



Pinellas County Substance Abuse Advisory Board Meeting

April 22, 2026

PINELLAS COUNTY

SUBSTANCE ABUSE ADVISORY BOARD MEETING

April 22, 2026 | 9:00 AM
SPC EpiCenter Room 2-304
13805 58th St. N., Clearwater, FL 33762

AGENDA

I. Call to Order

- a. Welcome and Introductions Chief Adam Geissenberger, *Chairman*
- b. Public Comments

II. Old Business

- a. Approval of November 20, 2025, Meeting Minutes..... Chief Adam Geissenberger, *Chairman*
- b. Adult Drug Court Quarterly Update Nick Bridenback, *Judicial 6*
- c. Juvenile Drug Court Quarterly Update Katelyn Greene, *Judicial 6*

III. New Business

- a. Membership updates, vacancies, or resignations..... Chief Adam Geissenberger, *Chairman*
- b. By-laws..... Chief Adam Geissenberger, *Chairman*
- c. Florida Department of Law Enforcement JAG Grant updates..... Lisa Carrillo, *Human Services*
- d. Conflict of Interest Disclosure Form..... Tiffany Nozicka, *Human Services*
- e. SAAB Review Committee Grant Funding Recommendations..... Sara Gordils, *Human Services*
 - i. FFY25-26 Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant Countywide (JAG-C)
- f. SAAB Board Award Recommendations Vote Chief Adam Geissenberger, *Chairman*
 - i. FFY25-26 Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant Countywide (JAG-C)

IV. Roundtable

V. Adjournment

Next Meeting: July 16, 2026 @ 9am, SPC EpiCenter – Room 1-324

Old Business

Minutes from November 20, 2025

Adult Drug Court

Juvenile Drug Court

**Substance Abuse Advisory Board
Pinellas County
November 20, 2025 Meeting Minutes**

The Substance Abuse Advisory Board (SAAB) met at 9:01 AM on this date in Room 2-304 at the St. Petersburg College Epicenter, 13805 58th Street North, Clearwater, Florida.

Present

Megan McGee, Vice-Chair, City of St. Petersburg Police Department (alternate)
Major Paul Amodeo, Largo Police Department
Sandnes Boulanger, Operation PAR, Inc. (alternate)
Tim Burns, Pinellas County Human Services (alternate)
Marianne Dean, Pinellas County Health Department (alternate)
Michael Hasty, Clearwater Police Department (alternate)
Dawn Holcomb, Department of Corrections
Melissa Reid, Department of Juvenile Justice
Ashley Roura, Office of the Public Defender, Sixth Judicial Circuit (alternate)
Marlaina Satcher, Juvenile Welfare Board (alternate)
Ryan Sturm, Pinellas County Schools (alternate)

Not Present

Chief Adam Geissenberger, Chair, City of Pinellas Park Police Department
Becky Albert, Juvenile Welfare Board
Bruce Bartlett, State Attorney
Ulyee Choe, Pinellas County Health Department
Lisa DePaolo, Pinellas County Schools
Chief Eric Gandy, Clearwater Police Department
Antonio Gilliam, St. Petersburg Police Department
Melissa Leslie, Department of Children and Families
Jim Miller, Operation PAR, Inc.
Sara Mollo, Public Defender
Kimberly Todd, County Judge, Sixth Judicial Circuit
Karen Yatchum, Pinellas County Human Services

Others Present

Lisa Carrillo, Human Services Grants Services Section Manager
Yashira Gonzalez, Pinellas County Justice Coordination Section Manager
Tiffany Nozicka, Human Services Management Analyst
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 INTRODUCTIONS

Acting Chair McGee called the meeting to order at 9:01 AM and requested that those in attendance introduce themselves.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

No one responded to the acting Chair's call for public comment.

APPROVAL OF JUNE 25, 2025 MEETING MINUTES

Upon the acting Chair's call for a motion to approve the minutes, Ms. Dean made a motion for approval. The motion was seconded by Mr. Burns and carried unanimously.

ADULT DRUG COURT QUARTERLY UPDATE

Referring to a document titled *Pinellas Adult Drug Court – 3rd and 4th Quarters*, acting Chair McGee provided statistical information regarding the Adult Drug Court for the third and fourth quarters, including that the program had 485 participants, 155 new admissions, 101 graduates, and 293 individuals remaining active at the end of the reporting period; and that the program's graduation rate is 52.6%.

JUVENILE DRUG COURT QUARTERLY UPDATE

Referring to a document titled *Juvenile Drug Court Program Quarterly Report*, Juvenile Diversion Program Coordinator Alicia McLane provided statistical information for the period of April 1 through June 30, 2025, including that, of the 46 juveniles who entered Juvenile Drug Court, 16 graduated, and five were discharged; and that 25 juveniles were referred to Suncoast Center. She also noted that program resources were shifted to truancy services due to increased referrals; whereupon, Ms. McLane provided details regarding the number of referrals made by each referring agency.

Ms. McLane also provided statistical information for the period of July 1 through September 30, 2025, including that, of the 21 juveniles who entered the Juvenile Drug Court, 17 graduated, and 10 were discharged; and that 16 referrals were made to Suncoast Center; whereupon, she provided details regarding the number of referrals made by each referring agency.

In response to a query by Ms. Dean, Ms. McLane indicated that parents who choose not to participate in the Juvenile Drug Court program is the most prominent barrier preventing

referred juveniles from graduating. Responding to comments and queries by Ms. Gonzalez, Ms. McLane also provided input regarding reduced alternative options for assisting juveniles who are not participating in the program and availability of data pertaining to nonparticipation and recidivism; whereupon, she related that the success rate for the program is approximately 80 to 90%.

MEMBERSHIP UPDATES, VACANCIES, OR RESIGNATIONS

Acting Chair McGee indicated that former SAAB member Ann Starling's seat is now vacant; and that the Largo Police Department's new appointee is Major Amodeo. She also listed the following proposed alternates and made a motion to approve them:

- Major Richelle Bradshaw, Largo Police Department
- Ryan Sturm, Pinellas County Schools
- Marlaina Satcher, Juvenile Welfare Board

The motion was seconded by Ms. Dean and carried unanimously.

FY 2024-2025 JAG PERFORMANCE REPORTS

ALPHA House – Breaking Cycle of Generational Abuse

Later in the meeting, ALPHA House of Pinellas County Director of Operations Jasmine Randolph indicated that her organization serves as the only transitional housing program in Florida for homeless women and babies who are abused and trafficked; whereupon, she reviewed the success of the program's goals, which relate to identifying power and control as behaviors in abusive relationships, providing program services to 25 women, and defining healthy and unhealthy relationships.

Boley Centers – Intensive Case Management

Boley Centers Homeless Services Director Jennifer Strong provided a brief overview of her organization's permanent supportive housing program and the clients served. Ms. Strong reviewed the success of the program's goals, which relate to reducing client hospitalizations, increasing referrals to 12-step programs for substance use, and providing unduplicated clients with referrals to substance abuse treatment; whereupon, she discussed the distribution of informational pamphlets regarding Vivitrol, which is a monthly injection that assists with curbing alcohol cravings.

HEP – Emergency Shelter Beds

Homeless Empowerment Program (HEP) Executive Vice President of Operations Katerina Gerakios-Siren indicated that HEP has provided housing for three justice-involved individuals; whereupon, she provided an overview of various wraparound services that were provided.

Ms. Gerakios-Siren also reviewed the success of the program's goals, which relate to securing transitional or permanent housing, improving self-esteem, obtaining employment, seeking vocational or educational opportunities, feeling optimistic about the future, and maintaining housing; whereupon, Vice President of Case Management and Housing Satina Thomas highlighted a client success story.

MORE Health – Firearm Safety and Firearm Prevention

MORE HEALTH, Inc. Social Media Coordinator Carlene Lemaster indicated that her organization provides health and safety education and conducts firearm safety classes in schools; whereupon, she reviewed the success of the program's goal, which relates to conducting firearm safety classes for third graders. Ms. Lemaster briefly discussed safety techniques taught to students and the results of evaluations completed by teachers. Ms. Lemaster also invited those in attendance to observe a firearm safety class and to visit the organization's website.

In response to a query by Ms. Dean regarding whether students might have more exposure to firearms due to the State's open carry law, Ms. Lemaster provided brief comments regarding steps that could be taken if a child reports having seen a firearm.

Operation PAR – Recreation Equipment

Operation PAR, Inc. Vice President of Grants and Philanthropy Martin Bimler indicated that Operation PAR's original intent for utilizing the grant funding was to purchase gym and recreational equipment for the Academy, an adolescent residential treatment facility; that the adolescent program was later deemed unsustainable due to reduced funding; and that the equipment purchased was then moved to the adult residential treatment facility.

Thereupon, Mr. Bimler related that while Operation PAR's goals with regard to installation of the equipment at the Academy were not accomplished, the organization is collaborating with its residential teams to integrate the use of the equipment into treatment plans.

WestCare – Mustard Seed Inn

Mustard Seed Inn Program Manager Linda Welborn related that the Inn's two facilities contain a total of 87 beds, which provides assistance to individuals who are experiencing homelessness, substance abuse, mental illness, and/or have a history with the criminal justice system. She also reviewed the success of the program's goals, which related to attending LifeSkills groups, obtaining employment, and securing permanent housing; whereupon, Certified Recovery Peer Specialist highlighted two client success stories.

Pinellas Park Police Dept – Law Enforcement Equipment

Referring to a PowerPoint presentation, Pinellas Park Police Department Training Officer Thomas Boyle indicated that conversion rifle bolt kits and training rifle magazines were purchased with the grant award; that this equipment reduces wear on duty weapons and lowers ammunition costs; and that the equipment also provides officers with opportunities to safely engage in simulated exercises.

FY 2024-2025 ALCOHOL AND DRUG ABUSE TRUST FUND REPORTS

Gulf Coast JFC Services – Visitor Management System

Gulf Coast Jewish Family and Community Services Grants Director Tess Benham indicated that the funding that her organization received was used to purchase a new visitor management system; whereupon, she provided details regarding the benefits of the system, including assistance with security, pre-registration of guests, and language support during the registration process.

Operation PAR – PAR Village Residential Furniture

Mr. Bimler indicated that Operation PAR utilized the grant funding to purchase 12 chairs for use in counselor offices and 15 desks for use in the men's residential program.

PEMHS – Desktop Computers

Acting Chair McGee clarified that Personal Enrichment through Mental Health Services (PEMHS) is now referred to as Eleos; whereupon, Eleos Wellness Grant Writer Timothy Smith indicated that his organization provides support with regard to mental health issues and crisis stabilization; that the grant funding assisted with the purchase of new computers for a new facility; and that moving into the facility was delayed but has recently begun; whereupon, he described the benefits of the computers, including coordination of transfers between emergency services and Eleos' facilities, creation of a plan for clients who are leaving, and follow-up support for teams and community partners.

WestCare – Davis Bradley Convection Oven

Ms. Foster indicated that the grant funding was utilized to purchase a new dual oven for its residential treatment facility, Davis Bradley, and provided an overview of the facility and its services; whereupon, she related that the dual oven has significantly enhanced the efficiency and reliability of the kitchen.

SAAB BOARD FINAL RECOMMENDATIONS

FY24-25 Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant Countywide (JAG-C)

Acting Chair McGee indicated that available funds from the JAC-C grant totaled \$232,520.00; whereupon, she listed the following projects and recommended funding amounts:

- City of Clearwater Police Department – law enforcement equipment purchase, \$66,429.40
- City of Pinellas Park Police Department – law enforcement equipment purchase, \$12,938.60
- City of St. Petersburg Police Department – SPPD rapid response drug detection initiative, \$25,000.00
- Eleos Wellness – restraint chairs, \$24,900.00
- Homeless Empowerment Program – emergency shelter program for justice-involved adults, \$50,000.00
- MORE HEALTH, Inc. – firearm safety and violence prevention, \$30,000.00
- Pinellas County Human Services – JAG planning grant position, \$23,252.00

Upon the acting Chair's call for a motion to approve the SAAB's funding recommendations for the JAG-C, Ms. Dean made a motion to approve. The motion was seconded by Ms. Roura and carried unanimously.

FY25-26 Alcohol and Drug Abuse Trust Fund

Acting Chair McGee indicated that available funds from the Alcohol and Drug Abuse Trust Fund total \$35,000.00; whereupon, she listed the following projects and recommended funding amounts:

- Boley Centers, Inc. – Koenig Center caboose renovation, \$10,000.00
- Eleos Wellness – medical equipment, \$10,000.00
- Gulf Coast Jewish Family and Community Services, Inc. – technology update, \$6,000.00
- Operation PAR, Inc. – Largo campus accessibility, \$7,898.00

Acting Chair McGee also indicated that the SAAB rolled over a remaining balance of \$1,102.00 into the fund for the following fiscal year; whereupon, following the acting Chair's call for a motion to approve the funding recommendations, Ms. Dean made a motion to approve. The motion was seconded by Ms. Roura and carried unanimously.

ROUNDTABLE

In response to a query by Ms. Gerakios-Siren, with input from acting Chair McGee, Ms. Carrillo explained that the Florida Department of Law Enforcement releases the solicitation for the JAG-C grant on the second year in the grant cycle with the Bureau of Justice Assistance; and that, as a result, the federal fiscal year remains a year behind the current fiscal year.

ADJOURNMENT

Acting Chair McGee adjourned the meeting at 9:58 AM.

From: [Kolar, Katie](#)
To: [Miles, Maggie](#); [Bridenback, Nicholas](#)
Cc: [Nozicka, Tiffany](#); [Quiles, Marilyn](#)
Subject: Re: upcoming SAAB meeting on 4/22/26
Date: Tuesday, April 21, 2026 9:51:18 AM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)
[Outlook-iotkqvt2.png](#)

This Message Is From an External Sender

This message came from outside your organization.

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Hi Maggie,

Please see below stats for quarters 1 and 2. Nick will be presenting tomorrow at 9:00 AM.

ADULT DRUG COURT

Total Participants: 374

Number of New Admissions: 112

Number of Discharges: 290

- **Opt Outs:** 184
- **Nolle Prossed:** 4
- **Ineligible:** 10
- **Death:** 1
- **Jail/Prison:** 24
- **Graduates:** 67

Active At End of Reporting Period: 368

PRISON DIVERSION DRUG COURT (DIV. Z)

Total Participants: 28

Number of New Admissions: 6

Number of Discharges: 8

- **Opt Outs:** 0
- **Nolle Prossed:** 0
- **Ineligible:** 0
- **Death:** 0
- **Jail/Prison:** 0
- **Graduates:** 8

Active At End of Reporting Period: 26

VETERANS TREATMENT COURT (VTC)

Total Participants: 36

Number of New Admissions: 11

Number of Discharges: 25

- **Opt Outs:** 1
- **Nolle Prossed:** 0

Juvenile Drug Court Program
Quarterly Report

Period beginning Oct. 1, 2025
Ending December 31, 2025

For this quarterly reporting period, **51** juveniles entered Juvenile Drug Court.

15 Graduates/Successful completions

8 Discharges (non-compliance)

There were 21 juveniles referred to Suncoast.

12 north county, 7 south county, 2 central

(5 black males, 12 white males, 2 white females, 2 black females)

Referrals from:

PCSO	= 4
PCSB	= 12
PPPD	= 4
JVCT	= 1

For this quarter, we had **5** juveniles referred for Mental Health Services.

Juvenile Drug Court Program
Quarterly Report

Period beginning January 1, 2026
Ending March 31, 2026

For this quarterly reporting period, **52** juveniles entered Juvenile Drug Court.

22 Graduates/Successful completions

6 Discharges (non-compliance)

There were 34 juveniles referred to Suncoast.

24 north county, 10 south county, 0 central county

*(8 Black males, 14 White males, 4 Hispanic males,
4 Black females, 3 White females, 1 Hispanic female)*

Referrals from:

PCSO = 10

PCSB = 14

JVCT = 3

PPPD = 2

SAO = 5

For this quarter, we had **15** juveniles referred for Mental Health Services.

New Business

Membership updates, vacancies, or
resignations

By-Laws

Florida Department of Law
Enforcement JAG Grant Updates

Conflict of Interest Disclosure
Form

SAAB Review Committee Grant
Funding Recommendations

SAAB Board Award
Recommendations Vote



Conflict of Interest Disclosure Form

You have an outside interest, activity, or relationship to disclose if you, your spouse, or domestic partner have one or more of the following:

- (1) Serve as a member for any board, committee, or similar position of an applicant for the Alcohol and Drug Abuse Trust Fund or Justice Assistance Grant funding;
- (2) Employed by, are being considered for employment, or has an economic interest in any applicant organizations.
- (3) Your vote would inure special private gain or loss; which you know would inure to the special private gain or loss of any principal by whom you are retained or to the parent organization or subsidiary of a corporate principal by which you are retained

Please disclose any conflict of interest. Reviewer's input or score will not be considered in any listed conflict for the specific agencies below:

I certify I have no other conflicts of interest for the fiscal year 2026 Alcohol and Drug Abuse Trust Fund or Justice Assistance Grant funding other than those which may be listed above.

Reviewer Signature

Date

FFY25-26

Edward Byrne Memorial Justice
Assistance Grant Countywide (JAG-C)

SUMMARY OF APPLICATIONS RECEIVED
PINELLAS COUNTY EDWARD BYRNE MEMORIAL JUSTICE ASSISTANCE GRANT COUNTYWIDE PROGRAM
FEDERAL FISCAL YEAR 2025 (TO BE SPENT OCTOBER 1, 2026 - SEPTEMBER 30, 2027)
AMOUNT AVAILABLE: TBA

Agency Name	Project Title	Amount Requested	Project Description Summary
Boys & Girls Center of Tampa	BGCGTB Youth Prevention Program	\$25,000.00	BGCGTB delivers a countywide prevention program embedded in all Pinellas County public middle schools, reaching every 7th grade student with education focused on substance misuse, decision-making, and risk awareness. This programming is reinforced through Club-based activities that build refusal skills, emotional regulation, and positive peer engagement.
CASA CARES	CASA Courtroom Advocacy & Resource Education (CARES)	\$16,788.00	CASA CARES project will equip judges and staff with courtroom tools. CASA will distribute posters, resource palm cards with holders, Hope Card brochures (free, wallet-sized/digital protection proof), and journal-style stalking logs (a chronological record of unwanted contact used to prove a legal pattern of conduct for protection orders or prosecution) with tracking instructions to facilitate documenting evidence for survivors' safety at Pinellas courthouses and the Criminal Justice Center.
City of Largo	Largo Police Department Officer Safety Equipment	\$24,655.00	The project seeks to acquire equipment to enhance officer safety and mobility.
City of Pinellas Park	Law Enforcement Equipment Purchase	\$15,000.00	The Pinellas Park Police Department proposes acquiring a small, deployable robot to safely assess and respond to high risk situations using remote operation, low-light camera and two-way communication. This technology enhances officer safety, improves real time decision making and supports de-escalation by reducing the need for direct physical confrontation.
Clearwater Police Department	Police Rifle Shields And Kinetic Breaching Tool	\$46,500.00	The acquisition of rifle-rated ballistic shields is a priority for our department because it directly supports our mission - The acquisition of a kinetic breaching tool allows for rapid, controlled, and safer forced entry compared to traditional breaching methods, reducing the risk of injury to officers, occupants, and bystanders. It also minimizes property damage by providing a more precise means of entry.
Eleos	Security and Observation Update	\$25,000.00	Security and Observation Update will strengthen client safety, staff response, and incident documentation at Eleos through three coordinated investments: iPads for ObserveSmart rounding and 1:1 observation, replacement of end-of-life DVRs, and replacement/addition of coax security cameras in priority areas.
Florida Recovery Schools of Tampa Bay, Inc.	Victory High School	\$25,000.00	Victory High School provides students mental health counseling and a desire to live sober while earning their diplomas. We are a beacon of hope to families in Pinellas that have lost all hope. We work to create a future where teens have a fighting chance against the grip of addiction. There is no other agency or Recovery School in Florida that is providing Mental Health Services as well as Recovery Support and an Education to this population.
Goodwill Industries Suncoast	Suncoast Reentry Educational Program	\$65,000.00	This project expands the resources of the Suncoast Work Release Reentry Center (SWRRC) to serve the adults with planned release destinations within Pinellas County beginning in pre-release and extending into post-release. These services will be enhanced by focusing on foundational (soft) skills development, career development and upskilling and reskilling training resources to impact greater earnings and long-term follow-up contact underpins their stability on the long-term.
Gulfcoast Legal Services, Inc.	The Digital Victims' Rights Awareness Project	\$20,000.00	This project expands GLS's work through targeted education, awareness, and outreach—including digital and printed materials—to increase understanding of victims' rights, promote access to legal services, and help more victims engage effectively and safely with law enforcement, prosecutors, and the criminal justice system.
MORE Health, Inc.	Firearm Safety and Violence Prevention	\$30,000.00	MORE HEALTH's Firearm Safety and Violence Prevention Program improves outcomes for Pinellas County residents by providing lifesaving education to children and families. The program educates third-grade and middle school students as well as their parents/caregivers about the dangers of firearms and ways they can avoid and prevent firearm violence.
Phoenix House Florida	Pinellas County Substance Use Prevention & Treatment Access Campaign	\$300,000.00	Phoenix House Florida seeks to expand its proven substance use awareness and prevention campaign into Pinellas County, connecting residents to immediate, accessible treatment through outpatient and telehealth services. The campaign provides clear pathways to care, helping individuals engage in treatment earlier and avoid deeper involvement with the criminal justice system.
Powerful Young Adults Inc	Powerful Young Adults Inc, NextGen Justice Prevention & Workforce Program,	\$25,000.00	Powerful Young Adults Inc proposes a prevention program serving at-risk youth and young adults ages 16 to 30 in North Greenwood Clearwater Florida ZIP codes 33755 and 33756 where crime rates reach approximately 20 to 22 incidents per 1000 residents. The program addresses root causes of crime including unemployment lack of skills and limited opportunity. Participants receive training in AI digital literacy workforce readiness and entrepreneurship including business development and financial literacy. Services include resume building job placement mentorship and career coaching. The program promotes public safety by reducing risk factors and increasing employment and economic stability for Pinellas County residents.
Ready for Life, Inc.	Therapeutic Foster Care Transitions	\$25,000.00	Ready for Life, Inc. serves teens and young adults ages 15–25 through a trauma-informed, comprehensive support model. Services include crisis stabilization, goal setting, housing and transportation assistance, linkage to legal services, community resources and state-sponsored benefits, as well as on-site educational, vocational, dental, and mental health services. We also provide a wide range of support that most peers receive from family. Preventing just one young adult from experiencing a behavioral health crisis that results in law enforcement involvement can save an estimated \$5,000 to \$25,000 annually in avoided emergency response, arrest, court, and detention costs, while also improving individual stability and community safety.
Recovery Epicenter Foundation	Peer Respite/ The Catchers Mitt	\$35,000.00	The peer respite, Catchers Mitt, serves men and women who struggle with a substance use disorder in Pinellas County, by providing a safely monitored, low barrier short term transitional housing for participants who do not meet the needs emergency medical criteria of a traditional detox, and do not have the means to check themselves into a private facility. This socio-economic demographic disproportionately represented Pinellas county citizens who have and or are currently a part of the problem solving, veteran, and county drug courts. By providing a safe space for people to find help, when they request help, without numerous preconditions or barriers to care, we can and already have decreased the number of first responders interactions, recidivisms, overdoses, and emergency room visits for participants of the Catchers Mitt.
Suncoast Center	Forensic Services	\$35,000.00	Forensic Services program serves adults with mental health and co-occurring substance use disorders through psychiatric evaluations, comprehensive mental health assessments, individual therapy, and case management. Services include crisis intervention and suicide risk assessment and are initiated upon release or referral to support stabilization and continuity of care.
TOTAL REQUESTS	15 APPLICATIONS	\$ 712,943.00	
Pinellas County Human Services	Planning Grant Position	TBD	10% of the total county award is allocated to Pinellas County for costs associated with administering the grants.