

**Substance Abuse Advisory Board
Pinellas County
June 25, 2025 Meeting Minutes**

The Substance Abuse Advisory Board (SAAB) met at 10:00 AM on this date in Conference Room 1900 at the Pinellas County Justice Center, 14250 49th Street North, Clearwater, Florida.

Present

Chief Adam Geissenberger, Chair, City of Pinellas Park Police Department
Megan McGee, Vice Chair, City of St. Petersburg Police Department (alternate)
Becky Albert, Juvenile Welfare Board
Bruce Bartlett, State Attorney
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
Jim Miller, Operation PAR, Inc.
Ashley Roura, Office of the Public Defender, Sixth Judicial Circuit (alternate)
Ann Starling, Largo Police Department
Courtney Sullivan, State Attorney's Office (alternate)

Not Present

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
Scott Matthews, Pinellas County Sheriff's Office
Sara Mollo, Public Defender
Melissa Reid, Department of Juvenile Justice
Kimberly Todd, County Judge, Sixth Judicial Circuit
Karen Yatchum, Pinellas County Human Services

Others Present

Martin Bimler, Operation PAR, Inc. Vice President of Grants and Philanthropy
Nick Bridenback, Drug Court Program Manager, Sixth Judicial Circuit
Lisa Carrillo, Human Services Grants Services Section Manager
Victor Gonzalez, Human Services Contract Analyst
Yashira Gonzalez, Pinellas County Justice Coordination Section Manager
Sara Gordils, Human Services Contracts Section Manager
Maggie Miles, Human Services Justice Assistance Grant Analyst

Joe Morrissey, Senior Assistant County Attorney
Tiffany Nozicka, Human Services Management Analyst
Ashley Pabilonia, Board Reporter
Other interested individuals

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

CALL TO ORDER

Welcome and Introductions

Chair Geissenberger called the meeting to order at 10:00 AM and requested that those in attendance introduce themselves; whereupon, he indicated that there are several new alternates; and that due to the upcoming retirement of Captain Scott Matthews, with the Pinellas County Sheriff's Office, a new alternate will be named.

Public Comments

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

OLD BUSINESS

Approval of November 20, 2024 Meeting Minutes

Upon the Chair's call for a motion to approve the minutes, State Attorney Bartlett made a motion for approval. The motion was seconded by Ms. Starling and carried unanimously.

Adult Drug Court Quarterly Update

This item was not addressed.

Juvenile Drug Court Quarterly Update

Referring to a document titled *Juvenile Drug Court Program Quarterly Report*, Chair Geissenberger provided statistical information for the period of October through December 2024. He indicated that 28 juveniles entered Juvenile Drug Court; that 17 graduated with successful completion, while seven were discharged for non-compliance; and that there were 15 juvenile referrals to Suncoast Center; whereupon, he noted that information pertaining to demographics and referring agencies is included in the agenda packet; and that no juveniles were referred to mental health services for this quarter.

NEW BUSINESS

Membership Updates, Vacancies, or Resignations

In response to a query by Chair Geissenberger, Ms. Miles confirmed that the members must make a motion to accept the membership updates, including the new alternates; whereupon, Chair Geissenberger made a motion approving the permanent Board replacement for the Juvenile Welfare Board, Becky Albert, and the following alternates:

- Erinn Izykowski, Department of Children and Families
- Michael Hasty, Clearwater Police Department
- Courtney Sullivan, State Attorney's Office
- Ryan Sturm, Pinellas County Schools
- Jennifer Harrington, Department of Juvenile Justice

The motion was seconded by Mr. Miller and carried unanimously.

Florida Department of Law Enforcement JAG Grant Updates

Referring to a PowerPoint presentation, Ms. Carrillo provided an update regarding guidance received from the Florida Department of Law Enforcement (FDLE) following a site visit in May, which included tiered sub-award training for staff. She indicated that, over the last year, FDLE has been more attentive in its review of applications, contracts, and invoicing; and that FDLE has posed follow-up questions, requested additional supporting documentation that was not previously required, and stressed that all projects must have a direct tie to the criminal justice system and include strong justifications.

Ms. Carrillo also related that FDLE provided recommendations during its site visit regarding updating procedures, including one recommendation related to providing pre-evaluation training; that staff will now conduct training webinars in advance of reviewing applications; and that, moving forward, staff will continue working closely with awarded partners to ensure that they have all the knowledge and compliance measures needed to meet FDLE and federal guidelines.

In response to a query by Chair Geissenberger, Ms. Carrillo provided brief comments regarding staff's collaborative efforts with partners to identify and strengthen their projects' direct tie to the criminal justice system.

Conflict of Interest Disclosure Form

Chair Geissenberger indicated that he, Messrs. Miller and Hasty, and Ms. McGee completed Conflict of Interest Disclosure Forms; whereupon, he related that those who

completed a form may participate in discussion but cannot provide input regarding voting or outcome.

SAAB Review Committee Grant Funding Recommendations

FY24-25 ALCOHOL AND DRUG ABUSE TRUST FUND

Deviating from the order of the agenda, Chair Geissenberger indicated that seven applications were submitted for the Alcohol and Drug Abuse Trust Fund; and that the total amount of award funding is \$35,000.00; whereupon, he invited the members to discuss applications for the purpose of scoring.

In response to State Attorney Bartlett and Chair Geissenberger, Ms. Gordils and Mr. Burns provided brief comments regarding submission and review of applications through the Neighborly system and suggested changes for future funding cycles.

Ms. Gordils noted that the Recovery Epicenter Foundation is not eligible for funding because they are not a licensed substance abuse provider; whereupon, following brief discussion regarding details related to individual applications, Ms. Gordils recommended that the members move forward with standard scoring.

Mr. Burns noted that Alcohol and Drug Abuse Trust Fund monies not expended by applicants would remain in the Fund and could be carried over to the next year.

Thereupon, the members reviewed the applications and agreed to the following scores:

Boley Centers, Inc.

Brief Description of the Organization (10 points): **10 points**

Does the Application Clearly Describe the Proposed Project? (10 points): **10 points**

Project Impact/Need (20 points): **20 points**

Budget Summary (10 points): **8 points**

Total Score: **48 points**

Abstaining member: Mr. Miller

WestCare Gulf Coast - Florida

Brief Description of the Organization (10 points): **10 points**

Does the Application Clearly Describe the Proposed Project? (10 points): **10 points**

Project Impact/Need (20 points): **18 points**

Budget Summary (10 points): **2 points**

Total Score: **40 points**

Gulf Coast Jewish Family and Community Services, Inc.

Brief Description of the Organization (10 points): **10 points**
Does the Application Clearly Describe the Proposed Project? (10 points): **10 points**
Project Impact/Need (20 points): **20 points**
Budget Summary (10 points): **10 points**
Total Score: **50 points**

Operation PAR

Brief Description of the Organization (10 points): **10 points**
Does the Application Clearly Describe the Proposed Project? (10 points): **10 points**
Project Impact/Need (20 points): **20 points**
Budget Summary (10 points): **10 points**
Total Score: **50 points**

Abstaining member: Mr. Miller

Recovery Epicenter Foundation

Not eligible – not a licensed substance abuse provider

Suncoast Center, Inc.

Brief Description of the Organization (10 points): **10 points**
Does the Application Clearly Describe the Proposed Project? (10 points): **10 points**
Project Impact/Need (20 points): **20 points**
Budget Summary (10 points): **2 points**
Total Score: **42 points**

Eleos

Brief Description of the Organization (10 points): **10 points**
Does the Application Clearly Describe the Proposed Project? (10 points): **10 points**
Project Impact/Need (20 points): **20 points**
Budget Summary (10 points): **10 points**
Total Score: **50 points**

Abstaining member: Mr. Miller

SAAB Board Award Recommendations Vote

FY24-25 ALCOHOL AND DRUG ABUSE TRUST FUND

Thereupon, Ms. Gordils reviewed the ranking of applications based on their total scores and indicated that the applications submitted by Boley Centers, Inc., Gulf Coast Jewish Family and Community Services, Inc., Operation PAR, and Eleos could be funded fully; and that the remaining Alcohol and Drug Abuse Trust Fund monies could be rolled over to the next funding cycle.

Responding to comments and queries by State Attorney Bartlett, Mr. Burns, with input from Ms. Gordils, provided historical information regarding annual Alcohol and Drug Abuse Trust Fund collections received by the County; whereupon, following brief discussion, Chair Geissenberger made a motion to fully fund the applications submitted by Boley Centers, Inc., Gulf Coast Jewish Family and Community Services, Inc., Operation PAR, and Eleos; and that, should any applicant refuse, the money would go toward surplus and be rolled over to next year. The motion was seconded by Ms. Albert and carried unanimously.

SAAB Review Committee Grant Funding Recommendations

FY24-25 EDWARD BYRNE MEMORIAL JUSTICE ASSISTANCE GRANT
COUNTYWIDE (JAG-C)

Chair Geissenberger indicated that 12 JAG-C applications were submitted for a total of \$474,696.50 in requested funding; and that the total award amount, following administrative costs, is \$209,268.00.

Thereupon, the members reviewed the applications, with input from Mses. Gordils and Carrillo, and agreed to the following scores:

Van Gogh's Palette Inc dba Vincent House (SFA)

Problem Identification (20 points): **20 points**
Federal/State Priorities (25 points): **15 points**
Scope of Services (25 points): **15 points**
Program Outcomes and Goals (15 points): **10 points**
Budget and Expenditure Report (15 points): **15 points**
Total Score: **75 points**

Later in the meeting, the members agreed to modify scoring for the application submitted by Van Gogh's Palette Inc dba Vincent House (SFA) to reflect zero points for Federal/State Priorities, resulting in a revised total score of 60 points.

Recovery Epicenter Foundation (SAF)

Problem Identification (20 points): **20 points**
Federal/State Priorities (25 points): **15 points**
Scope of Services (25 points): **10 points**
Program Outcomes and Goals (15 points): **10 points**
Budget and Expenditure Report (15 points): **5 points**
Total Score: **60 points**

Homeless Empowerment Program (HEP) (SAF)

Problem Identification (20 points): **20 points**
Federal/State Priorities (25 points): **25 points**
Scope of Services (25 points): **25 points**
Program Outcomes and Goals (15 points): **15 points**
Budget and Expenditure Report (15 points): **5 points**
Total Score: **90 points**

Boys & Girls Clubs of Greater Tampa Bay (OAF)

Problem Identification (20 points): **20 points**
Federal/State Priorities (25 points): **0 points**
Scope of Services (25 points): **15 points**
Program Outcomes and Goals (15 points): **10 points**
Budget and Expenditure Report (15 points): **8 points**
Total Score: **53 points**

Suncoast Center, Inc.

Problem Identification (20 points): **15 points**
Federal/State Priorities (25 points): **15 points**
Scope of Services (25 points): **10 points**
Program Outcomes and Goals (15 points): **5 points**
Budget and Expenditure Report (15 points): **12 points**
Total Score: **57 points**

Starting Right, Now

Problem Identification (20 points): **15 points**
Federal/State Priorities (25 points): **0 points**
Scope of Services (25 points): **15 points**
Program Outcomes and Goals (15 points): **12 points**

Budget and Expenditure Report (15 points): **10 points**
Total Score: **52 points**

Ms. Roura left the meeting at 11:22 AM.

St. Petersburg Police Department

Problem Identification (20 points): **20 points**
Federal/State Priorities (25 points): **25 points**
Scope of Services (25 points): **20 points**
Program Outcomes and Goals (15 points): **10 points**
Budget and Expenditure Report (15 points): **15 points**
Total Score: **90 points**

Abstaining member: Ms. McGee

MORE HEALTH, Inc.

Problem Identification (20 points): **20 points**
Federal/State Priorities (25 points): **20 points**
Scope of Services (25 points): **25 points**
Program Outcomes and Goals (15 points): **15 points**
Budget and Expenditure Report (15 points): **15 points**
Total Score: **95 points**

Eleos Wellness

Problem Identification (20 points): **15 points**
Federal/State Priorities (25 points): **20 points**
Scope of Services (25 points): **25 points**
Program Outcomes and Goals (15 points): **15 points**
Budget and Expenditure Report (15 points): **15 points**
Total Score: **90 points**

Abstaining member: Mr. Miller

Chair Geissenberger left the meeting at 11:35 AM.

City of Pinellas Park

Problem Identification (20 points): **20 points**
Federal/State Priorities (25 points): **25 points**
Scope of Services (25 points): **25 points**
Program Outcomes and Goals (15 points): **15 points**

Budget and Expenditure Report (15 points): **15 points**
Total Score: **100 points**

Abstaining member: Chair Geissenberger

Chair Geissenberger returned to the meeting at 11:37 AM.

City of Clearwater

Problem Identification (20 points): **20 points**
Federal/State Priorities (25 points): **25 points**
Scope of Services (25 points): **25 points**
Program Outcomes and Goals (15 points): **15 points**
Budget and Expenditure Report (15 points): **15 points**
Total Score: **100 points**

Abstaining member: Mr. Hasty

CASA Collateral for Pinellas Law Enforcement 2

Problem Identification (20 points): **10 points**
Federal/State Priorities (25 points): **17 points**
Scope of Services (25 points): **10 points**
Program Outcomes and Goals (15 points): **5 points**
Budget and Expenditure Report (15 points): **10 points**
Total Score: **52 points**

SAAB Board Award Recommendations Vote

FY24-25 EDWARD BYRNE MEMORIAL JUSTICE ASSISTANCE GRANT
COUNTYWIDE (JAG-C)

Thereupon, Ms. Gordils reviewed the ranking of applications based on their total scores and indicated that the top scoring applications are those submitted by the City of Clearwater, the City of Pinellas Park, MORE HEALTH, Inc., Eleos Wellness, the St. Petersburg Police Department, and the Homeless Empowerment Program; and that if the top scoring applications are fully funded, there would be \$11,000.00 in unallocated monies; whereupon, she noted that the application submitted by Van Gogh's Palette Inc dba Vincent House (SFA) is next in order of rank.

Following brief comments by Mr. Miller, discussion ensued regarding options related to the \$11,000.00 in unallocated funds, including non-usage or awarding it to another project further down in the ranked order.

Discussion ensued regarding the option to award the \$11,000.00 in unallocated funds to the two highest ranked applications, which were submitted by the City of Pinellas Park and the City of Clearwater; whereupon, Chair Geissenberger suggested that all of the funds be deferred to the City of Clearwater.

Thereupon, Ms. Gordils indicated that her understanding of the motion before the Board is to fund the applications submitted by the City of Clearwater, the City of Pinellas Park, MORE HEALTH, Inc., Eleos Wellness, the St. Petersburg Police Department, and the Homeless Empowerment Program; and that the remaining balance would go to the City of Clearwater, since their purchase can be more easily increased. Ms. Dean related that this would be her motion, which was seconded by Ms. Starling; whereupon, upon the Chair's call for the vote, the motion carried unanimously, with Chair Geissenberger, Ms. McGee, and Messrs. Miller and Hasty abstaining.

Mr. Burns recommended that the members consider establishing steps that could be taken if an awarded partner could not move forward with their project; whereupon, brief discussion ensued wherein Mr. Miller further suggested that funding could go toward the next highest ranked application or split between the next highest ranked applications with identical scores.

In response to Chair Geissenberger's request for a motion, Mr. Burns made a motion to move forward with Mr. Miller's suggestion, which was seconded by Mr. Miller and carried unanimously.

ROUNDTABLE

Ms. Miles indicated that all municipalities who receive funding will be responsible for applying through FDLE's AmpliFund grant management system.

In response to comments and queries by State Attorney Bartlett, Ms. Gordils provided clarifying information regarding scoring documents; whereupon, Mr. Burns noted that, next year, staff will try to schedule this process earlier in order to ensure that there is ample time for preparation and review.

ADJOURNMENT

Chair Geissenberger adjourned the meeting at 12:02 PM.