



**Orange County Opioid Advisory Committee and
Settlements Funds
Friday, February 28, 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
Kathleen Russell – City of Orlando Office of the Mayor
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

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
Megan Giddens – Drug-Free Office
Janet Rivera – Drug-Free Office
Christina Teixeira – 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 the Unintentional Fatal Overdoses OC Medical Examiner's Data
 - Decline in fatal overdoses compared to the previous year
 - Poly Substance: Fentanyl related deaths have a major decline
 - Poly Substance: Non-opioid related deaths are increasing
 - Methamphetamines and cocaine seem to have an upwards trend
- PHAST
 - Challenges putting the infrastructure together and hoping to have it complete by next quarter
 - PHAST chart was presented showing team leaders and support for each interception

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

- Ronique Bain went over opioid surveillance.
 - ED/Urgent Care visits have had a steady decline from past quarters to present
 - Males predominantly
 - Same demographic as last quarters
 - 35–54-year-olds having the highest # of visits
 - The top 5 most visited facilities have around the same percentages as last quarters with Advent Health East Orlando having the most
 - Orange County has the most visits from surrounding county

Orange County Fire Rescue Report *(Bertilus Bornelus, Battalion Chief of EMS)*

- Data issues with their system
- They will present their report next quarter

Subcommittee Updates—Law Enforcement

Central Florida HIDTA *(Paul Maxwell, DIO)*

- Fentanyl and Heroin remain the top threat to Central Florida
 - Overdose deaths are down from last quarter
 - Less seizures
- Methamphetamine is ranked as second as a threat for Central Florida
 - Increase in seizures from last quarter
- Cocaine is ranked third as a threat for Central Florida
 - Mainly supplied via the Caribbean corridor from Puerto Rico and Dominican Republic
 - Less seizures
 - Trending upwards nationally
 - Their prices have been drastically reduced
 - 13,500 per Kilogram

- Testing for fentanyl
- Bromazolam has been seen more within the last year
 - Mixed in with several drugs
- BTMPS is being investigated and researched
 - Not sure what it is
 - Mixed with Fentanyl
- Pyro is a new high potency synthetic opioid increasing in the U.S.
 - More potent than fentanyl
 - Has been seen a couple times
- N-Isopropylbutylone has been found in some lab results
 - Not much is known
- Metamizole (dipyrone)
 - Was seen early on and now they are starting to see it more
 - Veterinarians use it
 - Easy to get
 - Could be the next Xylazine
 - Mixed with fentanyl

Orange County Sheriff's Office (*Sgt. Robert "Kevin" Baker*)

- Downward trend in total overdoses and deaths
- Naloxone has been assisting.
- Sheriff's deputies administered Narcan 5 times this year
- Seizures are ongoing investigations in the east side of Orange County
- Fake M30 pills containing fentanyl are being seized
- Ketamine hasn't been seen in a significant amount

Orlando Police Department (*Sergeant Kevin Lopez*)

- Reactive investigations responding to fatal overdoses
- Proactive enforcements where they speak to living victims
- Overdose deaths
 - 4th quarter of 2023: 18
 - 4th quarter of 2024: 13
- Naloxone deployments
 - 4th quarter of 2023: 30
 - 4th quarter of 2024: 8
 - Counting whether it is OPD or a pedestrian deploying naloxone
- Fatal overdoses 2023 vs 2024 have gone down 39%
- Home Suite Home community awareness and advocacy event
 - Very successful

Subcommittee Updates— Education & Prevention & Treatment

Orlando Health *(Jaime Bridges, LCSW)*

- Better Access Program is working well
 - Recently celebrated their first 90-day cycle
 - 10 successful discharges and 6 unsuccessful
- No significant increase in giving out Narcan (around 40)
- Same number of referrals, however assessments and referrals to outpatient have increased due to increase of personal of peers
- Narcan distributed to ED/Inpatient overdoses ORMC went down a bit this quarter (123)
- Working on a new telehealth program which is now live
 - Reach out more patients
- Current initiatives
 - Contract with county to provide 2 ED MAT nurse navigators at ORMC
 - Nasal Narcan vending machines funded by the county
 - In approval process to provide fentanyl test strips with take home Narcan program funded by the county

AdventHealth *(Michelle Dodson, LCSW)*

- Did not present

Settlements Funds

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

- 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 philosophy of care
 - Those who go into the emergency department due to an opioid overdose will be treated and the goal is to afterwards for them to have a warm handoff into the community
 - Assigned them to someone who will follow-up and provide resources or references
- Better Access to Treatment Project Summary 2024 Q4
 - Quarter 4
 - There were 486 wrap around services, social support, and referrals
 - There was 145 MAT services provided to clients
 - Through Orange County Medical Clinic MAT program ran by STEPS
 - 25,435 Narcan kits distributed

- Largely due to Project Opioid
- 146 training sessions related to how to use Narcan and Fentanyl
- 376 training sessions related to recovery in workforce
- Opioid Navigator Teams had 470 conversations and 8,106 non-face-to-face contacts
- Ride shares 1,656 rides provided to 173 clients which is a 14% increase from quarter 3
- Vendors and Organizations
 - Project Opioid
 - Narcan distributed was 25,000
 - 376 training sessions related to recovery in workforce
 - Largest Heart
 - Fentanyl test strip distributed was 7,289 at 9 different events
 - Samaritan Resource Center
 - Works with transformation village
 - Saw 16 clients who received 260 wrap around services and referrals
 - 37 clients were provided with MAT services or referrals
 - Recovery Connections
 - Manages rideshare
 - Provides transitional housing services
 - 5 were placed into transitional housing
 - STEPS
 - Medicated Assisted Treatment Clinic
 - Saw 57 long-term clients
 - Seeing weekly
 - Women's residential program
 - Beds have been filled for the past year
 - 10 beds
 - 12 women have been served in those 10 beds
 - Orlando Health
 - 56 clients connected to referrals
 - 26 MAT services were provided
 - 64 face-to-face conversations
 - 65 non-face-to-face conversations
 - 37 wrap around services
 - Advent Health
 - Jail based navigator program

- General funds
 - 78 clients connected through referrals
 - 188 face-to-face conversations 12% increase from quarter 3
 - 2,760 non-face-to-face conversations 17% increase from quarter 3
 - 58 after-care services provided
 - 78 wrap around services
 - Community based navigator team
 - Saw 88 clients
 - 185 face-to-face conversations increase of 5%
 - 5,215 non-face-to-face conversations increase of 50%
 - 13 after-care services
 - Case management
 - 71 services
 - 112 clients who received MAT services
 - True Health
 - Referred 8 clients for MAT services
 - 36 face-to-face contacts
 - 66 non-face-to-face contacts
 - 224 clients for behavioral health
 - DOJ grant
 - Hoping to continue settlement with opioid
 - Numbers are low due to clients having insurance
- The Opioid Settlements funds have enabled the opportunity to give the MAT services for free to those who are uninsured or under-insured
 - Have been able to focus on jail population
 - Received referrals from Orlando Health from their ED
- Housing is the biggest need especially those in MAT
- Dr. Tom Hall presented the flow chart for the process of ER
 - Nursing staff at Advent Health from 7p-7a would work with these patients
 - 3–5-hour timeframe
 - Make sure patients inducted are leaving the hospital safely
 - Provided information after leaving the hospital for follow-ups
 - Depending on the psychosocial scale they will be shown to the correct provider
- Clinical care

- CORE eligible clients
 - If they have high support, then they're followed up at the hospital with a 30-day follow-up
 - If referred to community navigator, which is the intensive case management, they will have a referral to a non-patient MAT with follow-up
 - Calls directly from helpline referred to community navigators
- Dr. Tom Hall presented the pictures of vending machines with Free Narcan
 - The first two will be situated on the premises of Orange County Jail
- Working on a spreadsheet for financials of funds

Next Quarterly Meeting: 5/9/2025 at 9:00am

Adjournment: 2:10pm

Prepared by: Camila Brugal Date: 3/27/2025

Approved by: _____ Date: _____