

**Opioid Abatement Funding Advisory Board
Pinellas County
March 26, 2024 Meeting Minutes**

The Opioid Abatement Funding Advisory Board (OAFAB) met in regular session at 8:32 AM on this date in the Palm Room at the Pinellas County Communications Building, 333 Chestnut Street, Clearwater, Florida.

Present

Chief Ian Womack, Chair, City of St. Petersburg Fire Rescue
Dr. Ulyee Choe, Vice-Chair, Florida Department of Health in Pinellas County Director
Kathleen Peters, County Commissioner (appeared virtually)
Lina Teixeira, City of Clearwater Councilmember, alternate for Kathleen Beckman

Not Present

Sandra Bradbury, City of Pinellas Park Mayor
Kathleen Beckman, City of Clearwater Councilmember

Others Present

Gloria Coffey, Human Services Planning Section Manager
Sara Gordils, Human Services Planning Section Manager
Cody Ward, Assistant County Attorney
Karen Yatchum, Human Services Director
Tammy Burgess, Board Reporter, Deputy Clerk
Other interested individuals

All documents provided to the Clerk's Office have been filed and made a part of the record.

WELCOME AND CALL TO ORDER

Chair Womack called the meeting to order at 8:32 AM and welcomed those in attendance.

MINUTES APPROVAL

Dr. Choe made a motion to approve the meeting minutes of January 26, 2024. The motion was seconded by Ms. Teixeira and carried unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENT

No one appeared in response to the Chair's call for public comment.

OPIOID TASK FORCE – DATA REVIEW

Referring to a PowerPoint presentation, Pinellas County Opioid Task Force Chair Marianne Dean provided a brief overview of its core strategies and 2022 comparative data and trends for the State of Florida and Pinellas County regarding the following topics:

- Fatal overdoses
- EMS overdose responses
- Naloxone administration
- Annual drug arrests
- Prescriptions dispensed

Summarizing data taken from the 2022 Annual Drug Report, Ms. Dean reported that, as a whole, the State and Pinellas County are experiencing downward trends related to heroin, fentanyl, methadone, and hydrocodone occurrences and deaths, but are experiencing increases in fentanyl analogs deaths; whereupon, she noted that fentanyl and fentanyl analogs are still a major concern and pointed out the most frequently found opioid-driven drugs found in decedents.

Ms. Dean reviewed statistics related to suspected drug overdose transports, emergency department visits, including for suspected overdose and by demographics, Naloxone administration, overdose-related fatalities, and annual age-adjusted death rate; whereupon, she suggested that Ernst & Young LLP research actions taken in other counties to minimize the overdose death rate, due to Pinellas County's number of deaths being higher than the average for Florida.

Ms. Dean provided an update and statistical information related to the IDEA Exchange Pinellas program; whereupon, she briefly reported on highlights, community needs, media exposure, and partnerships related to the Task Force.

In response to comments and queries by Chair Womack, Ms. Dean and Dr. Choe discussed potential reasons for the reporting inconsistencies by Medical Examiners throughout Florida, noting that not all counties have the advantage which Pinellas County has with regard to equipment and technology that can measure synthetic fentanyl; whereupon, Ms. Dean and Yatchum provided updates regarding Pinellas MATTERS. Ms. Gordils provided brief comments regarding additional research to be completed by Ernst & Young LLP related to successful and unsuccessful initiatives in south Florida.

GAP ANALYSIS UPDATE

Ms. Coffey indicated that staff has met with Ernst & Young LLP on two occasions and plans to meet weekly; and that scope development is currently underway; whereupon, in

response to a query by Dr. Choe, Ms. Gordils related that she is optimistic that the scope will be completed within the next two weeks; and that the gap analysis report will be delivered in July or August.

NEXT STEPS/SCHEDULE NEXT MEETING

Discussion ensued regarding the next quarterly meeting; whereupon, Ms. Gordils commented on the importance of the Board remaining apprised of the work being done by the Pinellas County Opioid Task Force.

ADJOURNMENT

Dr. Choe made a motion to adjourn, which was seconded by Ms. Teixeira; whereupon, Chair Womack adjourned the meeting at 9:06 AM.