

City of Jacksonville

1st Floor - Council Chamber
117 W. Duval Street



Meeting Minutes

Thursday, January 13, 2022

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 - Excused Absence

CM Terrance Freeman

CM Ju'Coby Pittman- Excused Absence

CM Randy White- Excused Absence

Legislative Assistant: Juliette Williams

Research: Colleen Hampsey

Meeting Convened: 2:01 pm Meeting Adjourned: 2:55 pm

Attendance:

Committee Members: Salem (Chair), Boylan and Freeman

Excused: CMs DeFoor, White and Pittman

Also: Peggy Sidman, Office of General Counsel; Trista Carrahar, Council Auditor's Office; Colleen Hampsey, Council Research

1. Call to order, Introduction of Committee Members

CM Salem welcomed the group and called for introductions. He also said that going forward the committee will meet every other month.

2. Harm Reduction Subcommittee Report

CM Boylan provided an update on the Harm Reduction/Safe Syringe Program legislation (still being drafted). He said that he has been working to garner support from the Sheriff and the State Attorney. Several members of the medical community have already given their support. Sheriff Williams has agreed to support a one year pilot program, with a single source for distribution. Inspire to Rise will be the distributing organization if/when the program's legislation is approved by council. Aida Seeraj, Inspire to Rise CEO, said it would take roughly three months to fully implement the program if approved. The SAO is still conducting research and will be meeting again with CM Boylan.

3. Mental Health Awareness Campaign

CVP Freeman shared an update on the Hearts 4 Minds Mental Health Awareness Campaign. He said that another mural is being planned on the northside, with location to be determined, and that there are window signs now in some JSO substations. There is a plan in the works for 12 bus stop bench signs with QR codes, and there's an active tv advertising campaign that includes information for the text crisis line. The text crisis line has conducted 363 conversations since July 2021, and led to 4 active rescues. CVP Freeman listed some of the goals for 2022, such as a community event with Yoga 4 Change, more mural sites, a mental health symposium, and an art project at the airport. He also mentioned \$100,000 in outside funding the program recently was awarded.

4. Update on Project Save Lives

Rico Bodin, Gateway/PSL, provided an update in Dr. Pomm's absence. He said that in November 2021, 192 individuals consented to recovery services (26 in traditional treatment and 166 to peer services) and in December 149 consented to services (23 in traditional treatment and 126 to peer services).

5. Report on Overdose Trends/Narcan Grant

Asst. Chief Rowley provided an update from JFRD. He said that there was an uptick in December in overdose responses, perhaps due to the holidays. Chief Rowley said that there was a 1 percent decrease in overdose calls in 2021 as compared with 2020. He had some preliminary annual data from the Medical Examiner that shows a 3 percent increase in drug related deaths in 2021 as compared to 2020 (2020 was 19 percent greater than 2019). In November 2021, JFRD responded to 371 overdose calls (261 of which were opioid related), administered 425 doses of Naloxone, and transported 381 overdose patients.

Laura Viafora Ray, JFRD, gave an update on the Safe Healthy Neighborhoods grant, which is in its final year. The program will continue after the grant period ends in September with funds from the Administration. They have distributed 6680 Narcan kits and offered 116 training sessions with more than 3000 total participants. Anecdotally, there have been 54 self reported instances of the Narcan kits saving lives.

6. Update on Opioid Lawsuit

Peggy Sidman, OGC, provided an update on the opioid lawsuit. She said the City of Jacksonville, along with the Beaches and Baldwin, has opted into the settlement with the Big 3 Distributors (Amerisource Bergen, McKesson, Cardinal Health) and Johnson and Johnson. Originally, all of the municipalities in the United States were asked to opt in by January 2nd. That deadline has now been extended to January 26th and may be extended again because approximately 10 states have not reached allocation agreements with their local municipalities and some of the AGs are not in favor of the settlement at all, which is causing the delay.

During the first week of February, the Big 3 and J&J will announce their intention to move forward with the global national settlement, after which we will know whether the City will be receiving its portion of the settlement per the Florida allocation agreement already approved by City Council. Regarding the Purdue bankruptcy, it has no effect on pending settlements with the Big 3 Distributors and J&J. Once the Purdue bankruptcy is final, there will be separate agreements for the distribution of whatever settlement monies the City may get from Purdue/Sackler family.

7. Report on Data Collection

No update at this meeting.

8. Report from Sheriff's Office

There was an update regarding JSO overdose homicide enforcement, there were 34 JSO OD death responses in November 2021, 43 in December 2021. Currently there are 89 active cases under investigation, and 63 have been cleared through arrest (45 for drug charges, 19 homicide/manslaughter). The highest amount of 2021 JSO overdose death responses occurred in zones 2,4 and 5.

9. Report from State Attorney's Office

Tim Quick, SAO, said that they handled many opioid overdose related prosecutions last year and that their data looks similar to that from JSO.

10. Mental Health Offender Program

David Kilcrease and Dr. Bell provided an update on MHOP. There are currently 14 patients in the program and 6 in the pre-stages. They are hoping to use their new funding to expand services to more individuals, 40 as compared to 20, with the long term goal of serving 80 patients. CM Salem asked about housing, and Dr. Bell said that there is a lack of affordable housing and that the vouchers they use are being turned down by some landlords who can charge another tenant more money.

11. Comments from the Public (time permitting)

Ms. Salazar spoke about her street level recovery assistance efforts and said they have distributed 1500 Narcan kits.

12. Adjourn Meeting

The next meeting will be in March 2022.

Minutes: Colleen Hampsey, Council Research

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Posted: 1.18.22 5:00 pm