**PROJECT SAVE LIVES**

**Overdose Death Analysis**

The Project Save Lives (PSL) program is based on the concept of engaging opioid overdose victims while they are still recovering in the Emergency Department (ED) to consider options to immediately enter into substance use treatment. The services provided include stabilization and treatment for withdrawal, connection to a Peer Recovery Specialist, medication assisted treatment and seamless transfer to addiction treatment services. The PSL pilot was initiated in November, 2017 to include an evaluation during the initial 12 month implementation timeframe (6 months pilot plus 6 months follow-up period). During the pilot period, there were only 2 known deaths – an overdose death of someone who declined PSL services and a death due to a firearm of someone who accepted peer services.

In order to have a better understanding on how PSL has prevented additional overdose deaths of those who participated in the program, Councilman Salem has asked for an in-depth analysis of overdose deaths since the inception of the program. In order to do this analysis, a detailed review of the death records from the Florida Department of Health Vital Statistics Office was performed.

For Duval County, the total number of deaths of county residents during November 2017 through November 2019 was 17,736 of which 643 were diagnosed as accidental drug poisoning (ICD-10 codes X41, X42 or X44) or 3.63% of total deaths.

For the PSL program, death records from November 2017 through November 2019 for the 5 county area (Baker, Clay, Duval, Nassau and St. Johns) were reviewed and compared with the PSL records of those who have been approached by the peer specialists in the participating EDs. This analysis included both those who declined services and those who accepted services. Cause of death was examined including primary and secondary diagnoses, the number days the death occurred after the initial overdose visit to the ED, and whether the deceased participated in substance use treatment.

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| Suspected Overdose Deaths – Post Encounter with PSL  Nov 2017-Nov 2019 | | | |
|  | Total seen | Suspected overdoses | Overdose Rate |
| Patients approached in EDs | 1,083 | 23 | 2.12% |
| Declined PSL services | 429 | 11 | 2.56% |
| Consented to PSL services  Peer Services Only  Residential or Outpatient | 654  402  252 | 12  9  3 | 1.83%  2.24%  1.19% |

Fourteen of the deaths of all patients approached by PSL where clearly diagnosed as “accidental poisoning” due to drugs (ICD-10 codes X42 or X44). The remaining 9 nine deaths identified are likely overdose deaths since the majority of them had either respiratory or heart failure related diagnoses and many of them had died within 30 days of their initial ED overdose visit.

Of the 12 deaths who consented to PSL services, only 3 had participated in substance use treatment and the remainder had only received peer follow-up services. Two of these patients completed treatment within 90 days while the third patient left treatment after only 2 days in the program.