

**Substance Abuse Advisory Board
Pinellas County
April 22, 2026 Meeting Minutes**

The Substance Abuse Advisory Board (SAAB) met at 9:02 AM on this date in Room 2-304 at the St. Petersburg College EpiCenter, 13805 58th 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)
Major Paul Amodeo, Largo Police Department
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
Melissa Leslie, Department of Children and Families
Jim Miller, Operation PAR, Inc.
Ashley Roura, Office of the Public Defender, Sixth Judicial Circuit (alternate)
Ryan Sturm, Pinellas County Schools (alternate)
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
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

Nick Bridenback, Drug Court Program Manager, Sixth Judicial Circuit
Lisa Carrillo, Human Services Grants Services Section Manager
Sara Gordils, Human Services Contracts Section Manager
Katelyn Greene, Senior Court Program Specialist, Sixth Judicial Circuit
Katie Kolar, Adult Drug Court Director, Sixth Judicial Circuit
Maggie Miles, Human Services Justice Assistance Grant Analyst
Tiffany Nozicka, Human Services Management Analyst

Marilyn Quiles, Human Services Management Analyst
Cody Ward, Assistant County Attorney
Rick Yost, Human Services Section Manager
Jessica Oakes, 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.

CALL TO ORDER

Welcome and Introductions

Chair Geissenberger called the meeting to order at 9:02 AM and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Public Comments

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

OLD BUSINESS

Approval of November 20, 2025 Meeting Minutes

Upon the Chair's call for a motion, Mr. Hasty made a motion to approve, which was seconded by Ms. Dean and carried unanimously.

Adult Drug Court Quarterly Update

Mr. Bridenback provided statistical information for the first and second quarters, including that the program had 374 active participants and 112 new admissions. He also reported that there are 36 veterans participating in the Veterans Treatment Court program; and that 28 individuals are participating in a prison diversion program; whereupon, Mr. Bridenback noted that admissions are typically lower during the holiday season and are expected to increase during upcoming quarters.

Mr. Burns arrived at 9:05 AM.

Mr. Bridenback indicated that staff is working with the State and the State Courts Administrator to prepare for certification under a new program regarding problem-solving courts. He also provided clarifying information related to staff's decision to delay certification due to a need to align with the State's expectations regarding data entry.

Juvenile Drug Court Quarterly Update

Referring to documents titled *Juvenile Drug Court Program Quarterly Report*, Ms. Greene provided statistical information for the period of October 1 through December 31, 2025, including that 51 juveniles entered Juvenile Drug Court, 15 graduated, and eight were discharged; that 21 juveniles were referred to Suncoast Center; and that five juveniles were referred for mental health services.

Ms. Greene also provided statistical information for the period of January 1 through March 31, 2026, including that 52 juveniles entered Juvenile Drug Court, 22 graduated, and six were discharged; that 34 juveniles were referred to Suncoast Center; and that 15 juveniles were referred for mental health services.

NEW BUSINESS

Membership Updates, Vacancies, or Resignations

Chair Geissenberger reported that Mr. Sturm is the alternate for Pinellas County Schools; whereupon, no one responded to his call for a representative from the Department of Juvenile Justice. He also related that he will be reaching out to the Sheriff or Chief Deputy David Danzig to discuss representation for the Pinellas County Sheriff's Office following the retirement of Captain Scott Matthews.

By-laws

Ms. Miles indicated that the bylaws and agenda language related to public comment may require updating; whereupon, she requested that the members review the bylaws in preparation for a discussion regarding the matter at the July SAAB meeting.

Florida Department of Law Enforcement JAG Grant updates

Ms. Carrillo reported that the federal solicitation through which the Florida Department of Law Enforcement (FDLE) receives funding was delayed for eight months; that the solicitation was released in March with an application due date of April 7; and that while FDLE has not yet provided information regarding the local solicitation timeline or final funding amount, staff anticipates receiving additional guidance in late May or early June and estimates funding of approximately \$250,000.00. She also emphasized FDLE's focus on a strong connection to criminal justice and encouraged the members to consider that factor when reviewing application eligibility.

Conflict of Interest Disclosure Form

Chair Geissenberger indicated that he and Messrs. Hasty and Miller and Major Amodio completed Conflict of Interest Disclosure Forms.

SAAB Review Committee Grant Funding Recommendations

FY25-26 EDWARD BYRNE MEMORIAL JUSTICE ASSISTANCE GRANT
COUNTYWIDE (JAC-C)

In response to a query by Ms. Roura, Ms. Nozicka indicated that applicants are not excluded from consideration based solely on incomplete application documentation; whereupon, discussion ensued, with input from Ms. Gordils and Nozicka and Mr. Burns, regarding several topics related to the application review process, including the following:

- Volume of supporting documentation included in application materials
- Accessibility of applications through the Neighborly portal
- Submission of applications without certain required documents
- Potential refinements to the application and review process

Thereupon, the members reviewed the applications, with input from Ms. Gordils and Nozicka and Mr. Burns, and agreed to the following scores:

Boys & Girls Center of Tampa Bay

Problem Identification (20 points): **10 points**
Criminal Justice Alignment (35 points): **10 points**
Scope of Services (20 points): **5 points**
Program Outcomes (10 points): **5 points**
Budget (15 points): **5 points**
Total Score: **35 points**

CASA Cares

Problem Identification (20 points): **15 points**
Criminal Justice Alignment (35 points): **30 points**
Scope of Services (20 points): **7 points**
Program Outcomes (10 points): **5 points**
Budget (15 points): **5 points**
Total Score: **62 points**

City of Largo

Problem Identification (20 points): **20 points**
Criminal Justice Alignment (35 points): **35 points**

Scope of Services (20 points): **20 points**
Program Outcomes (10 points): **8 points**
Budget (15 points): **15 points**
Total Score: **98 points**

Abstaining member: Major Amodeo

City of Pinellas Park

Problem Identification (20 points): **20 points**
Criminal Justice Alignment (35 points): **35 points**
Scope of Services (20 points): **20 points**
Program Outcomes (10 points): **10 points**
Budget (15 points): **15 points**
Total Score: **100 points**

Abstaining member: Chair Geissenberger

Clearwater Police Department

Problem Identification (20 points): **20 points**
Criminal Justice Alignment (35 points): **35 points**
Scope of Services (20 points): **20 points**
Program Outcomes (10 points): **10 points**
Budget (15 points): **15 points**
Total Score: **100 points**

Abstaining member: Mr. Hasty

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Problem Identification (20 points): **15 points**
Criminal Justice Alignment (35 points): **25 points**
Scope of Services (20 points): **20 points**
Program Outcomes (10 points): **10 points**
Budget (15 points): **5 points**
Total Score: **75 points**

Abstaining member: Mr. Miller

Florida Recovery Schools of Tampa Bay, Inc.

Problem Identification (20 points): **18 points**
Criminal Justice Alignment (35 points): **20 points**
Scope of Services (20 points): **15 points**
Program Outcomes (10 points): **5 points**

Budget (15 points): **5 points**
Total Score: **58 points**

Later in the meeting, the Board agreed to modify scoring for the application submitted by Florida Recovery Schools of Tampa Bay, Inc. to reflect zero points for Budget, resulting in a revised total score of 58 points.

Goodwill Industries Suncoast

Problem Identification (20 points): **5 points**
Criminal Justice Alignment (35 points): **10 points**
Scope of Services (20 points): **5 points**
Program Outcomes (10 points): **5 points**
Budget (15 points): **5 points**
Total Score: **35 points**

Gulfcoast Legal Services, Inc.

Problem Identification (20 points): **10 points**
Criminal Justice Alignment (35 points): **25 points**
Scope of Services (20 points): **16 points**
Program Outcomes (10 points): **5 points**
Budget (15 points): **5 points**
Total Score: **61 points**

MORE HEALTH, Inc.

Problem Identification (20 points): **20 points**
Criminal Justice Alignment (35 points): **35 points**
Scope of Services (20 points): **20 points**
Program Outcomes (10 points): **8 points**
Budget (15 points): **12 points**
Total Score: **95 points**

Phoenix House Florida

Problem Identification (20 points): **0 points**
Criminal Justice Alignment (35 points): **0 points**
Scope of Services (20 points): **5 points**
Program Outcomes (10 points): **0 points**
Budget (15 points): **5 points**
Total Score: **10 points**

Powerful Young Adults Inc

Problem Identification (20 points): **5 points**

Criminal Justice Alignment (35 points): **0 points**
Scope of Services (20 points): **0 points**
Program Outcomes (10 points): **0 points**
Budget (15 points): **0 points**
Total Score: **5 points**

Ready for Life, Inc.

Problem Identification (20 points): **15 points**
Criminal Justice Alignment (35 points): **25 points**
Scope of Services (20 points): **17 points**
Program Outcomes (10 points): **10 points**
Budget (15 points): **5 points**
Total Score: **72 points**

Recovery Epicenter Foundation

Problem Identification (20 points): **17 points**
Criminal Justice Alignment (35 points): **30 points**
Scope of Services (20 points): **17 points**
Program Outcomes (10 points): **8 points**
Budget (15 points): **10 points**
Total Score: **82 points**

Suncoast Center

Problem Identification (20 points): **20 points**
Criminal Justice Alignment (35 points): **35 points**
Scope of Services (20 points): **20 points**
Program Outcomes (10 points): **10 points**
Budget (15 points): **5 points**
Total Score: **90 points**

SAAB Board Award Recommendations Vote

FY25-26 EDWARD BYRNE MEMORIAL JUSTICE ASSISTANCE GRANT
COUNTYWIDE (JAG-C)

Referring to a spreadsheet listing applications by their total scores, Ms. Nozicka indicated that the top scoring applications are those submitted by the City of Pinellas Park, the Clearwater Police Department, the City of Largo, MORE HEALTH, Inc., and Suncoast Center; whereupon, discussion ensued regarding several topics, including the following:

- Quantity of applications which may be funded through the grant
- Potential distribution of remaining grant funds
- Feasibility of partial funding for lower-ranked applicants

- Allocation of administrative funding to the County

Ms. Gordils indicated that the recommended action is for the Board to fund all applications with a minimum score of 70, with the right of refusal for any organization to first go to any partially funded lowest-ranked applicant. She also related that funding would then be offered to the highest-ranked applicant in order, with tied applicants receiving equal consideration; whereupon, Mr. Burns made that motion, which was seconded by Mr. Miller and carried unanimously.

ROUNDTABLE

No one responded to the Chair's call for Board comments.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 10:39 AM.