

**Statewide Drug Policy Advisory Council (DPAC)**

**Meeting Minutes**

**June 30, 2014**

**9:00 pm – 12:00 pm**

**4025 Esplanade Way, Room 301**

**Tallahassee, Florida 32399**

**Members Present:** Dr. John Armstrong, Department of Health (DOH), Mark Fontaine (Governor Appointee)

**Member Designees Present:** Andrew Benard (Attorney General), Leisha Fordham (Florida Department of Law Enforcement), Darran Duchene (Department of Corrections), Gayla Sumner (Department of Juvenile Justice), Troy Thompson (Florida Highway Patrol), Angelia Rivers (Department of Education)

**Others Present:** Dr. Celeste Philip, Department of Health (DOH), Betsy Wood (DOH), Shannon Hughes (DOH), McKinley Lewis (DOH), Meredith Hennon (DOH), Jill Gran, Florida Alcohol and Drug Abuse Association, Michelle Jacquis, Florida Medical Association, Matt Dunagan, Attorney General, Gregory Yevtich, Florida Department of Law Enforcement, Brian Bautista, Southern Strategy Group, Jim Smith, Southern Strategy Group, Kevin Bist (DOH)

**Attendance by Dial-in Conference Call Line:** Colonel William Beiswenger (Florida National Guard), Leah Holt (Office of Policy and Budget), Kelly Corredor (Skeeterhawk Project)

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**Welcome, Introductions, Meeting Minutes – Dr. John Armstrong, DOH:**

Meeting called to order at 9:08 a.m. by Dr. Armstrong.

Self-introductions were made by members, designees, and others in attendance. The June 3, 2014 meeting minutes were adopted with minor amendments.

**Prescription Drug Monitoring Program (PDMP) Update** - Dr. Armstrong presented data from the 2013 Prescription Drug Monitoring Program explaining the breadth of users and the number of health care practitioners who have queried the program. The Surgeon General also acknowledged the work of Attorney General Pam Bondi in seeking and acquiring funding to be used for development of the program, and creation of an enduring business model.

Disposition: The Surgeon General requested that the number of emergency room physicians and primary care physicians using the PDMP be researched and reported to the council. Dr. Armstrong also requested a benchmark be set pertaining to the number of physicians participating in other state's PDMP programs; the creation of a definition by specialty of physicians who should be registered in the Florida PDMP; and, if possible, a determination of the companies employing pharmacists who are

registered in the Florida PDMP. A fact sheet is being developed by the DOH team that provides metrics that are relevant to users of the PDMP, and will be provided to the members of DPAC. In recognition of the anniversary of the PDMP, the Surgeon General suggested a press release be created that highlights the current dashboard of the PDMP, and could include quotes from physician stakeholders espousing their experience using the program.

**Narcan (Naloxone) Update-** A Narcan (Naloxone) overview sheet was distributed to the group, as well as an information sheet from the Massachusetts Department of Health which detailed their state's Narcan program. The documents were disseminated for informational purposes.

Disposition: There are many different facets to consider concerning the possible carrying of Narcan by law enforcement officers in Florida. Legislative changes, along with education and training of officers, are necessary before this can be implemented. The Surgeon general suggested effective policy recommendations be put forth by the council that include perspectives from the political arena, science, medicine, law enforcement, and all the agencies involved in development of a Narcan policy. These recommendations would be folded into the Good Governance in Drug Policy document.

**Zohydro-** A one-page document was distributed outlining concerns related to Zohydro ER.

Disposition: The situation continues to be monitored by the Attorney General's office and DOH.

**Good Governance in Drug Policy-** Surgeon General Armstrong thanked the members and staff of their respective departments for providing input that was included in the document. An outline including Core Principles, Environmental Assessment, Use Reduction, Harm Reduction, and Measures was proposed by Dr. Armstrong, then reviewed and discussed by the members.

The Good Governance in Drug Policy document will be updated periodically in order to serve as a guiding source for policy recommendations by legislators, policy makers, and senior executives in State of Florida agencies. It will provide documentation on policies that work and do not work, in order to facilitate effective decision making.

Andy Benard suggested the creation of a Drug Policy Advisory Council website where measures and needs assessments could be displayed for policy maker consideration. Mark Fontaine suggested including data and reports from a variety of related departments including FDLE, Department of Corrections, Juvenile and Criminal Justice, and the PDMP.

Disposition: The Good Governance document will be transformed using the new outline. The Surgeon General asked that over the next six weeks, each council member share any concerns about the narrative, or opportunities for improvement, of the Good Governance in Drug Policy draft paper with Kevin Bist. A draft of the document will be provided to members before the next meeting in order to facilitate discussion. Staff will investigate the creation of a Drug Policy Advisory Council webpage.

**Florida Fusion Center Update-** Leisha Fordham of the Florida Department of Law Enforcement (FDLE) provided an update on the Florida Fusion Center and disseminated a copy of an Awareness Bulletin highlighting the *Felony Scheduling of Six Synthetic Substances*. Ms. Fordham described the history of synthetic drugs, and the challenges of keeping up with the morphing of synthetic drugs in order to maintain their illegality. The document also included information on Charlotte’s Web Medical Marijuana, and a brief overview of the recently passed medical cannabis legislation.

Disposition: Similar bulletins can be provided by FDLE in an electronic format and linked to the proposed DPAC website. Opportunities for policy related to the challenges of synthetic drugs could be rolled into the Good Governance in Drug Policy document.

**Next Steps:**

- Transform the Good Governance in Drug Policy document into the new outline. Over the next six weeks members should share their comments with Kevin Bist. A draft for comment will be provided prior to the next meeting, and then an updated draft will be sent out to members for discussion at the next meeting.
- A press release will be created regarding the anniversary of the Prescription Drug Monitoring Program. Additional information on the program, including the character of the registrants by specialty, will be provided.
- Work with professional societies (Florida Medical Association, Florida Osteopathic Medical Association, and Florida Pharmacy Association) regarding Narcan education and training of their members. Determine if Narcan is tracked through the Prescription Drug Monitoring Program.
- The Department of Corrections will be invited to provide a presentation, *Overview of Drug Treatment as Intervention*, at the next meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:40 a.m.

**Next Meeting Date:** TBD