



Ronald B. Salem, Pharm.D.
Councilman, At-Large Group 2
Office (904) 255-5216
Fax (904) 255-5230
E-Mail: rsalem@coj.net

117 West Duval Street
City Hall, Suite 425
Jacksonville, FL 32202

OFFICE OF THE CITY COUNCIL

TDD: (904) 255-5200

February 13, 2023

9:30 am

Meeting Minutes

Topic: CVP Salem re Opioid Discussion Group

Location: Don Davis Room, 117 West Duval Street, 1st floor, City Hall

Meeting Convened: 9:34 am

Attendance: CP Freeman; CVP Salem; CMs Boylan and Pittman

Also: Joey Greive, CFO; Chief Powers, JFRD; Tiffany Pinkstaff and Mary Staffopoulos, OGC; Colleen Hampsey, Council Research

CVP Salem convened the meeting and called for introductions. He reviewed Ordinance 2022-840-E, approved by council on January 24, 2023 to establish a process for opioid settlement fund distribution and trust fund oversight. The legislation created the Opioid Settlement Special Revenue Fund for all opioid settlement proceeds that will be distributed to the State of Florida over multiple years as part of a global settlement and allocated to the City of Jacksonville and dispersed to the Municipalities (Beaches and Baldwin). CVP Salem explained that the settlement is roughly \$88 million, frontloaded and paid out over a varying period of years. The settlement has clearly specified allowable purposes to address opioid abuse prevention, treatment and recovery. There is also an appropriation of \$261,904 in 2022-840-E that will provide funds for the salaries, benefits and equipment for two new positions - a Manager and Program Coordinator of Opioid Abatement - who will oversee and administer the Opioid Abatement Program. These positions will be housed in the Jacksonville Fire and Rescue Department. Chief Powers, JFRD, said that the Opioid Abatement Manager position will be posted this week, and he asked that CVP Salem sit in on the interviews when they finalize the top-ranking applicants. The selected manager will then participate in the search/selection process for the Opioid Abatement program coordinator.

Tyler Nolan, Northeast Florida Regional Council (NEFRC), gave a presentation about the strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats (SWOT analysis) of the City's framework to address substance use disorders. He said that NEFRC conducted a community meeting in November 2022 to examine existing services and identify gaps. According to JFRD data, there were 3013 suspected opioid overdose patients in 2022, with concentrations in the 32210, 32218 and 32244 zip codes. Mr. Nolan listed Project Save Lives and the Safe Healthy Neighborhood Project as strengths. Weaknesses included the need to expand telehealth for treatment and more prevention in schools.



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He mentioned the stigma associated with medically assisted treatment in recovery, and the challenges HIPAA confidentiality requirements present in data collection.

Chief Powers spoke briefly about a new program JFRD will be participating in through the state of Florida, Coordinated Opioid Recovery (CORE). The program is in coordination with the Florida Department of Health, the Florida Department of Children and Families, and the Agency for Health Care Administration and expands aspects of overdose response and treats all primary and secondary impacts of substance use disorder. He said the CORE perspective is that opioid use disorder needs to be managed as a lifelong disease, and the program will target patients who did not consent to services from Project Save Lives and may otherwise fall through the cracks. JFRD will provide some staff support. CM Pittman asked about program funding, which will be primarily state funds with the exception of some City monies for JFRD overtime and equipment.

CVP Salem talked about the drafting of a new bill that will specify the particulars for a settlement fund grant process. He mentioned a proposed model wherein there is an entity that sets priorities, evaluates grant applications and provides oversight to the grant awards, similar to the Public Service Grant Council. Joey Greive, CFO, explained that the bill has not been written yet and that the configuration of the entity is up for discussion. It could be comprised of mayoral appointments or council-mayor appointments, and may have whatever size membership is agreed upon. Mr. Greive said that total funding should be considered, specifically how much should go towards community organizational grants and how much should be reserved for City funded services. He said the new JFRD opioid abatement manager could spearhead the grant entity's creation and provide staffing. CVP noted that the entity's appointees should be subject matter experts.

CM Boylan suggested a body more like the model used by the Cultural Council, in that they can raise private dollars in addition to grant funds from the City, or a model like Visit Jacksonville implements as a direct service provider to the Tourist Development Council. CVP Salem said the settlement dollars could serve as a deterrent to private/philanthropic donations. Mr. Greive said that with the strict usage rules and clawback provisions, it would be better for oversight purposes to have the entity be a City led body. Ms. Pinkstaff, OGC, said the timeline of state fund distribution should level out after all of the participating municipalities enroll in the process, and that the formulas for Jacksonville's portion are in place. CP Freeman asked if the settlement monies may be leveraged as a City match for other related projects, and Ms. Pinkstaff said the Attorney General could provide an answer to that. CP Freeman spoke about the importance of outreach, and the recent Hearts 4 Minds mental health outreach initiative. CM Pittman talked about fairness in the grant process, and tiered categories for applicants based on their size and capacity.

CVP Salem asked Mary Staffopoulos to look into the composition of the 2019 Opioid Trust Fund Grants Committee, which sunsetted in 2021. He reiterated the need for expertise among the appointees to the new body. CM Boylan added that experts in the fields of marketing and outreach be considered as well.



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Public Comment

Laura Viafora Ray, JFRD, reminded the group to consider the role of state and federal grants in leveraging settlement funds, in that programs could be funded through settlement dollars and when they are established and can show effectiveness, they may be eligible for such outside grants for future funding.

Beth Payne, NEFRC, said that her organization can assist with creating a rubric for grants for the settlement funds, as they are currently helping other counties in this area. CP Freeman said that the City should coordinate with them to share information. CP Freeman also talked about the creation of a one stop shop for mental health emergencies. CVP Salem said that action priorities and implementation choices will be made by the newly created entity after it is established. CP Freeman said that it is important for the current members of council to be proactive in policy decisions while they have the opportunity. CM Boylan said that a transparent grant process is imperative and that if needed some choices should be cleared first by the Florida AG.

With no further business, CVP Salem said there will be another discussion group in a few weeks, and then adjourned the meeting.

Meeting Adjourned: 10:25 am

Minutes: Colleen Hampsey, Council Research

CHampsey@coj.net 904.255.5151

Posted: 2.14.2023 5:00 pm