

**Opioid Abatement Funding Advisory Board
Pinellas County
August 22, 2025 Meeting Minutes**

The Opioid Abatement Funding Advisory Board (OAFAB) met in regular session at 9:04 AM on this date in Room 2-304 at the St. Petersburg College EpiCenter, 13805 58th Street North, Clearwater, Florida.

Present

Lindsay Judah, Chair, City of St. Petersburg Fire Rescue
Dr. Ulyee Choe, Co-Chair, Florida Department of Health in Pinellas County Director
Ricky Butler, City of Pinellas Park Councilman
Kathleen Peters, County Commissioner
Lina Teixeira, City of Clearwater Councilmember

Others Present

Gloria Coffey, Human Services Planning Section Manager
Sara Gordils, Human Services Contracts Section Manager
Joshua Barnett, Ph.D., Behavioral Health Data Scientist
Cody Ward, Assistant County Attorney
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 Judah called the meeting to order at 9:04 AM; whereupon, she confirmed the presence of a quorum.

PUBLIC COMMENT

In response to a query by Chair Judah, Ms. Coffey confirmed that there is no public comment.

RANK AND REVIEW – FY25 – REGIONAL OPIOID ABATEMENT FUNDING TREATMENT AND RECOVERY PROGRAM SERVICES

Oral Presentations

OPERATION PAR, INC.

Presenters: Sandnes Boulanger, Jonathan Essenburg, Larry McArthur, and Jim Miller

Partner Presenters: Dan Chapman, Eleos Wellness; Jack Humburg, Boley Centers, Inc; April Lott, Directions for Living; Jean D. Pierre, Suncoast Center, Inc.; and Gail Ryder, BayCare Health System

Mr. Miller provided an overview of Operation PAR, Inc.'s history and services; whereupon, Messrs. Miller and McArthur discussed the proposed establishment of a behavioral health urgent care center, including the following details:

- Services and hours of operation
- Inclusion of a medication assisted treatment (MAT) clinic
- Partner agencies and the services that they would provide
- Referral sources and associated pathways to health
- Integration of the Greenspace Measurement-Based Care platform for data collection and sharing
- Utilization of direct secure messaging for data sharing
- Capital and non-capital infrastructure needs
- Project timeline
- Fiscal sustainability and long-term vision
- Costs associated with critical core services and essential, non-core services

In response to queries by Commissioner Peters, Mr. Miller, with input by Mr. Essenburg, provided details regarding transportation of patients to the behavioral health urgent care center via the Mobile Crisis Response Team (MCRT) unit and collaborative efforts between Operation PAR, Inc. and the Department of Children and Families to secure proper licensing for mobile MAT units.

Responding to queries by Ms. Teixeira and Commissioner Peters, Mr. Miller, with input by Mr. Essenburg, discussed the proposed addition of a mobile MAT unit that would only service Pinellas County and parameters associated with Operation PAR, Inc.'s ability to share specific patient information with its partners and other external agencies.

In response to comments by Mr. Butler, Mr. Chapman, with input from Messrs. Miller and McArthur and Ms. Boulanger, provided information regarding current challenges associated with staffing an MCRT that operates 24 hours per day and seven days per week, the benefits of having a dedicated MCRT unit, and the proposed operating hours of the behavioral health urgent care center.

Responding to queries by Dr. Choe, Messrs. Miller and Essenburg discussed marketing plans for the proposed behavioral health urgent care center, inclusion of budgeted staffing costs in the funding application, efforts to retain and recruit staff, and utilization of opioid abatement funds awarded by other counties to Operation PAR, Inc. and its partner agencies.

In response to queries by Commissioner Peters, Messrs. Miller and Essenburg provided information regarding the success rate and challenges associated with acquiring patient authorization through a Release of Information form for the purposes of Treatment, Payment, and Healthcare Operations; planned efforts to transport or redirect patients to the appropriate facility; and obstacles associated with admitting patients for detoxification treatment due to medical exception criteria.

Responding to additional queries by Commissioner Peters, Messrs. Miller, Humburg, McArthur, and Pierre discussed the process for patients to access recovery housing from Boley Centers, Inc., follow-up services provided to patients, and the potential reduction in admissions to emergency departments; whereupon, in response to comments by Commissioner Peters, Ms. Ryder provided details regarding BayCare's newly-opened behavioral health urgent care center in Pasco County and the collaboration between Operation PAR, Inc. and its partner agencies.

In response to queries by Chair Judah and Dr. Choe, Mr. Miller and Ms. Ryder and Boulanger briefly discussed treatment of non-behavioral medical needs at the proposed behavioral health urgent care center and improved processes for the intake of patients at BayCare's behavioral health urgent care center in Pasco County.

Responding to queries by Commissioner Peters, Messrs. Miller, McArthur, and Essenburg and Ms. Boulanger provided information regarding the goal to offset expenses through payments received from insured patients, capacity of the proposed behavioral health urgent care center, and prioritization of housing services for certain populations;

whereupon, in response to additional comments and queries by Commissioner Peters, Messrs. Miller and Essenburg discussed the significance of non-core ancillary services, the proposed expansion of staffing in order to provide MAT services until 7:00 PM, and the goal to initiate treatment within seven days.

Responding to a query by Ms. Teixeira, Mr. Miller provided brief comments regarding Operation PAR, Inc.'s willingness to be flexible and potentially reduce some services if funding awarded is less than the requested amount; whereupon, in response to queries by Chair Judah, Mr. Miller, with input from Dr. Barnett, discussed Operation PAR Inc.'s prevention services and its ability to successfully execute the various aspects of the proposal.

In response to queries by Dr. Barnett, Mr. Essenburg provided information related to Operation PAR, Inc.'s MAT practices, including details pertaining to dosage, retention, average length of stay, and steps taken if an existing patient receives a positive drug screen; whereupon, responding to additional queries by Dr. Barnett, Messrs. Miller and McArthur and Ms. Boulanger discussed Operation PAR, Inc.'s current and proposed services, credentials of providers delivering services, utilization of the Greenspace platform, and the process for determining discharge readiness.

Responding to queries by Commissioner Peters, Ms. Lott and Messrs. Miller and Essenburg provided details regarding Directions for Living's intensive family services and its partnership with Operation PAR, Inc., as well as the intention to utilize the mobile MAT unit to provide services in north county.

The meeting was recessed at 10:52 AM and reconvened at 11:01 AM.

PROGRAM SOLICITATION DISCUSSION

Following introductory comments by Ms. Gordils, the members discussed the applications; reached consensus regarding whether each evaluation criterion should be scored within the *Exemplary, Adequate, Marginal, or Missing/Incomplete* range; and stated their individual scores in the agreed-upon range.

Thereupon, Ms. Coffey displayed the following scores for the evaluation criteria, oral presentations, and total scores for each of the three highest-ranking applications:

Boys & Girls Clubs of Greater Tampa Bay

Program Description & Abatement Strategies (100 points): **66 points**

Organizational Profile & Partnerships (150 points): **105 points**

Scope of Services (250 points): **185 points**

Community Need (200 points): **147 points**
Program Outcome and Goals (200 points): **147 points**
Budget (100 points): **74 points**
Total Score: **724 points**

Oral Presentation (400 points): **255 points**
Total Score (with Oral Presentation): **979 points**

Abstaining member: Dr. Choe

Operation PAR, Inc.

Program Description & Abatement Strategies (100 points): **86 points**
Organizational Profile & Partnerships (150 points): **127 points**
Scope of Services (250 points): **197 points**
Community Need (200 points): **169 points**
Program Outcome and Goals (200 points): **166 points**
Budget (100 points): **67 points**
Total Score: **812 points**

Oral Presentation (400 points): **347 points**
Total Score (with Oral Presentation): **1,158 points**

WestCare GulfCoast-Florida, Inc.

Program Description & Abatement Strategies (100 points): **71 points**
Organizational Profile & Partnerships (150 points): **107 points**
Scope of Services (250 points): **176 points**
Community Need (200 points): **153 points**
Program Outcome and Goals (200 points): **152 points**
Budget (100 points): **68 points**
Total Score: **727 points**

Oral Presentation (400 points): **309 points**
Total Score (with Oral Presentation): **1,036 points**

Referring to the above-listed scores, Ms. Gordils indicated that the top-ranked applicant is Operation PAR, Inc.; that the second-highest ranking applicant is WestCare GulfCoast-Florida, Inc.; and that the third-highest ranking applicant is Boys & Girls Clubs of Greater Tampa Bay; whereupon, she invited the members to discuss their recommendations for negotiation.

Thereupon, lengthy discussion ensued, with input from Ms. Gordils, regarding various topics, including the following:

- Potential to solicit separate Requests for Proposals for data governance and prevention services
- Staff's ability to negotiate data governance as part of the program(s) selected for funding
- Timeline for phased disbursement of opioid abatement funding
- Fiscal sustainability of Operation PAR, Inc.'s proposal
- Potential to negotiate a different award amount than what was requested by Operation PAR, Inc.
- Options available to the Board related to its priorities

Following additional discussion, Ms. Gordils indicated that she believes the Board's desired motion would be for the County to negotiate, in consideration of fiscal administration and other priorities, to move forward with negotiations with Operation PAR, Inc. for an urgent care coordinated access system for behavioral health, addiction, and opioids; whereupon, Commissioner Peters indicated that this is her motion. The motion was seconded by Mr. Butler and carried unanimously.

NEXT STEPS

Ms. Gordils confirmed that she believes that no other motions are needed; and that data governance will be placed on the next meeting agenda.

NEXT SCHEDULED MEETING OCTOBER 3, 2025 (1:00PM - 3:00PM)

Chair Judah indicated that the next OAFAB meeting will be held on October 3.

ADJOURNMENT

Chair Judah adjourned the meeting at 11:58 AM.