



Pinellas County Substance Abuse Advisory Board Meeting

November 20, 2024

PINELLAS COUNTY

SUBSTANCE ABUSE ADVISORY BOARD ANNUAL MEETING

November 20, 2024 | 10:00 AM
SPC Epicenter-Room 2-304
13805 58thth St. N., Clearwater, FL 33760

AGENDA

1. Welcome and Introductions Chief Adam Geissenberger, *Chairman*
2. Public Comments
3. Approval of August 28, 2024, Meeting Minutes Chief Adam Geissenberger, *Chairman*
4. Adult Drug Court Quarterly Update Nicholas Bridenback, *Judicial 6*
5. Juvenile Drug Court Quarterly Update Report included, *Judicial 6*
6. Membership updates, vacancies or, resignations Chief Adam Geissenberger, *Chairman*
 - a. JWB Alternate Vacancy - Paul Webb; New Alternate – Katie Dills
7. FY 2023-2024 JAG Performance Reports
 - a. ALPHA House – Breaking Cycle of Intergenerational Abuse.....Jennifer Stracick
 - b. Boys & Girls Clubs – Youth Prevention Program Mandy Taylor
 - c. CASA – Collateral for Pinellas Law EnforcementJill Flansburg
 - d. Goodwill Industries Suncoast – Tampa Bay Community Reentry Dr. Wanda Dunmore
 - e. MORE Health – Firearm Safety and Firearm Prevention.....Carlene Lemaster
 - f. Recovery Epicenter Foundation – Catcher’s Mitt Peer Support..... Lindsey Mckeown
 - g. Vincent House – Clubhouse Project..... Karis Kaese, Charlotte Sonetiot
 - h. Westcare – Mustard Seed Inn..... Linda Welborn
 - i. Clearwater Police Dept – SWAT Team Robot Program.....Major Natalia Illich-Hailey
 - j. Largo Police Dept – Design CPTED Assessment..... Lt. Nick CusumanoCommunity PSA Video: https://youtu.be/6bYX3pY-0E4?si=pN_gh1Z8ln-XK4hj
8. FY 2023-2024 Alcohol and Drug Abuse Trust Fund Reports
 - a. Boley Centers – Greenhouse Project.....Jeri Flanagan

- b. Gulf Coast Jewish Family & Community Services - Laptops Tess Benham
 - c. Operation PAR – PAR Village Refresh/Painting/Mattresses.....Martin Bimler
 - d. PEMHS – IT Improvement ViewSonic Monitors.....Joe Stumpo
 - e. Westcare – Davis Bradley Security Cameras..... Linda Welborn
9. SAAB Board Final RecommendationsChief Adam Geissenberger, *Chairman*
- a. FFY23-24 Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant Countywide (JAG-C)
 - b. FY24-25 Alcohol and Drug Abuse Trust Fund
10. Roundtable
11. Adjournment

Next Meeting: TBD Spring 2025

Minutes from August 28, 2024 meeting

Pinellas County Substance Abuse Advisory Board Meeting
Minutes of the Meeting Held on
August 28, 2024 | 1:00 p.m. | EpiCenter-Room 2-304, 13805 58th St. N., Clearwater

Present at Meeting:

Name	Attendee Type	In-Person
Adam Geissenberger	Board Member – Chair – Pinellas Park Police Dept	☒
Bruce Bartlett	Board Member – State Attorney	☒
Jim Miller	Board Member - Operation PAR	☒
Scott Matthews	Board Member – Pinellas County Sheriff’s Office	☒
Lisa DePaolo	Board Member – Pinellas County Schools	☒
Dawn Holcomb	Board Member – Dept of Corrections	☒
Melissa Reid	Alternate – Dept of Juvenile Justice	☒
Marianne Deane	Alternate – Pinellas County Health Dept	☒
Nick Cusumano	Alternate – Largo Police Dept	☒
Tim Burns	Alternate – Pinellas County Government	☒
Paul Webb	Alternate - JWB	☒
Natalia Illich-Hailey	Alternate – City of Clearwater Police Dept	☒
Ashley Roura	Alternate – Public Defender Office	☒
Anthony Monte	City of Clearwater Police Dept	☒
Martin Bimler	Operation PAR	☒
Maggie Miles	Staff – SAAB Board Admin Assistant	☒
Jennifer Reed	Staff - Pinellas County Human Services	☒
Amy Carlin	Staff – Pinellas County Human Services	☒
Cody Ward	Staff – Pinellas County Attorney	☒
Tristian Byrne	Staff – Pinellas County Human Services	☒
Lisa Carrillo	Staff – Pinellas County Human Services	☒
Sara Gordils	Staff – Pinellas County Human Services	☒

I. Call to Order

The regular meeting of the Substance Abuse Advisory Board was called to order by Chair, Chief Adam Geissenberger at 1:00 p.m.

- a. Welcome & Introductions - Board members went around and introduced themselves.
- b. Public Comments - none

II. Old Business

- a. Approval of June 26, 2024, Meeting Minutes - A motion was made to approve the minutes by Bruce Bartlett, seconded by Megan McGee. Passed unanimously.

III. New Business

- a. Membership, updates, vacancies, or resignations.
 - i. New SAAB Board/Alternate Members from June 26, 2024, meeting – Jim Miller (Board) – Operation PAR, Sandnes Boulanger (Alternate) – Operation PAR, John Cornett (Alternate) – Department of Children and Families. Motion made to approve by Tim Burns, seconded by Dawn Holcomb. Passed unanimously.
 - ii. New Board/Alternate Members – Marianne Dean (Alternate), Dept of Health, Major Natalia Illich-Hailey (Alternate) – City of Clearwater Police Dept. Motion made to approve by Scott Matthews, seconded by Tim Burns. Passed unanimously.
- b. SAAB Review Committee Grant Funding Recommendations – Sara Gordils walked through evaluation and scoring for each section. Consensus scoring among SAAB members was done.
 - i. FY24-25 Alcohol and Drug Abuse Trust Fund.

Operation PAR applied, and St. Pete Police Dept has a conflict of interest with Gulf Coast Jewish Family Community Services, both recused from voting on their respective projects.

Gulf Coast Jewish Family and Community Services: Asking \$8,000.
 App Score = 48 - RECOMMENDED FULL FUNDING
 Operation PAR: Asking \$9,021.99. App Score = 50 - RECOMMENDED FULL FUNDING
 Personal Enrichment through Mental Health Services (PEMHS): Asking \$5,203.86.
 App Score = 50 – RECOMMENDED FULL FUNDING
 WestCare Gulfcoast: Asking \$9,923.05 App Score = 50 - RECOMMENDED FULL FUNDING
- c. SAAB Board Award Recommendations Vote – Chief Adam Geissenberger
 - i. FY24-25 Alcohol and Drug Abuse Trust Fund.

Member/Alternate	Motion	Second	Yay Vote	Nay Vote	Abstain
Bruce Bartlett	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Ashley Roura	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Natalia Illich-Hailey	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Marianne Dean	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Adam Geissenberger	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Scott Matthews	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Nick Cusumano	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Lisa DePaolo	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Dawn Holcomb	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Tim Burns	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Paul Webb	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Megan McGee	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Jim Miller	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Melissa Reid	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Motion made to award all applicants as asked, and remaining funds (\$2,851.10) to be rolled over to next fiscal year by Adam Geissenberger, seconded by Bruce Bartlett. Passed unanimously.

FY 2024-2025 SUMMARY OF RECOMMENDED PROJECTS
Alcohol and Drug Abuse Trust Fund
Amount Available: \$35,0000

4 project applications were received requesting a total of \$32,148.90 in funding

APPLICANT	PROJECT TITLE	REQUESTED AMOUNT	RECOMMENDED AMOUNT
Gulf Coast Jewish Family and Community Services, Inc.	Visitor Management System	\$8,000.00	\$8,000.00
Operation PAR, Inc.	PAR Village Residential Furniture	\$9,021.99	\$9,021.99
Personal Enrichment through Mental Health Services, Inc. (PEMHS)	Digital Empowerment for Crisis Response: Desktop Computers	\$5,203.86	\$ 5,203.86
<u>WestCare GulfCoast-Florida, Inc.</u>	Davis Bradley Community Involvement Center Oven	\$9,923.05	\$9,923.05
TOTAL		\$32,148.90	\$32,148.90

*Unallocated funds in the amount of \$2,851.15 will be rolled over to the next fiscal year.

IV. Roundtable

Sara shared that funding cap of \$10K has been the same for 8 years, discussion ensued on should the threshold be increased, final consensus threshold will remain the same for now.

The annual meeting will be in the fall, date TBD.

V. Adjournment

A motion was made to adjourn by Adam Geissenberger, seconded by Tim Burns. The meeting was adjourned at 1:17 p.m.

Meeting minutes respectfully submitted by Maggie Miles, Pinellas County Human Services

Drug Court Reports

PINELLAS ADULT DRUG COURT

(10/1/23 – 9/30/24)

ACTIVE

Total Participants	Post Adjudication	Pretrial Status
816	392	297

Number of New Admissions	Post Adjudication	Pretrial Status
388	205	151

Number of Graduates	Post Adjudication	Pretrial Status
211	87	94

Still Active at End of Reporting Period
393

PRE-ACCEPTANCE

Total Participants
997

Number of New Admissions
853

Still Active at End of Reporting Period
127

Juvenile Drug Court Program
Quarterly Report for 23-24 year

Beginning October 1, 2023
Ending September 30, 2024

For this yearly reporting period, 128 juveniles entered Juvenile Drug Court.

65 Graduates/Successful completions
19 Discharges (non-compliance)

There were 92 juveniles referred to Suncoast.

47 north county, 30 south county, 15 central county*

*(30 black males, 20 white male, 9 hispanic males, 3 multirace 2males
12 white females, 11 black females, 5 hispanic females, 1 asian female, 1 pacific
island female)*

Referrals from:

PCSO	=	9
PCSB	=	31
JVCT	=	13
PPPD	=	22
SPPD	=	7
SAO	=	8
CWPD	=	1
LPD	=	1

Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant
(JAG) Program Presentations



September 30th, 2024

ALPHA House of Pinellas County is a recipient of the 2023-2024 JAG Countrywide grant. We are the only transitional housing program in Florida to serve homeless women and babies who are abused and trafficked, ages 14-41. Our progress on this grant has been very successful.

Goal 1. 95% of Mothers will be able to identify three ways to which power and control can show up as a behavior in an abusive relationship during October 1st, 2023, to September 30th, 2024, fiscal year. We had a 100 % success rate under our grant.

Goal 2. To provide program services to 25 women.

Goal 3 98% of Mothers will be able to identify/define what a healthy relationships vs unhealthy relationship is during the October 1st, 2023, to September 30th, 2024, fiscal year. We had a 100 % success rate under our grant

We have served 30 women and 22 babies during the grant cycle. We have met our goal for the grant.

Client Spotlight: Katie came to our program from an abusive relationship. She had no family support. While at ALPHA she put her son in daycare, worked at chipotle to earn enough money to move out into her own apartment and buy a car.

Grant amount awarded: \$24,255.06

Grant amount spent: \$24,255.06

Boys & Girls Clubs of the Suncoast Youth Prevention Program is a recipient of the 2023-2024 JAG Countywide Grant



**BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS
Of The Suncoast**

**PINELLAS COUNTY
Club Services Center**

4625 East Bay Drive
Suite 103
Clearwater, Florida 33764
(727) 524-2427
FAX (727) 524-3090
www.bgcsun.org

Freddy Williams
President & CEO

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Dr. Rachel Dawkins
Vice Chair

Dr. Shameka Jones
Vice Chair

- All Program Goals were met with the exception of 95% of participants missing less than 10% of school days. We missed this goal by 6%.
 1. **Program Goal #1- MET:** An Additional 25 unduplicated kids & teens to participate in prevention programs annually.
 - A total of 35 kids and teens participated during the year.
 2. **Program Goal #2- NOT MET:** 95% of participants will miss less than 10% of school days
 - 89% of participants missed less than 10% of school days
 3. **Program Goal #3 - MET:** 75% of participants will have no more than one disciplinary referral or school suspension.
 - 94% of participants had no more than one referral or suspension
 4. **Program Goal #4 - MET:** No Club members will be arrested
 - Zero Club members were arrested
- Please include numbers as applicable (i.e. clients served, services provided, etc.)
 - 35 youth participated in the prevention programs on a weekly basis. We are thrilled by the number of students who had a limited number of absences from school. Of the participants 90% missed less than 18 days of school which represents 10% of school days available. Additionally, only two of our students experienced any suspensions or other disciplinary actions.
- Any stories showcasing the impact of this project.
 - We are thrilled by the number of students who had a limited number of absences from school. Of the participants 90% missed less than 18 days of school which represents 10% of school days available. Additionally, only two of our students experienced any suspensions or other disciplinary actions.

Grant amount awarded: \$8,300.98

Grant amount spent: \$8,300.98



GREAT FUTURES START HERE.





**Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance
Grant Countywide Application (JAG-C)
FY 2023-2024**

The current status of your project goals as listed on your Performance Report Questions. If goals were not achieved, please be prepared to explain any barriers/challenges you faced.
The goals were achieved and the project is complete. Collateral pieces were ordered within the overall budget guidelines and distributed to all Pinellas County Law Enforcement offices.

Please include numbers as applicable (i.e. clients served, services provided, etc.)

Police Jurisdiction	palm cards (English)	palm cards (Spanish)	strangulation cards	LE info card	posters
Belleair Police Department	15	9	15	15	2
City of Tarpon Springs Police Department	154	93	154	154	2
Clearwater Police Department	700	400	700	700	2
Gulfport Police Department	40	20	40	40	2
Indian Shores Police Department	4	3	4	4	2
Kenneth City Police Department	36	22	36	36	2
Largo Police Department	350	250	350	350	2
Pinellas County School District Police	500	500	500	500	6
Pinellas Park Police Department	339	203	339	339	2
St. Petersburg College, Campus Security	100	100	100	100	6
St. Petersburg Police Department	2000	2000	2000	2000	2
Treasure Island Police Department	70	40	70	70	2
USF Campus Security	100	100	100	100	4
Pinellas County Sheriff	1100	550	1100	1100	2

Any stories showcasing the impact of this project.

Personal connections to victim advocates across police jurisdictions. These professionals were grateful to receive these tools and now have a contact at CASA should they need it in the future. PCSO had outdated CASA information from 2020 and nothing on our Family Justice Center. The DV Advocates from Pinellas County Sheriff's Office and Clearwater Police Department plan on visiting CASA for a tour of the Family Justice Center.

Grant amount awarded: \$7,317.00
Grant amount spent: \$7,309.36
Unspent funds: \$7.64



Community Action Stops Abuse, Inc., P.O. Box 414, St. Petersburg, FL 33731 · Tax ID: 59-2114359 · Fax: 727-821-7101 · www.casapinellas.org

Office & 24-Hour Domestic Violence Hotline: 727-895-4912 / TTY: 727-828-1269



Good World.



Goodwill Suncoast Work Release Program is a recipient of the 2023-2024 JAG Countrywide grant. We are the largest female work release in the state of Florida with 200 beds serving female inmates as they complete the remainder of their prison sentence. While in our Goodwill Pathways JAG program, the client are employed throughout the community in a variety of workforce industries. Our progress on this grant has been very successful in providing education, employment and mental health services in order to prepare them for their release.

Goal 1. We provided mental health services to over 50 clients, exceeding our goal of 25 clients removing them off the waitlist and providing weekly counseling services to support individuals in managing emotional, psychological, and behavioral challenges during October 1st, 2023, to September 30th, 2024.

Goal 2. We established a career center onsite to connect 100 clients with employment services that led all 100 clients to sustainable employment. Services included resume prep, job search assistance, job placement, workforce training, and educational opportunities to upskill and reskill our clients.

Goal 3. We developed onsite short-term workforce-related training programs to support employment resulting in 25 residents receiving a Workforce Certifications. Certification types included health care certification, hospitality certifications, OSHA certifications, hotel and lodging certifications, food service certifications, cosmetology licensing, CDL licensing, canine certification, engineering, project and business development, and web design certifications. We had a 100 % success rate under our grant. We have served 213 women during the grant cycle. We have met all our goals for the grant.

Client spotlight: Sheena's journey from work release to becoming a successful truck driver is nothing short of remarkable. Starting with the Pathways JAG program while incarcerated, Sheena faced the challenge of obtaining her CDL permit. Despite numerous obstacles, including finding a trucking school and maintaining hope amidst setbacks, Sheena's determination never wavered. With the support of the Pathways JAG program, Sheena persevered. She completed her CDL trucking school in just three weeks and secured a truck driving job out of state. Today, she proudly owns her own truck and continues to drive towards her dreams. Her story is a powerful testament to the strength and resilience needed to overcome challenges and build a new life.

Grant Amount Rewarded: \$47,750.00

Grant Amount Spent: \$47,750.00



Current Status of 2023-24 Goals

Goal 1 MORE HEALTH met and exceeded the goal of presenting the Firearm Safety Lessons in 340 classroom, by reaching 355. Additional 14 classes, at four schools were scheduled in September, but were rescheduled due to Hurricane Helene. They are now scheduled to be taught in the 2024-25 grant year.

MORE HEALTH visited 85 schools to teach children what to do if they encounter a gun.

Goal 2 MORE HEALTH provided teachers and parents an opportunity to watch the MORE HEALTH video, You Can Be a Hero with their students/children. We receive positive feedback from teachers.

Barriers The biggest barrier we had this grant year was the hurricane and it was at the end of the year. To date we have rescheduled all of the schools except one.

Impact of the Project

Classroom teachers graded the lesson on Relevance, Quality of Instructional Aids, Presentation, Rapport, Student Engagement, and Pre and Post Lesson Activities. The Firearm Safety Lessons received an average of 98% satisfaction.

New Heights Elementary – The scholars love to be involved in presentations. The visuals posters are very helpful for ESOL scholars to understand. The lessons of real life situations, either good or bad, are important to teach in schools.

Southern Oak Elementary – Excellent lesson and so important! Thank you!

Safety Harbor Elementary – This is the best lesson!

Rawlings Elementary – Excellent lesson! The students took it very seriously.

Grant amount awarded: \$25,000.00

Grant amount spent: \$25,000.00



RECOVERY EPICENTER FOUNDATION

316 S BETTY LANE

CLEARWATER, FL 33756

727-223-3453

www.recoveryepicenterfoundation.org

Totals for October 2023 to September 2024

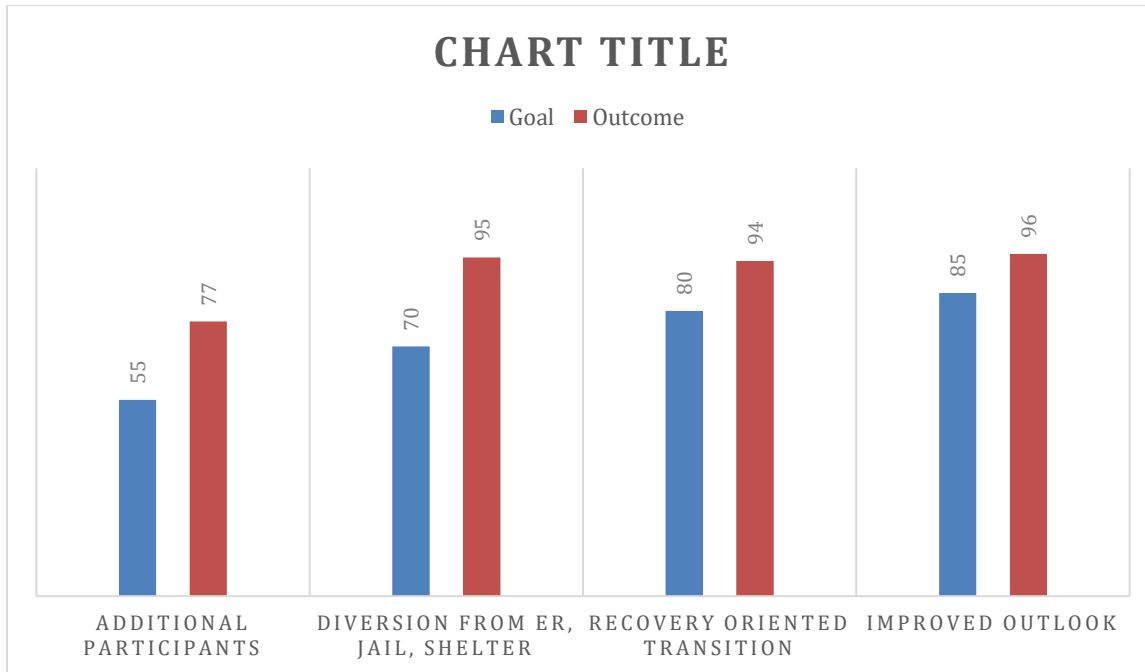
**Presenters: William Atkinson, Executive Director
Teresa Mancuso, Program Director**

GOALS

1. The program will serve approximately 55 clients over the 12-month term.
2. 70% of program participants will be diverted from the Emergency Room, Jail, or Homeless Shelter by entering the Catcher's Mitt (collected at intake).
3. 80% of the program participants will exit to substance use disorder recovery housing or long-term treatment (collected at discharge).
4. 85% of program participants will report an improvement in outlook and decision making, as indicated by scores on the Brief Assessment of Recovery Capital (BARC-10) or the Recovery Domain Assessment (compared at intake and discharge).

OUTCOMES

1. We served an additional 77 individuals, 211 additional days
2. 95% of program participants were diverted from the emergency room, jail, or homeless shelter by entering the Catchers Mitt.
3. 94% transitioned to sober homes and/or treatment
4. 96% reported an improvement in outlook & decision making



Describe any key activities to meet goals

Recovery Epicenter Foundation met these goals by offering a dedicated space for JAG participants, and by becoming more proficient as the year progressed in getting participants onto the next stage of their recovery. We went from a 10-14 day average length of stay to a 3-7 day average length of stay thanks to the dedicated work of on site peers who grew and maintained continuum of care connections throughout the Pinellas and greater Tampa Bay region.

Describe any barriers you encountered related to achieving goals

Recovery Epicenter Foundation’s greatest barrier encountered has been connecting our participants with funding for the next stage of their recovery journey. Many of the participants that JAG supported were indigent, and so we helped our participants get connected to gig work so that they could afford to move into local recovery residences. When they needed a higher level of care, we would connect them with insurance through a third-party service if they did not have insurance coming in. And if neither option was available, we would support these individuals with our restricted funds scholarship when appropriate.

If we were making any suggestions, we would hope for a dedicated fund or connection to an existing source that could help people in similar situations throughout the county.

Do you have any noteworthy accomplishments, success stories or program results you would like to showcase

Thanks to the JAG opportunity, the Catchers Mitt was able to help numerous people rediscover their connection to a recovery way of life. One such case that comes to mind is a gentleman, who after a long period of abstinence, had returned to active use. It started with marijuana, as he had become secure with his career as well as in his family life. He described to us a feeling of having overcome his addiction and how he did not believe it would be a problem for him anymore. He also described to us that he had refused to emotionally address the loss of his mother, and so in retrospect he was a time bomb waiting to go off. That timer expired when he had his life entirely put together thanks to his previous stint in recovery. After practicing marijuana maintenance for a number of months, he decided he could drink again successfully as well. After doing that for a number of months he progressed into opiates.

When he contacted us we were full, but were able to offer him a space because of the dedicated beds JAG made available. He came to the Catchers Mitt having been released from county jail, with nowhere to go, and no hope for his future. He quickly became reconnected with his recovery through the opportunity to be surrounded by peers and community and became excited about returning to the recovery home that had helped him achieve long term abstinence his first go round. That program did not have a bed immediately available and so he kept an open mind and found an even greater connection with a religious group that would bring in recovery meetings every Tuesday to the Mitt and had a recovery home in the area.

Today he returns to the Mitt, to bring in meetings, with the group that he gravitated towards as a participant. Today, he is maintaining his recovery pathway thanks to the steps he is practicing, and the opportunity that JAG gave him to recover when no other options were available.

Grant amount awarded: \$40,000.00

Grant amount spent: \$40,000.00



A Recovery through Work Partnership

Performance Report JUSTICE ASSISTANCE GRANT (JAG) COUNTYWIDE

The goals set forth for this grant opportunity were met in full.

Goal 1: Vincent House's goal was to serve an additional 60 unduplicated new members through the Recovery Through Work Program. During this grant cycle, Vincent House welcomed 64 new members through the Recovery Through Work Program.

Goal 2: 50% of individuals who participate in the Work Program will be employed in the community annually.

During this grant cycle, 58% of our active members were employed in the community. Of the 110 members actively job searching, 64 are employed.

Goal 3: \$750,000 Total member earnings during grant year (cumulative).

During this grant cycle, Vincent House members earned \$911,567.35 through employment in the community. That is 121% of our goal of \$750,000.

Noteworthy accomplishments, success stories, or program results from Q4.

Vincent House continues to meet the employment goal. Our new member intake rate has doubled. Our career team is at capacity for serving members, we needed to add a new computer station and desk to accommodate the members interested in work. We have added additional supported employers, and are currently working on two new Transitional Employment partnerships.

Our Quarterly Employment Stats

Income: \$222,189.00

Employed - 54

Off Benefits - 27

Thank you for the opportunity to continue to serve the Pinellas County community through our Recovery Through Work programming.

Respectfully submitted,

Grant amount awarded: \$8,300.98

Grant amount spent: \$8,300.98

Karis Kaeser

Executive Director

727-916-1725 karis@vincenthouse.org

Weather

High: 88°

Low: 77°

Humidity: 67%

Chance of Rain:
29%

Fun Fact

The biggest
guacamole
serving
weighed
588.524 lbs.

Quote of the Day

“A positive
attitude awakens
inner strength,
energy,
motivation, and
initiative.”

Remez Sasson

The Daily Sunflower

September 16th, 2024

Transitional Employment at The Public Defender's Office

By Rhonda F.

I was selected for Transitional Employment by Vincent House, to work at the Public Defender's Office. I was totally excited when I first started and I still am now-; I absolutely love it. I've been working there since July 2nd, 2024. I've built a ton of confidence since starting the job, and my family is proud of me. I love waking up every morning knowing that I'm going to a real job, as well as wearing business-casual clothes in a very professional setting. This opportunity opens up so many doors for me, and I can put the Public Defender's Office down on my resume for future jobs. This also gives me the confidence to apply for nicer jobs rather than at fast-food restaurants. It has boosted my self-esteem in so many ways.

I am very grateful for the experience, and it's one I'll never forget. I started out doing 2 days per week and worked my way up to 5 days per week. The people there are very nice, and this has even inspired me to go back to school and start working towards a degree of some sort so that I can eventually work at a decent place. I am a lot happier than I was at the beginning of the year, and a lot more productive as well. Thank you Vincent House for all your support and encouragement!



The Daily Sunflower 9/16/2024

Events:

Wednesday: Charlotte and Shelby are hosting a talent show.

Menu:

White Chicken Chili

Birthday:

Rosie B., Alex S., and Melanie V.

Lionell wrapping Panera Bread.



Rena mastering the Front Desk.

Clubhouse Standard of the Day #22

The Clubhouse offers its own Transitional Employment program, which provides as a right of membership opportunities for members to work on job placements in the labor market. As a defining characteristics of a Clubhouse Transitional Employment program, the Clubhouse guarantees coverage on all placements during member absences.



Justice Assistance Grant (JAG)

For the 2023-2024 fiscal year, a total of 187 clients were provided services at the Mustard Seed Inn. We did meet our goal of clients successfully graduating the program and moving into permanent housing within 12 months. Finding affordable housing continues to be a barrier for our clients. We have been working with the clients on stricter budgeting and how to reach out and speak to landlords by explaining their rental history and/or lack thereof. We have also been teaching clients to build, rebuild, and understand credit.

With the funding we receive from JAG, our case managers can teach clients the life skills that are vital to go on to live happy, healthy, substance free independent lifestyles outside of a facility environment in hopes of reducing the risk of going back into the system. Case managers also provide services by linking clients with community partners, MAT services, employment, mental health services and anything else they may need.

We are excited to start our new fiscal year as we find new ways of keeping clients not only engaged but excited about their recovery and the possibilities their futures hold.

Success Story

We had a client who came from our residential program with a long history of drug use. Throughout his years of addiction, he severely damaged the relationships with his children and his wife. He maintained steady employment and a great rapport with other clients and his case manager while continuing to rebuild family bonds. However, he tragically and unexpectedly lost his wife of 32 years and although he maintained a positive attitude he forced himself to “push through” despite case manager’s advice to take time and grieve. The client ended up relapsing after returning to their home to pack up his wife’s belongings. The client explained that “all of the memories flooded him, and he did not use the skills he learned”. The client agreed to go to Turning Point and the case manager referred him to grief counseling. Once enrolled in the grief counseling, he then enrolled himself into grief groups and showed a significant change, allowing himself to mourn his loss in a healthy way without returning to substances. He completed probation and successfully graduated drug court and was able to find permanent housing near his family for support and enrolled himself in grief counseling and groups near his new home. He returns to the facility often to check in and say hello to staff and clients and proves there is a possibility of success even after a relapse.

Grant amount awarded: \$8,300.98

Grant amount spent: \$8,300.98



CITY OF CLEARWATER

POST OFFICE BOX 4748, CLEARWATER, FLORIDA 33758-4748

CLEARWATER POLICE DEPARTMENT, 645 PIERCE STREET, CLEARWATER, FLORIDA 33756

TELEPHONE (727) 562-4242

POLICE DEPARTMENT

November 14, 2024

Maggie Miles
Justice Assistance Grant Analyst
Program Services Division
Department of Human Services

Dear Ms. Miles:

The Clearwater Police Department was a recipient of the FY23-24 Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) Countywide. Below is the status of the funded project, to be shared with the Substance Abuse Advisory Board (SAAB).

Current status of project goals:

- Closed out, equipment has been purchased, and funds drawn down.

Services Provided:

- The Transcend Vantage Robot was purchased using the JAG grant for \$49,999.99.
- The Clearwater Police Department took possession of the robot in April 2024.
- The Transcend Vantage Robot is primarily utilized by the agency SWAT team for the following purposes: (1) covert intelligence gathering; (2) deployment of gas munitions and other equipment/tools as needed during a critical incident (in lieu of a human asset delivering the item); and (3) communication between SWAT team members (to include Hostage Negotiators) and subjects utilizing the robot's built-in communication capabilities, thereby allowing officers to communicate with the individual from a safe, remote location.

Project's Impact:

- The Transcend Vantage Robot has been used on numerous occasions in a SWAT training environment with successful outcomes.
- To date, the Clearwater Police Department has deployed the robot during one in-progress call for service. The call involved a suspicious package that was delivered to a medical clinic located in the city. The robot was deployed to gather intelligence regarding the package, and this information was relayed to Tampa Police Department's Bomb Squad, who responded to assist with the call. The utilization of this robot allowed officers to gather invaluable and important intelligence related to this suspicious package from a safe distance without placing themselves in further danger.

Respectfully,

Natalia Illich-Hailey, Major
Clearwater Police Department





Largo Police Department
201 Highland Avenue
P.O. BOX 296
Largo, FL 33779-0296

To: Substance Abuse Advisory Board (SAAB)

From: City of Largo Police Department

Date: November 3rd, 2024

RE: FY23-24 Justice Assistance Grant (JAG)-Countywide

The City of Largo Police Department received a \$5,000.00 funding award under Award Identification C-R7192: LPD Crime Prevention (CPTED). The funding was utilized to augment the existing LPD Residential Security Assessment Program based on Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED). Through this program, Law Enforcement certified as CPTED Practitioners facilitated residential security assessments of citizen's homes upon request wherein recommendations for residential security enhancements were provided based on internationally-recognized CPTED standards. In addition to the CPTED assessment, homeowners were afforded the opportunity to have the assessing officers provide and install a free emergency access lockbox courtesy of the JAG-C grant funding received by the Largo Police Department. The overarching goal of the emergency access lockbox is to allow emergency responders with a fast and reliable means of accessing a spare key to safely gain entry to a home during an emergency situation and therein mitigate the risk associated with forced entry. The combination code to the lockbox is set by the homeowner and kept on file by LPD Dispatch to provide to responding emergency personnel. Each lockbox is labeled with a decal explaining its purpose and denoting the JAG-C grant funding that made the installation possible.

The awarded funding was utilized to purchase 164 Master Lockboxes from local retail vendor Home Depot at a procurement cost of \$4,851.12 (\$29.58/ea) along with 165 decals from local retail vendor Sir Speedy at a procurement cost of \$148.88 (\$0.90/ea). The procurement was executed in compliance with the City of Largo procurement guidelines via the City Purchase Card program, with all grant funds being successfully expended.

During the course of the grant program, there was a police call for service from a Largo mobile home park wherein EMS/Fire Rescue were called out to respond to an elderly resident who had fallen in their home. The resident had recently participated in the LPD CPTED Assessment, and therein emergency responders were able to successfully gain access to the home to render aid to the senior by utilizing the installed emergency access lockbox.

The overall reception of this program has been positive, with many participants expressing their appreciation for the commitment by the Largo Police Department to safeguarding the lives of Largo residents through such an innovative approach to community policing.

Very Respectfully,

Ofc. J. Quattlebaum
Senior Services Officer
Problem Oriented Policing Unit
Largo Police Department
201 Highland Ave.
Largo, FL 33770
Duty Cell: 727-477-6195
joquattl@largo.com

Our mission is to uphold the law with integrity and honor by protecting life and property, reducing crime, and sustaining strong community partnerships.

LARGO.COM/POLICE  

727-587-6730 | PoliceInfo@largo.com | @LargoPD

LARGO POLICE RESIDENTIAL SECURITY ASSESSMENT

How secure is your home?

The Residential Security Assessment is a FREE home security consultation with Largo Police Officers certified in Residential Home Security and Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED).

The consultation takes approximately 30 minutes and the resident must be present at the time of the inspection.

Assessments come with installation of a FREE Master Lockbox registered with LPD for emergency response courtesy of FDLE JAG-C Grant and Home Depot



Thank you to our program sponsors for their support of this initiative



[LARGO.COM/POLICE](https://www.largo.com/police)



WHAT'S COVERED:

- Exterior and Interior Security
- Lighting and Landscaping
- Windows, Locks and Alarms
- Lockbox to facilitate welfare checks

Learn a variety of crime prevention concepts and techniques to keep criminals out of your home.

SCCHEDULE YOUR ASSESSMENT:

Call (727)586-7351

Ofc. Keith Bowling
kbowling@largo.com

Ofc. Joel Quattlebaum
joquattl@largo.com



Alcohol and Drug Abuse Trust Fund Presentations



Boley Centers, Inc.

Boley Centers is a private nonprofit psycho-social rehabilitation agency. Since 1970, Boley Centers has been providing residential, psychiatric, educational, skills training and vocational services for residents of Pinellas County, Florida who have mental illness and mental illness with co-occurring disorders.

Boley Centers' mission is to provide at-risk populations with access to safe, affordable housing, along with the behavioral health & employment services that support their personal growth.

2022/23 \$6,469 Koenig Center Awning Replacement
2021/22 \$10,000 Koenig Centers AC Replacement (2 units)
2020/19 \$7,000 Remove a partially fallen tree at Morningside Safe Haven
2019/20: \$8,000 Resurface walkways at Koenig Center campus (LEAP)
2018/19: \$9,000 Floor replacement at Safe Haven
2017/18: \$8,082.50 Floor replacement at Safe Haven
2016/17: \$7,000 Re-keying of resident rooms and alarmed exit doors for safety
2015/16: \$5,000 for 9 computers at Koenig Center campus (LEAP Program)
2014/15: \$5,733 funding for replacement of flooring at Safe Haven)
2012/113: \$5,000 Owl's Nest Accessibility Retro-fit
2011/12: \$3,000 to upgrade Safe Haven outside lighting
2010/11: \$3,000 to refurbish common area with a new TV, re-upholster couch
2009/10: \$5,000 to Rehab one apartment at Owl's Nest

Project: Name of Project

The funds will be used to purchase gardening tools/supplies and a Wally Watt shed to hold the supplies needed to operate the horticulture program. These include shovels, rakes, tomato cages, hoes., trowels, potting soil, etc.

Grant Award: \$5,032.91

Amount Spent: \$5,032.91.____ (max amount is total of grant)



Gulf Coast Jewish Family and Community Services

Gulf Coast Jewish Family and Community Services (Gulf Coast JFCS) is one of the largest and most diverse social service agencies in Pinellas County and the third largest Jewish social service agency in North America. With over 620 staff, 90 volunteers and more than 50 programs, we serve more than 30,000 individuals across the state each year.

We ensure children are safe through foster care case management and we support children across the state through mentorship programs and life-skills instruction. We support the independence of frail elders and Holocaust survivors, help non-custodial parents gain employment to pay their child support, and provide housing for low-income seniors and adults with mental health disorders. Additionally, Gulf Coast JFCS resettles and supports refugees in the Tampa Bay area so they can live healthy and fulfilling lives in the United States.

Project: Laptop Purchases for Covid-19 Response

This funding ensured that Gulf Coast JFCS could continue to provide services to clients in the community and support a hybrid work environment. This investment from the Pinellas County Alcohol & Drug Abuse Trust Fund to purchase 3 Dell laptops and 3 backpack storage cases helped to ensure the agency and its Supported Housing staff continued to safely deliver high quality services to the Pinellas community.

Grant Award: \$3,927.81

Amount Spent: \$3,996.39





RECIPIENT NAME: Operation PAR, Inc.

The mission of Operation PAR is to strengthen our community by caring for families and individuals impacted by substance use and to promote mental well-being. As a leading provider of services for prevention, intervention, and treatment of substance use disorders and co-occurring mental health issues, we help children, adults and their families to overcome struggles with substances and to maintain their recovery. Operation PAR provides residential substance use treatment and support services, outpatient treatment, peer support services, case management, medically managed withdrawal services, and medication assisted treatment (MAT) using all three FDA-approved Medications for Opioid Use Disorders (MOUD).

Operation PAR received \$9,749.50 from the SAAB Trust Fund to paint three residential treatment houses as well as replace 10 residential mattresses. All funds have been expended.

“The property improvements have immensely affected our residents. The new paint on houses makes it appear more as a home and neighborhood as opposed to a treatment center. This goes a long way with client comfort and retention. New mattresses also provide comfort to those with medical conditions as well as provides adequate rest, so they are able to fully engage in their day to day schedule.” Michael Flores, Director of Adult Residential Services.

Project: PAR Village Maintenance

Funding was provided for the exterior painting on PAR Village House numbers 2, 3, and 7 as well as for the purchase of 10 mattresses.

Exterior Painting PAR Village House V2:	\$2,800.00
Exterior Painting PAR Village House V7:	\$3,200.00
Exterior Painting PAR Village House V3:	<u>\$2,800.00</u>
	\$8,800.00
Mattresses	
(10) 6" Mattress, Poly 6" Thick 36x75 - 1 ea @ \$94.95:	<u>\$949.50</u>

Grant Award: \$9,749.50 Amount Spent: \$9,749.50



Before: Drab houses with peeling paint created a utilitarian atmosphere.



After: Freshly painted houses in bright, welcoming colors help to create a neighborhood where families can celebrate recovery.



Personal Enrichment through Mental Health Services, Inc. (PEMHS)

Personal Enrichment through Mental Health Services (PEMHS) functions as a part of a community system of care and has been committed to providing care in crisis since 1981. JARF Pinellas County provides alcohol and substance abuse detoxification services for youth under 18 years of age in a secure environment. JARF is a Marchman Act Receiving Facility. Early intervention is one of the best ways to help your child live drug-free. The JARF is designed to provide quality, comprehensive care and assessment for youths, ages 13 through 17, who are in need of assessment and stabilization due to substance abuse impairment.

Project: IT Improvement Project – ViewSonic Monitors

The funding from the grant was used to update our fleet of computer monitors in the agency. The agency was still working on equipment that was over 12 years old. The new equipment allows our staff to serve our clients with more productivity and efficiency.

Grant Award: \$5,399.52

Amount Spent: \$5,391.49 (max amount is total of grant)

Photographs

Our old equipment was purchased in December of 2011



Our new equipment allows us to modernize the agency and gives the staff a more efficient work environment





WestCare GulfCoast Florida

Westcare Davis Bradley is a 200-bed residential treatment facility for criminal justice involved clients who have a substance use disorder and co-occurring mental health. Length of stay ranges from 8-18 months during which the clients attend daily clinical and therapeutic groups. Clients are assisted in obtaining identification, county health insurance and connections to mental health and medical providers as needed. Participants obtain and engage in employment prior to discharge ensuring that they leave with the resources in place for future success.

We have been awarded funds for reach-in refrigerator and freezer for our residential program, picnic tables for our women's residential courtyard, ice machines for our residential and homeless shelter program, AEDs for our homeless shelter and transitional housing programs, 6 burner range and toaster for our homeless shelter.

Project: Name of Project

Davis Bradley was able to expand the area covered by security cameras, both inside and outside the facility.

This has led to increased safety for clients and staff in addition to program accountability.

Wemerge med room now has two cameras to monitor medication line and client self-administration of medications.

The admin hallway now has complete coverage as well as the female client courtyard which previously had no cameras.

Additional external cameras were mounted on the building covering the client recreation yard and all vehicle entrances.

SPPD recently requested camera footage in regards to a hit and run near our main entrance which we had captured in its entirety.

Grant Award: \$9,942.00

Amount Spent: \$10,652.64 - WestCare paid the difference to complete the project

FY24-25 Alcohol and Drug Abuse Trust
Fund Recommendations

FY 2024-2025 SUMMARY OF RECOMMENDED PROJECTS
Alcohol and Drug Abuse Trust Fund
Amount Available: \$35,0000

4 project applications were received requesting a total of \$32,148.90 in funding

APPLICANT	PROJECT TITLE	REQUESTED AMOUNT	RECOMMENDED AMOUNT
Gulf Coast Jewish Family and Community Services, Inc.	Visitor Management System	\$8,000.00	\$8,000.00
Operation PAR, Inc.	PAR Village Residential Furniture	\$9,021.99	\$9,021.99
Personal Enrichment through Mental Health Services, Inc. (PEMHS)	Digital Empowerment for Crisis Response: Desktop Computers	\$5,203.86	\$ 5,203.86
WestCare GulfCoast-Florida, Inc.	Davis Bradley Community Involvement Center Oven	\$9,923.05	\$9,923.05
TOTAL		\$32,148.90	\$32,148.90

*Unallocated funds in the amount of \$2,851.15 will be rolled over to the next fiscal year.

FFY23-24 Edward Byrne Memorial
Justice Assistance Grant Countywide
(JAG-C)
Fund Recommendations

**EDWARD BYRNE MEMORIAL JUSTICE ASSISTANCE GRANT-COUNTYWIDE
(JAG-C) RECOMMENDATIONS FOR FUNDING
FEDERAL FISCAL YEAR 2023
AVAILABLE FUNDS: \$270,837.00**

APPLICANT	PROJECT TITLE	RECOMMENDED AMOUNT
ALPHA House of Pinellas County	Breaking Generational Child Abuse	\$24,715.10
Boley Centers	Clinical Supervision for Intensive Case Management Services	\$23,813.00
City of Pinellas Park Police Department	Conversion Rifle Bolt Kits and Training Rifle Magazines	\$12,561.56
Homeless Empowerment Program (HEP)	Emergency Shelter and Comprehensive Support Services for Homeless	\$50,000.00
MORE Health	Firearm Safety and Violence Prevention Program	\$26,064.34
Operation PAR	Recreational equipment enhancements for Patient Care Center Program	\$56,600.00
WestCare Gulfcoast-Florida	Mustard Seed Inn Case Management	\$50,000.00
Justice Coordination	JAG Planning Grant Position	\$27,083.00
TOTAL		\$270,837.00

*The Committee recommends that if any of the above agencies decline the award, funds will be disbursed equally to projects in order of ranking until funds are exhausted.