

# OPIOID AND SUBSTANCE USE DISORDER (OSUD) GRANTS COMMITTEE

## Meeting Minutes

April 23, 2024, 2:00 PM

City Hall, 1<sup>st</sup> Floor, Lynwood Roberts Room

Chair: Dr. Lantie Jorandby (not present)

Vice-Chair: Dr. Richmond Wynn

Secretary: Antonio Nichols

Committee Meeting Attendance	
	Dr. Lantie Jorandby - Chair
X	Dr. Richmond Wynn - Vice-Chair
X	Antonio Nichols - Secretary
X	Heather Rios
	Dr. John Tanner
	Nancy Rice
X	Sarah Smith

**Quorum Present:** Yes

### Staff:

- Madelaine Zarou and Laura Viafora Ray - Jacksonville Fire and Rescue Department
- Jeremy Brown - Office of General Counsel, City of Jacksonville

### City Council Liaison:

- City Council President Ronald Salem

#### I. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 2:01 PM by Dr. Richmond Wynn, Vice-Chair.

#### II. Welcome and Introductions

Staff members introduced themselves, and each OSUD Grants Committee member in attendance introduced themselves.

#### III. Office of Opioid Abatement Update

Madelaine Zarou, Manager of Opioid Abatement, gave an update from the Office of Opioid Abatement. Ms. Zarou started with an update on the FY 2023-2024 contracts and noted that as of now they have 14 fully executed contracts out of 24. She stated that they were working with JFRD Procurement and the Office of General Counsel to usher in the remaining ten.

Next, Ms. Zarou gave an update on relevant legislation. She shared that Ordinance 2024-0250, which amended Chapter 84, was signed by Mayor Deegan on April 9<sup>th</sup>. She then noted that 2024-0251, legislation that took the percent distribution recommendations from the OSUD Committee for the funded categories, passed in the Rules Committee and the Finance Committee. She reminded the Committee and the public that the recommendation was to retain the same percentages as in the first cycle

at 34% in prevention, 33% in treatment, and 33% in recovery support and noted that legislation is expected to pass at City Council tonight.

She then gave a reminder about the Mandatory Application Workshop, noting that agencies interested in applying for an opioid settlement proceeds grant must attend at least one workshop. She shared the workshops are being held virtually via Microsoft Teams on Thursday, April 25<sup>th</sup> and Monday, April 29<sup>th</sup> and registration is open and the link is available to anyone who needs it.

Next, Ms. Zarou gave an update on CyberGrants and reminded the Committee and the public that it is an online platform that the program has acquired to transition away from SharePoint which was used in the first cycle. She shared that the platform will be up and running on April 29<sup>th</sup>, in time for the application open date of May 1<sup>st</sup>. She went on to say that applying agencies will become familiar with CyberGrants during the Mandatory Application Workshop and committee members would receive training in May.

Finally, Ms. Zarou stated that her office has invited agencies with fully executed contracts to give updates on their programs and agencies who did not have an opportunity to do so this meeting will be invited either in May or June.

#### **IV. Public Comment**

Dr. Wynn opened the floor to public comment. There were no public comments.

#### **V. Vote on Minutes from March 2024 Meeting**

Antonio Nichols, Secretary, put forth a motion to vote to approve the meeting minutes from the March 25, 2024, meeting. Heather Rios seconded the motion. There was no discussion. The motion passed unanimously.

#### **VI. Vote on Budget Change Requests**

Two funded agencies presented a summary of their program budget change requests.

First, Joanne Kazmierski presented on behalf of the Boys' and Girls' Clubs and their SMART Moves Program. Ms. Kazmierski stated that they made an error when they developed the program budget detail - they put \$5,053.00 in the Unemployment Tax line item instead of the FICA line item and they were requesting to move the full amount of the Unemployment line item to the FICA line item. There were no questions from committee members.

Sarah Smith put forth a motion to approve the budget change request. Mr. Nichols seconded the motion. There was no discussion. The motion passed unanimously.

Patricia Sampson presented on behalf of Community Rehabilitation Center, awarded two grants - a prevention program and a treatment program. Ms. Sampson noted they were requesting budget changes for both programs and each budget change request included changes to multiple line items. She stated that the initial grant program budget

detail was created for a one-year program, and as they are getting closer to the end of grant, she suggested their new budget represents a more realistic view of what the expenditures will be. She went on to say that because of the shortening of the timeline of the award, salaries were reduced, or positions were eliminated due to overlapping. She also shared that they reallocated the funds to other line items such as for more supplies and equipment. Ms. Sampson stated that their request for rent increased because they were originally planning to share occupancy with another program, but that program has now ended, and this program is the primary program in the rental space. She went on to say that these changes applied to their prevention and treatment program, but for treatment they are still sharing building occupancy with another program.

Mr. Nichols asked Ms. Sampson about the positions in each budget that were eliminated. He asked if other positions were absorbing some of those duties or if those duties were no longer applicable to the work plan. Ms. Sampson answered by stating that the duties were reevaluated and because of the shorter period of time some of the duties would be covered by other positions.

Ms. Smith asked Ms. Sampson if they would still meet their deliverables, and Ms. Sampson answered “yes.”

Ms. Rios introduced a motion to accept the budget change request for the prevention program. Ms. Smith seconded the motion. There was no discussion. The motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Nichols introduced a motion to approve the budget change request for the treatment program. Ms. Rios seconded the motion. There was no discussion. The motion passed unanimously.

## **VII. FY 2023-2024 Awardee Presentations**

Four funded agencies presented a summary of their OSPG-funded programs.

First, Angie Dawson, Director of Wrap Around Services with the Boys’ and Girls’ Clubs of Northeast Florida, presented on their SMART Moves Program (a prevention program). She shared the following:

- The program started on February 1<sup>st</sup> and 1,800 kids have started the program thus far.
- Law Enforcement Against Drugs is part of the curriculum and involves a 10-week program administered by law enforcement.
- The program focuses on resiliency, choices, goals, and healthy relationships. The program includes different curriculum for different age groups. For example, a puppet is used with younger groups to talk about goals and good decision-making. For a high school, there is curriculum for teachers and a book for the students. All age groups play games as part of the curriculum.

- Ms. Dawson also said she has worked with kids for over 25 years and has seen the difference in how their kids react to the program. She has watched the students enjoy the activities and learn.
- Ms. Dawson noted that they anticipate seeing at least 3,330 kids by the end of September and that the program will be implemented during the summertime as well as during the school year.
- She concluded by stating that when you start with younger kids you can help guide decisions young people make and you can change their lives.

Dr. Wynn asked Ms. Dawson if they had gotten direct feedback from participants. She answered by saying she has watched the kids and has seen how they enjoy it and participate and not sit back in the corner. Ms. Dawson also noted she has asked the staff how they feel about the program, and they are excited to deliver the program to the young people. Dr. Wynn also asked what the age groups were, and Ms. Dawson answered that the program is for grades K-12. She went on to say that one student could, in theory, participate every year, because the curriculum is age appropriate and changes grade to grade.

There were no additional questions from the committee.

Next, Melani Albritton, Quality Assurance Director with Operation New Hope, presented on their Ready4Work program (a recovery support program). She shared the following:

- Ready4Release is a program for individuals who will be released from incarceration within six months. Once released, the goal is for them to enroll in their Ready4Work program.
- Ready4Work is a program that assists those who have been recently released from prison or jail or are currently under any type of supervision i.e. probation or drug court.
  - Ready4Work includes a 3-week training program that includes life skills and job readiness skills. A job coach provides job placement assistance. Program participants are also assigned a case manager and a therapist to develop a plan of care. The case manager and therapist work with the participant to address barriers in personal development, professional development, or other barriers. Participants also receive three months of transitional housing, bus passes, food, a stipend, work attire, clothes, a weekly stipend, a graduation stipend, and additional stipends for retaining their job or meeting other milestones. The program lasts one year, and with the OSP grant they have supplemented the services that they already provide by targeting those with substance use disorders so they can also receive transitional/sober living housing, participate in support groups, receive recovery kits, and art therapy. Ms. Albritton noted they are on track to reaching deliverables and have assisted 29 clients in February and March with sober living/transitional housing. 96% of those clients have graduated, and 91% of those clients are employed with an average hourly wage of \$15.00.

- Ready4Success is the virtual option for the Ready4Work program for those participants who need this flexibility.

Dr. Wynn asked Ms. Albritton if they had gotten direct feedback from participants. She answered by stating that every Friday for their graduating class they do a client survey and feedback they get frequently is clients saying they wish the classes were longer, or they would say they've never graduated from anything or finished anything, or did not know what would happen after prison.

Dr. Wynn then asked if they had partnered with existing sober living environments or if they had created their own. Ms. Albritton answered by saying that they have partnered with agencies such as Gateway that have sober living and other community agencies and they also have vendors that have sober living. She went on to say that there are requirements to be a vendor - they must provide NA/AA groups and have other rules.

There were no additional questions from the committee. Mr. Nichols said it is a wonderful program and he enjoyed hearing about it.

Next, Jennifer Ryan, CEO of Volunteers in Medicine (VIM) Jacksonville gave a presentation on their agency and the prevention program funded by the OSPG Program. She shared the following:

- VIM is a free clinic for the working uninsured and all their work is done with 250 volunteers including medical residents and fellows and retired physicians.
- They offer primary care and 16 specialties. They see about 1,000 individuals per year over about 5,000 visits.
- They utilize a primary prevention model and do not prescribe opioids or any addictive medications, but they see that their patients are at risk for opioid misuse. Their patients are living paycheck to paycheck and might be one catastrophe or health scare away from homelessness.
- They are focusing on their patients with pain (back pain, knee pain, etc.) or mental health concerns. They have a specialist in pain management who provides injections and can refer to physical therapy.
- With the OSPG-funded program, they are looking at innovative prevention strategies. They moved into a new facility a year ago and have more space. They are working with UNF and animal-assisted and equine therapy. On pain management days, they will bring in the animals to be in the lobby. A lot of time since February 1<sup>st</sup> has been dedicated to setting that up and having a safe space because a lot of work goes into animal-assisted therapy. They will be doing equine therapy, which is evidence-based for pain and mental health. They will provide travel for the patients to get to the farm where the therapy takes place.
- They are also working with the Area Health Education Center (AHEC) to provide smoking cessation. They will be providing patient education and physician education. They started yoga on Saturdays with Yoga 4 Change and Family Foundations is providing the mental health counseling.
- Funds are also used to purchase alternative medicines to opioids such as injections or ibuprofen.

- All patients are screened for pain. They have performed 706 pain screenings since the beginning of February, as well as 658 PHQ screenings for mental health. If a patient scores 1 or 2 on a PHQ2 they complete the PHQ8 and meet with their physician.

Dr. Wynn asked what feedback they have gotten from patients. Ms. Ryan answered by sharing that they did a test day with animal-assisted therapy and a patient peeked out and said that they would love to see the dog. She went on to say they have received a tremendous response to the yoga and are filling up the room. She said the patients find it very therapeutic and a lot of them have never done yoga before.

There were no additional questions from the committee.

The final program presentation was from Aida Seeraj, Founder and CEO of Inspire to Rise, who presented on their Inspired Youth program (a prevention program). She shared the following:

- Inspire to Rise is a community center focused on holistically treating people - behavioral health, community education, community services, resource connection, the arts, and peer recovery.
- On average, they serve about 1,000 participants in traditional services and another 6,000 in outreach services. They provide 18,000 concrete supports from Narcan to diapers to Deterra. In traditional services, they average about 12,000 services a year.
- Inspire to Rise Previously had the Inspired Youth program and then COVID hit. It was a respite program for youth in need. A lot of organizations asked when they were going to bring it back.
- The Inspired Youth Program is a prevention and recovery focused program for youth ages 10 to 15 at risk of opioid misuse and substance misuse disorders and for those struggling with co-occurring disorders such as mental health disorders. The program focuses on youth and family dealing with trauma and who need support, guidance, education, care coordination, recovery support, and treatment. They will be working with the families in their home. The program will provide coping skills, positive social support, outpatient treatment for substance use and mental health, life skills, and healthy ways to cope and be heard, seen, and loved.
- For this quarter they had to rebuild the program including the program manual, flyer, referral process, and daily activities. In this quarter they onboarded the program manager and peer community advocate. In April they onboarded the teacher and community service coordinator.
- There has been a lot of collaboration and partnership and outreach to create awareness with a focus on youth serving organizations. They have done ten partnership meetings and presentations, participated in 14 outreach events (hosted or attended). They reached over 400 individuals to create awareness of the program. They have free tutoring on campus and have partnered with Yoga 4 Change for youth and for staff. They are also working with the School of Epicure for youth to eat well and learn how to make their meals, learning food etiquette,

- making good choices, and use the community garden. They are working with a partner to provide extracurricular activities for the students during the summer.
- For referral sources, they have contacted Communities in Schools and Westside Teen Court. They are the new Westside Teen Court location and they have already started with that.
  - There is a small house on the Inspire to Rise campus that they have converted into the Inspired Youth Center. It is ADA compliant and more welcoming now. They did a ribbon cutting ceremony on April 13<sup>th</sup> and are now accepting referrals.

Ms. Smith asked, since they are doing some services at the school and some on your site, how does the program get the students from school to the program location. Ms. Seeraj answered by saying that the children will be doing Florida virtual school. She went on to say that is one of the challenges with the program. They have a certified teacher, and they have parents who say their children need this program, but they are being advised to wait until the end of the school year, so the student is not pulled from their school in the final quarter. They want the transition to the program to be seamless. Ms. Smith also asked if the program was an all-day program or an after-school program. Ms. Seeraj clarified that it is an all-day program and they tutoring and other activities after the school day.

Dr. Wynn asked Ms. Seeraj what their capacity was. Ms. Seeraj responded by saying that for this grant cycle their capacity is 15 students, and their goal is to reapply for the grant for more dollars in the future to enroll more youth. Dr. Wynn then asked what the role of the parents would be in the program. Ms. Seeraj said that they have a position who will be working directly with the parents and going into the home and assessing family needs. This could be environmental needs, or it could be other factors, but they want to navigate and figure out what is needed such as parenting education, support services, etc. Dr. Wynn also asked if youth can self-refer. Ms. Seeraj stated that youth can self-refer, and they are getting referrals from the schools and from all over. She then shared a success story from a client who received outpatient treatment services from their center and had been using substances but has now graduated and has joined the military. The mother of this client expressed that the program had helped her son and now hoped it could help her daughter.

There were no additional questions from the committee.

## **VIII. New Business**

Dr. Wynn opened the floor to new business. There was no new business.

Dr. Wynn opened the floor again to public comment. Jeremiah with Sulzbacher introduced himself. He stated that his agency is looking to apply for the next cycle and he wanted to know what the maximum allocation amount will be. Ms. Zarou answered by saying that the maximum award amount is \$500,000 per program, but there is also a rule based on average tax returns. Her office will calculate the average revenue of the agency over the past three years and then calculate 24% of that and this represents the maximum allocation for an agency over any number of applications in a grant cycle. She

went on to say that the grant program budget will be voted on by City Council in late September.

**IX. Adjournment**

Ms. Smith put forth a motion to vote to adjourn the meeting. Ms. Rios seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned by Dr. Wynn at 2:52 PM.

***Next Meeting Date - Monday, May 20th, 2024 at 2:00 PM***

To be signed by Antonio Nichols, Secretary, certifying approval by Committee:

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**This version of the meeting minutes is the accessible version to be uploaded to the Program website. The version containing the Secretary signature certifying approval by the Committee is on file with the Office of Opioid Abatement and can be requested by emailing [opiodabatment@coj.net](mailto:opiodabatment@coj.net).**