

Drug Policy Advisory Council

Meeting Minutes

October 30, 2015 - 9:00-11:00 AM

Florida Department of Health
4052 Bald Cypress Way, Room 301
Tallahassee, Florida 32399

Meeting Attendees

Members and Member Designees Present (in-person and WebEx):

1. Dr. Jennifer Bencie (Chair, State Surgeon General Designee)
2. LTC Andy Benard (Attorney General Designee)
3. Jeff Cece (Department of Children and Families Secretary Designee)
4. Patrick Mahoney (Department of Corrections Secretary Designee)
5. Dr. Gayla Sumner (Department of Juvenile Justice Secretary Designee)
6. Angelia Rivers (Department of Education Commissioner Designee)
7. Colonel Gene Spaulding (Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles Executive Director Designee)
8. Colonel Bill Beiswenger (Adjutant General Designee)
9. Representative Cary Pigman (Member of the House of Representatives appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives)
10. Judge Melanie May (Member of the judiciary appointed by the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court)
11. Mark Fontaine (Member of the public with expertise in substance abuse treatment appointed by the Governor)
12. Dotti Groover-Skipper (Member of the public with expertise in faith based substance abuse treatment appointed by the Governor)
13. Doug Leonardo (Member of the public with expertise in substance abuse programs and services appointed by the Governor)
14. Peggy Sapp (Member of the public with expertise in substance abuse prevention appointed by the Governor)

Others Present (in-person and WebEx):

1. Karen Weaver (Florida Department of Law Enforcement)
2. Gregory Yevtich (Florida Department of Law Enforcement)
3. Aaron Gerson (Florida Supreme Court)
4. Bruce Grant (Leon County Responsible Decision Making Coalition)
5. Alexis Lambert (Florida Department of Health)
6. Brad Dalton (Florida Department of Health)
7. Rebecca Poston (Florida Department of Health)
8. Kelly Corredor (member of the public)

Council Staff and Support Present:

1. Tim Parson (Department of Children and Families)
2. Sara Bourdeau (Department of Health)

Welcome, Introductions, Approval of Meeting Minutes – Dr. Jennifer Bencie

Self-introductions were made by members, designees, and others present. The December 17, 2014 meeting minutes were adopted.

Drug Trends in Florida –Karen Weaver

Karen Weaver, Special Agent Supervisor, Organized Crime and Intelligence Unit, Florida Department of Law Enforcement, delivered a presentation on the current drug trends in Florida.

Flakka (alpha-PVP) is a stimulant cathinone that was scheduled in 2012. There has been a significant increase, particularly in South Florida. The drug causes excited delirium which is a danger to both the user and first responders.

Heroin overdose deaths increased from 199 in 2013 to 477 in 2014 according to the Medical Examiner's Report. Emergency room visits related to heroin have also increased significantly. Other substances are often mixed with heroin (fentanyl, acetyl fentanyl) to create a more intense high. These substances increase the risk of overdose. The increase in heroin use may be related to the pill mill crackdown. Pharmaceutical opioids are now less available. Heroin is stronger, cheaper, and more readily available.

In 2015, the Legislature approved the use of opioid antagonists for care givers of opioid abusers and first responders. Data not yet available regarding how many agencies are carrying these antagonists.

Methamphetamine is still on radar. Meth is coming from Mexico, and is now more pure and cheaper.

Prescription Drug Monitoring Program Update – Rebecca Poston

Rebecca Poston, Prescription Drug Monitoring Program (PDMP) Program Director, Division of Medical Quality Assurance, Florida Department of Health, delivered a presentation on the status of the PDMP.

See attached handout.

2015 Florida Youth Substance Abuse Survey – Jeff Cece

Jeff Cece, Block Grant Coordinator, Florida Department of Children and Families, delivered a presentation on the results of the 2015 Florida Youth Substance Abuse Survey.

See attached PowerPoint presentation handout.

Council Priorities and Action Plan – Dr. Jennifer Bencie

The council discussed their statutory responsibilities and the annual report due to the Governor and the Legislature by December 1, 2015. The council agreed to schedule a full day meeting in January to develop a strategy moving forward. The annual report will outline the current situation and serve as a call to action for priorities related to:

1. Research and analysis
2. Coordination and outreach
3. Prevention
4. Treatment and management
5. Harm reduction

Members provided priority recommendations. Council staff combined these priorities with statutory responsibilities. See attached handout. Members will review and provide feedback during the next meeting on November 13, 2015.

Public Comment – Open Discussion

Bruce Grant - Leon County Responsible Decision Making Coalition shared the following with the council:

1. Concern regarding an alcohol bill going before the legislature to allow stores to sell alcohol in the middle of stores.
2. Concern regarding the legalization of recreational marijuana and medical marijuana beyond Charlotte's Web.
3. Concern regarding vaping, the lack of regulation, and the prevalence of teen use.
4. Leon County now has two schools designated as Red Ribbon Schools.
5. Encouraged the State to get behind prevention efforts and support local collations.

Next Meeting

The council will meet by conference call on November 13, 2015.