

**Opioid Abatement Funding Advisory Board
Pinellas County
October 3, 2025 Meeting Minutes**

The Opioid Abatement Funding Advisory Board (OAFAB) met in regular session at 1:04 PM on this date in the Palm Room at the Pinellas County Communications Building, 333 Chestnut Street, 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
Cody Ward, Assistant County Attorney
Ashley Pabilonia, 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 1:04 PM; whereupon, she indicated that Ms. Teixeira and Commissioner Peters will be attending virtually.

MINUTES APPROVAL

Chair Judah requested a motion to approve the minutes for the last three meetings, which took place on August 12, 20, and 22; whereupon, Mr. Butler made a motion, which was seconded by Dr. Choe and carried unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Chair Judah confirmed that there is no public comment.

OPIOID TASK FORCE – DATA REVIEW

Pinellas County Opioid Task Force (OTF) Chair Marianne Dean briefly discussed a slight increase in overdose deaths for the period of January through June of 2024 when compared to the same period in 2023 and related that this could be a trend, which the members may see when 2025 data is received; and that the increase may be due to the availability of synthetic opioids; whereupon, she provided brief comments regarding the circulation of stimulant drugs and polysubstance usage.

Ms. Dean also provided information regarding kratom and indicated that it is still legal in the State of Florida; and that the OTF is awaiting the completion of additional research to determine whether kratom requires further exploration. She also related that major treatment providers throughout the State have not observed kratom as a gateway drug to polysubstance usage; whereupon, responding to a query by Dr. Choe, Ms. Dean confirmed that there have been increases in non-opioid addiction rates.

PAR NEGOTIATION – UPDATE

Ms. Yatchum indicated that, at the direction of the Board, Human Services staff has begun negotiations with Operation PAR; whereupon, she provided a brief overview regarding a visit to the BayCare Behavioral Health Urgent Care Center and related that, during the visit, staff spent time learning about patient flow and experience, budget, capital improvement, and lessons learned, which will be helpful during conversations with Operation PAR.

Ms. Yatchum noted that Human Services intends to ensure that Operation PAR's program is definable, fiscally defensible, and sensible for residents; whereupon, she related that ongoing weekly meetings have been scheduled with Operation PAR; and that staff's goal is to present the Board with a scope of work that represents a sound utilization of funds, with potential to build upon the program in the future.

CENTRAL FLORIDA BEHAVIORAL HEALTH NETWORK

Managing Entity Updates

Referring to a PowerPoint presentation, Central Florida Behavioral Health Network President and Chief Executive Officer Alan Davidson provided background details regarding the Central Florida Behavioral Health Network (CFBHN) and indicated that it is the largest managing entity in the State; whereupon, he discussed the following topics:

- Decreased substance abuse and mental health funding

- Additional funding sources
- Recent legislation impacting managing entities, including House Bill 633
- Barriers to accessing Medication Assisted Treatment (MAT) Services

Funded Programs

Referring to the aforementioned PowerPoint presentation, Mr. Davidson also discussed services funded by CFBHN and administered by partner agencies and needs for behavioral health urgent care; whereupon, in response to queries by Dr. Choe, Mr. Davidson provided information regarding funding reductions, possible sources of additional funding, and the organization of performance measure data by managing entity, as required by House Bill 633.

NEXT STEPS

Referencing Ms. Yatchum's earlier update, Ms. Gordils reiterated that staff is meeting with Operation PAR and intends to finalize a plan to present to the members in the next few weeks; whereupon, responding to a query by Commissioner Peters, Ms. Yatchum provided information regarding coordination between the proposed behavioral health urgent care center and the Care About Me program.

NEXT SCHEDULED MEETING – TO BE DETERMINED

Ms. Coffey noted that the first meeting for 2026 will potentially occur in early January.

ADJOURNMENT

Upon Chair Judah's call for a motion to adjourn the meeting, Dr. Choe made a motion, which was seconded by Mr. Butler and carried unanimously; whereupon, the meeting was adjourned at 1:35 PM.