vital Statistics Office, which demonstrated that persons who accept services from Project Save Lives had a lower death rate than persons who refused services. To date, there have been nine known drug-related deaths among program participants.

# PROJECT FUNDING AND LEGISLATION

Project Save Lives is funded in part by the City of Jacksonville and by each participating hospital. The City's FY 2021/22 budget includes an appropriation of \$1,128,348 to Gateway Community Services. Each of the seven participating hospitals also contributes funding toward their Peer Specialist positions. The program also receives funds from the Florida Department of Health in Duval County's Overdose Data to Action grant (for Peer Navigators).

### PROJECT EXPANSION

The program is currently operating in seven Jacksonville emergency departments (EDs): Baptist Main, Baptist North, Memorial Main, Park West, St. Vincent's Riverside, St. Vincent's Southside, and UF Main.

#### DSC/mr

Note: Florida has a very broad public records law. Most written communications to or from government officials regarding government business are public records and may be subject to public disclosure upon request.