

DRAFT- NOT RATIFIED BY BOARD

Opioid Abatement Funding Advisory Board Pinellas County July 28, 2026 Meeting Minutes

The Opioid Abatement Funding Advisory Board (OAFAB) met in regular session at 2:01 PM on this date in the Palm Room at the Pinellas County Communications Building, 333 Chestnut Street, Clearwater, Florida.

Present

Lindsay Judah, Chair, City of St. Petersburg Fire Rescue
Dr. Ulyee Choe, Co-Chair, Florida Department of Health in Pinellas County Director
Ricky Butler, City of Pinellas Park Councilman
Kathleen Peters, County Commissioner
Lina Teixeira, City of Clearwater Councilmember

Others Present

Gloria Coffey, Human Services Planning Section Manager
Sara Gordils, Human Services Contracts Section Manager
Cody Ward, Assistant County Attorney
Katie Poviones, Senior Board Records Specialist, Deputy Clerk
Other interested individuals

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

WELCOME AND CALL TO ORDER

Chair Judah called the meeting to order at 2:01 PM and confirmed the presence of a quorum.

Deviating from the agenda, Ms. Teixeira indicated that her term on the Clearwater City Council will be concluding; that she will not be seeking re-election; and that, since November will be her last month as a Clearwater City Councilmember, she is seeking the Board's permission to remain on the Board until then; whereupon, Chair Judah confirmed that a motion is not needed.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Upon the Chair's call for a motion to approve the minutes from the April 14 OAFAB meeting, Mr. Butler made a motion, which was seconded by Dr. Choe and carried unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Upon Chair Judah's call for public comment, Joshua Barnett, Sarasota, appeared. In response to a query by Chair Judah, Mr. Barnett confirmed that he is representing Goldfinch Health and is compensated by the organization; whereupon, he provided information regarding the Goldfinch Health's opioid prevention program.

Responding to queries by the members, Mr. Barnett summarized the organization's partnerships, services, and the utilization of artificial intelligence (AI) within the organization.

OPIOID TASK FORCE – DATA REVIEW

Chair Judah indicated that Pinellas County Opioid Task Force (OTF) Chair Marianne Dean is available to address inquiries from the Board regarding a data review document distributed to the members. In response to a query by Dr. Choe, Ms. Dean provided information regarding the OTF's focus on social connections, indicating that such connections can provide individuals with support to remain engaged in treatment. She also discussed the recent establishment of a recovery café by the Recovery Epicenter Foundation, which provides a space for individuals in recovery to gather and participate in social activities.

Responding to a query by Commissioner Peters, Ms. Dean clarified that the data included in the document provided to the members was obtained from State sources; and that she does not have updated Pinellas County data for 2025 or 2026. Human Services Director Karen Yatchum then added that she has County data from the Medical Examiner's Office; and that she will send it to Commissioner Peters following the meeting; whereupon, Ms. Teixeira requested that the data be distributed to the other members as well.

BEHAVIORAL HEALTH URGENT CARE CENTER (BHUCC) PROJECT OVERVIEW

Referring to a PowerPoint presentation, Ms. Yatchum provided an overview of the proposed BHUCC project to the Board, including the following details:

- Core and essential non-core services
- Partner agencies and their services
- Project budget and projected program income
- Current and projected Regional Funds
- Concerns raised since the Board's previous vote
- BHUCC, medication-assisted treatment (MAT), and residential program costs
- Demonstrated need for residential services

- Existing home-visiting services and capacity
- Safety considerations regarding shared adult and adolescent waiting areas

In response to a query by Commissioner Peters, Ms. Yatchum explained that staff visited Johns Hopkins All Children's Hospital and Dr. Choe's team and contacted the Juvenile Welfare Board, which funds other community programs; whereupon, responding to additional queries by Commissioner Peters, Ms. Yatchum clarified that while Johns Hopkins continues to provide its in-home program, the number of individuals served has been reduced following the loss of federal funding.

OPERATION PAR, INC. PRESENTATION

Referring to a PowerPoint presentation, Operation PAR, Inc. CEO Jim Miller discussed the proposed BHUCC program mission and its three primary service models; whereupon, he, with input from Operation PAR, Inc. Chief Clinical Officer Sandnes Boulanger and Evara Health Chief Medical Officer Nichelle Threadgill, provided information regarding the proposal, including the following details:

- Distinctions between a Crisis Stabilization Unit (CSU) and a BHUCC
- Operation PAR's integrated care team and clinical capabilities
- Proposed Operation PAR and Evara Health urgent care services
- Mental health and substance use services
- Patient flow within the BHUCC
- MAT Satellite and expanded access to treatment
- Level 1 residential stabilization and PAR Village services
- Partner roles and clinical structure
- Residential treatment services and patient flow
- Facility design and use of space
- Program budget and requested investment

Commissioner Peters expressed concern that the program's residential component differs from her prior expectations of the model; that the Level 1 model, including its 24-hour staffing requirements, is more expensive than she had anticipated; and that, while she supported addressing the needs of youth populations, she has concerns regarding the level of autonomy and family contact afforded to patients in a Level 1 facility.

In response to a query by Commissioner Peters, Ms. Boulanger clarified that while Operation PAR does not currently partner with Healthy Start, it does provide transition and case management services to residential clients beginning upon admission and individualizes services according to each client's needs.

Responding to an additional query by Commissioner Peters, Ms. Yatchum indicated that she has not acquired outcome data from Johns Hopkins regarding the success of its federally funded program; and that the program has transitioned to an outreach and educational model serving a smaller population.

In response to queries by Dr. Choe, Ms. Yatchum clarified that revenue generated through billing for program services would be considered program income; whereupon, Mr. Miller provided information regarding discussions with hospital systems concerning the costs associated with the proposed services.

DISCUSSION

Lengthy discussion ensued, with input from Mr. Miller and Ms. Gordils, regarding the cost of the program's residential component, including comparisons with other residential service models and potential alternatives for addressing maternal and child health needs.

In response to a query from Chair Judah, Ms. Gordils indicated that, since the program proposal is subject to the "cone of silence" and an active competitive procurement process, she would caution against materially altering the existing solicitation. She then requested that the Board provide direction regarding whether to proceed with the proposal as presented or to pursue an alternative approach, noting that, if the Board wishes to substantially modify the proposed services, staff could initiate a new solicitation.

Thereupon, additional discussion ensued regarding potential modifications to the project scope and budget, including proceeding with the BHUCC and expanded MAT components without the proposed residential component and considering alternative services for maternal and child health needs.

FORMAL VOTE

Dr. Choe made a motion to move forward with the program's urgent care component and expanded MAT services while exploring other priorities, including data governance and home-based care, at future meetings; whereupon, Mr. Butler seconded the motion. Following clarifying comments by Ms. Gordils, Dr. Choe confirmed that the home-based care component would include maternal and child health visitation services.

In response to a query by Ms. Yatchum regarding whether staff should revise the budget and bring it back to the Board or proceed with a \$25 million ceiling, Commissioner Peters expressed her support for proceeding with the latter due to the cost reimbursement structure of the project. Ms. Gordils also provided additional information regarding

safeguards for the use of the funds; whereupon, following the Chair's call for the vote, the motion carried unanimously.

NEXT SCHEDULED MEETING – OCTOBER 2, 2026 (1:00 PM - 3:00 PM)

Ms. Gordils indicated that staff intends to hold a work session on October 2 regarding data governance and community-based maternal and child health services. She also noted that the goal is to arrange a go-live date of October 1 for the agreement.

In response to a query by Commissioner Peters, Ms. Gordils, with input from Ms. Yatchum, explained that staff must revise the project budget, scope, and logic model and complete the approval process prior to presenting the revised agreement to the Board of County Commissioners (BCC); that the agreement is anticipated to be considered at the September 24 BCC meeting; and that staff will notify the members once the “cone of silence” has ended.

ADJOURNMENT

Ms. Teixeira made a motion to adjourn, which was seconded by Mr. Butler and carried unanimously; whereupon, the meeting was adjourned at 4:10 PM.