

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

**March 3, 2014**

**9:00 AM – 11:00 am**

**4052 Bald Cypress Way, Room 301**

**Tallahassee, Florida 32399**

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

**Member Designees Present:** Andy Benard (Attorney General), Hayden Mathieson (Department of Children and Families), Mark Perez (Florida Department of Law Enforcement) Marcus Smith (Department of Juvenile Justice), Aaron Gerson (Supreme Court), David Gross (Florida Department of Law Enforcement), Annette Delifus (Department of Corrections), David Brierton (Florida Highway Patrol)

**Members Not Present:** Pam Bondi, Cynthia Kelly, Gerald Bailey, Esther Jacobo, Michael Crews, Wansley Walters, Pamela Stewart, Julie Jones, Major General Emmett Titshaw, Kimberly Spence, Representative Darryl Rouson, Judge Melanie May

**Others Present:** Dr. Celeste Philip, Betsy Wood, Shannon Hughes, Mary Beth Vickers, Sheri Hutchinson, Rhonda White, Meredith Hennon, Kevin Bist

**Attendance by Dial-in Conference Call Line:** Colonel William Beiswenger (Florida National Guard)

---

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

Meeting called to order at 9:05 a.m. by Dr. Armstrong.

Self-introductions were made by members, designees, and others in attendance. The December 13, 2013, meeting minutes were adopted as written.

**The Florida Fusion Center, Drug Trend Overview-** A presentation was given by Special Agent Supervisor Gross on the current state of drug trends in Florida. He reported on illegal prescription drug use, a new hydrocodone drug (Zohydro ER), e-cigarettes, ecstasy, and heroin.

**Disposition:**

- The Fusion Center published a report two years ago that was related to Zohydro ER. Mark Perez will share the report with the committee members.
- Dr. Armstrong will consider sending a public health warning letter to state physicians, health departments, hospitals, and pharmacies warning them of the consequences of having Zohydro

on their respective formularies. Dr. Armstrong requested that the attendees of the meeting make all of their agencies aware of Zohydro ER being released in March of this year.

**Neonatal Abstinence Syndrome**-The Statewide Task Force on Prescription Drug Abuse and Newborns will sunset at the end of this year, and the last scheduled meeting was being held on the afternoon of March 3, 2014. Matt Dunagan suggested that DPAC take up the 15 policy recommendations of the Statewide Task Force on Prescription Drug Abuse and Newborns and fold them into the work of the Drug Policy Advisory Council. The Surgeon General presented the idea to the members of DPAC for discussion.

**Good Governance in Drug Policy**-Per the request of the DPAC members, a draft paper was created and presented on the topic of Good Governance in Drug Policy.

Disposition:

- Mr. Fontaine will share his findings on motivational interviewing and cognitive-behavioral therapy with Kevin Bist so that it may be included in the next iteration of the paper.
- Mr. Benard, Shannon Hughes, and Kevin Bist will meet to discuss Mr. Benard's experiences on the topic of Good Governance in Drug Policy.

**Overview of Legislative Activity**-Rhonda White provided an overview related to drug control and specifically cannabis reform related bills being considered in the 2014 legislative session. Ms. White reviewed the following bills: Senate Bills 962, 1030, and 1563, and House Bills 843 and 859.

Disposition:

- Mr. Benard will share information with Kevin Bist regarding a research program developed by a physician in South Florida looking at using marijuana derivative cannabidiol based drugs.
- A white paper on marijuana will be drafted using insights from the members of DPAC to develop its content. The intent of the white paper is to capture the evidence and the human dimension of marijuana use, to provide clarity to the question of whether marijuana is medicine, and to be a source of unbiased information.

**Narcan**- Mr. Fontaine brought up the subject of Narcan (used to relieve respiratory depression in patients suffering from opioid overdose) and would like to have an update on its use.

**Prescription Drug Monitoring Program**-A review of the PDMP was provided by the Surgeon General. There is continued growth in use of the program and it has been a successful tool in reducing the misuse of prescription drugs while saving the lives of Floridians.

**Next Steps:**

- The Surgeon General requested that during the next DPAC meeting, the Department of Corrections provide its overview of the effectiveness of drug treatment as an intervention.
- The Surgeon General will share with Attorney General Bondi DPAC's desire to continue the work of the Statewide Task Force on Prescription Drug Abuse and Newborns
- Research Zohydro ER and reflect on ways to develop a public health warning message. The Fusion Center will provide its own message on the dangers of Zohydro ER
- Kevin Bist will meet with the members of the DPAC, or their designees to gain insights of how to strengthen the Good Governance in Drug Policy document, and to gain insights on the overarching issues with marijuana and the ongoing work on the marijuana white paper
- A Narcan update will be added to the agenda for the next DPAC meeting. The update will include information from the Vermont State Police who are currently training their officers in the use of Narcan, and a review of the Quincy, Massachusetts Police Department data regarding the successful implementation of their Narcan program.
- Provide a breakdown on professional healthcare utilization of the PDMP by specialty

The meeting was adjourned at 10:43 a.m.

**Next Meeting Date:** May 2014