



**Orange County Opioid Advisory Committee and
Settlements Funds
Friday, May 9th, 2025
1:00pm-2:30pm
BCC Chambers 201 S. Rosalind Ave. Orlando FL 32801**



Welcome & Introductions: Dr. Thundiyil, MD, | Dr. Zuver, MD.

In Attendance:

Name – Organization

Panel:

Dr. Robert Karch – FL Dept of Health OC
Trinity Schwab – Central FL Cares
Chief Adrian Fernandez – EMS / Orlando Fire Dept
Dr. Christian Zuver- Medical Director, Orange County EMS System
Dr. Josef Thundiyil - Orlando Health
Paul Maxwell – HIDTA
Sgt. Kevin Lopez – Orlando Police Dept
Sgt. Robert "Kevin" Baker - Orange County Sheriff's Office
Abe Moore- City of Orlando

Presenters:

Dr. Thomas Hall – OC Drug-Free Office
Ronique Bain – FL Dept of Health in OC
Jaime Bridges - Orlando Health

Audience:

Britanny Brown - HIDTA
Cheryl Bello – STEPS
Janet Rivera – Drug-Free Office
Dennis Warner – Drug-Free Office
Heather Flanagan-- Drug-Free Office

Web-ex

Name - Organization

Jasmatti Seearam – OC Drug-Free Office
Tara Rao – OC Drug-Free Office
Angel Gonzales – The Southern Group
Chief Joshua Stephany – OC Medical Examiner Office
Stephen Teal – My FL Families
Alyssa London – Aspire Health Partners
Shannon Robinson – Aspire Health Partners
Anne Wedge-McMillen – OC Court House
Aki Smith – Orlando Health

Public Comment

No public comment at this meeting

Approval of Minutes

The committee approved the minutes drafted.

Public Health and Safety Team (PHAST) & Unintentional Fatal Overdoses (Dr. Thomas Hall)

- Dr. Thomas Hall presented data on Orange County Unintentional Fatal Overdoses.
 - Decrease in fatal opioid overdoses compared to the previous year
 - Poly Substance: Fentanyl related deaths have a significant decline
 - Poly Substance: Non-opioid-related deaths are increasing
 - Methamphetamines and cocaine have an upward trend
- Orange County Fire Rescue
 - Heat maps are unavailable for Q1
 - The Oak Ridge/OBT area is the highest Naloxone distribution area.

Florida Department of Health *(Ronique Bain, MPH)*

- In the first quarter, the number of Fentanyl and Opioid urgent care visits increased.
- All drug urgent care visits decreased.
- Males were predominantly the ones getting care.
- The leading race seeking urgent care were White at 54%, and non-Hispanic or Latino at 67%.
- The leading age group was 35-54 years with 99 visits.
- Top Orange County Facilities with Ed/ Urgent Care Visits
 - Orlando Regional Medical Center-41
 - Advent Health East Orlando-35
 - Advent Health Orlando-27
 - Orlando Health Central-26
 - Dr. P. Philips Hospital-21
- About 77.7% of visitors are Orange County residents.
- The Department is following up with data trends in Orange County in comparison to the rest of the state.

Central Florida HIDTA *(Paul Maxwell, DIO)*

- Fentanyl/heroin remains the top drug threat in central Florida.
 - Due to the highest percentage of non-fatal and fatal overdose deaths.
 - In Q1 of 2025, the CFHIDTA initiatives seized 15 kilograms of fentanyl, 39,191 fentanyl pills, and about 60 grams of heroin.
 - Both are down from Q1 of 2024.
 - There is an increase in heroin seizures in the western regions of the United States.
- Methamphetamine/ Ice ranked second highest threat in central Florida
 - Testing between 95-98 percent in purity.
 - 0 Meth labs in Florida now, super labs are now in Mexico, making 7,000 kilograms a week.
 - In Q1 of 2025, the CFHIDTA initiatives seized about 130 kilograms.
 - In Q1 of 2024, the CFHIDTA initiatives seized about 73 kilograms.
- Cocaine ranked as the third highest threat in Central Florida

- Mainly supplied by Colombian TCOs via the Caribbean Corridor and smuggled to Puerto Rican and Dominican drug Trafficking organizations.
- In Q1 of 2025, the CFHIDTA initiatives seized about 160 kilograms.
- In Q1 of 2024, the CFHIDTA initiatives seized about 205 kilograms
- Central Florida Drug Trends
 - Colombia County's time seizure of Etomidate (Space Oil) for vapes and e-cigarettes is a big issue in Hong Kong; the cost is about \$25.
 - Medetomidine is being laced with fentanyl, is a drug used in veterinary care for sedation and relaxation. Like Xylazine but 10-20 times more potent.
- Could be the next Xylazine
- Mixed with fentanyl

Orange County Sheriff's Office *(Lt. Shane DeJarnett, Sgt. Robert "Kevin" Baker)*

- Transitioned to a new reporting system to populate numbers better.
- Trends as far as total overdoses in the state of Florida are like those around the country.
- OCSO had 12 Narcan Deployments because civilians were already on the scene who administered naloxone.
- Opioid Case
 - Seized during an ongoing operation, "fake" M30 pills containing fentanyl and a variety of substances were found within these pills.
- Drugs have been packaged in cereal boxes.
- Diamonds and sugar diamonds have recently been found in Western states.

Orlando Police Department *(Sergeant, Kevin López)*

- Proactive Efforts focusing on reactive investigations and proactive enforcement, which led to significant seizures and arrests in Q1.
- Statistical comparisons
 - Overdose deaths down to 8 in Q1 of 2025 (were 17 in 2024)
 - Naloxone deployments in Q1 of 2025 were 16 compared to 20 in 2024.

Subcommittee Updates— Education & Prevention & Treatment

Orlando Health *(Jaime Bridges, LCSW)*

- Better access program 88 better access referrals starting from November 2024, 28 successful discharges and 13 unsuccessful. Just celebrated the first 90-day cycle.
- 366 total assessments done (Opioid leading with 157 in second Alcohol with 157).

- 323 referrals provided.
- Initiatives
 - Narcan distributed to ED/ Inpatient Overdoses ORMC (142)
 - Orange County Drug Free Office funds MAT Grant for all Orange County Campuses.
 - A new telehealth program has started to have more outreach.
 - The approval process to provide fentanyl test strips will start distributing in the first week of May.
 - Waiting for approval for installing Narcan vending machines through funding from the Orange County Drug Free Office.
 - We are working with the Orange County Drug-Free Office to fund the contract for two ED MAT Nurse Navigators. The agreement has been signed. We are currently working with HR to fill the positions.
- We are seeing challenges with older groups over 50 getting treatment, along with housing.

AdventHealth (*Michelle Dodson, LCSW*)

- Did not present

Settlements Funds

Dr. Thomas Hall presented the report on opioid settlement funds.

- Trends on cocaine: there was a 13.5% decrease in stimulant-related deaths, and we saw a 16% increase during this period. Still, our data included other drugs including Alcohol, will have to go deeper into data to see what was found.
- 1% of overdose deaths were poly-substances in 2010, and a decade later, increased to 32%.
- We are trying to find transitional housing for patients working with Camp currently. The facility on OBT is ready with 120 beds. We are trying to get at least 50 beds for better access to treatment, and we are just waiting on logistics.
- Better Access to Treatment Opioid Navigator Initiative
 - Presented draft of what will be required from vendors, which will be inpatient and outpatient providers for specific tasks
 - The target for patients coming in would be to get information for MAT
 - For the first year, there will be a head count
- Florida CORE Project
 - A multi-agency system of care for people with a substance use disorder. The foundation of this approach is a "no wrong door" policy, ensuring that regardless of how the patient enters the system of care, they will have equal access and the same sense of urgency.

- Assigned them to someone who will follow up and provide resources or references
- Better Access to Treatment Project Summary
 - Regional Opioid Settlement funds supplement the Better Access to Treatment funding.
 - Residential Treatment
 - Transitional housing
 - Intensive case management services for at-risk populations
 - MAT services at the Orange County Medical Clinic
 - Behavioral health services at the Orange County medical clinic
 - Adult drug court, intensive outpatient treatment, and case management
 - Certified Recovery peer specialists at the 9th Judicial Circuit Court
 - Case managers at the Orange County Jail and the 9th Judicial Circuit Court
 - Providing funding to operate a 24/7 AT helpline
 - Public health outreach
 - Youth substance use prevention
 - Ten residential treatment beds for women and their children with substance use disorder (SUD) treatment at maximum capacity
 - • Five hundred face-to-face and 5,264 non-face-to face client contacts
 - • Clients provided with 1,213 services (wrap-around, after-care, behavioral health), social support, and referrals
 - • Two hundred thirty-seven clients received or referred to MAT services
 - • One hundred fifty-one clients participated in adult Drug Court individual or group therapy
 - • Over twenty-three thousand Naloxone kits & 4,641 fentanyl test strips distributed
 - • Over 2000 rideshare services provided to clients
 - • Received national award for our prevention work with youth
 - • Featured on SAMHSA Instagram for our Alcohol Awareness Month activities
- New Initiatives
 - Request for proposal on youth prevention strategies.
 - Academic Detailing-non opioid pain management research.
 - "Drop in" concept 24/7 point of entry for MAT induction.
- STEPS Report
 - Enhanced existing programs to meet the needs of the community.
 - Providing comprehensive support to clients and seeing a population of 60 years old plus with complex health needs.
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- One hundred thirty-one individuals were served in Q1
- Women's residential program in Q1, 10 beds have steadily been occupied. 100% of those who completed this quarter have become employed, applied for health insurance, and improved their family relationships.

Next Quarterly Meeting: 8/8/2025 at 9:00 am

Adjournment: 10:30 am

Prepared by: Dennis Warner Date: 5/9/2025

Approved by: Thomas Hall Date: 5/16/2025