

OPIOID AND SUBSTANCE USE DISORDER (OSUD) GRANTS COMMITTEE

Meeting Minutes

May 20, 2024, 2:00 PM

City Hall, 1st Floor, Lynwood Roberts Room

Chair: Dr. Lantie Jorandby

Vice-Chair: Dr. Richmond Wynn

Secretary: Antonio Nichols

Committee Meeting Attendance	
X	Dr. Lantie Jorandby - Chair
X	Dr. Richmond Wynn - Vice-Chair
X	Antonio Nichols - Secretary
X	Heather Rios
X	Dr. John Tanner
X	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 (not present)

I. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 1:59 PM by Dr. Lantie Jorandby, 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 shared that 21 of 24 program contracts for the fiscal year 2023-2024 cycle have been fully executed - two of the three that have not yet been executed were delayed due to a conflict-of-interest issue that has now been resolved, and the other one currently is on hold because the agency brought up questions about the contract and this has been elevated to the Office of General Counsel.

She next shared that there was an extension announced for the deadline to submit applications in the fiscal year 2024-2025 cycle and those are now due no later than Monday, July 1st at 4:00 PM. She noted that the Committee will be voting to approve an amended timeline during the June meeting. Ms. Zarou said that her office hosted two Mandatory Application Workshops in late April and had 33 agencies attend. Those

agencies are eligible to submit applications. She reminded the Committee and attendees that they had started using CyberGrants as an online application submission platform this cycle and so far have received positive feedback about the platform from agencies, but noted that in-person submissions are still an option. Ms. Zarou then provided an update about courtesy reviews noting that so far they have conducted two courtesy reviews and they have seven scheduled. She went on to say that since the application deadline was extended, they also extended the deadline for courtesy reviews to Monday, June 24th and they have a few slots still available.

IV. Public Comment

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

V. Vote on Minutes from April 2024 Meeting

Dr. Richmond Wynn, Vice-Chair, put forth a motion to vote to approve the meeting minutes from the April 23, 2024, meeting. Sarah Smith seconded the motion. There was no discussion. The motion passed unanimously.

VI. Discussion: FY 2024-2025 OSPG Scoring Subcommittees

Laura Viafora Ray, Program Coordinator - Opioid Abatement, provided the Committee members with an overview of the scoring subcommittee option. She noted that the Committee has the option to split into three scoring subcommittees that align with the three funded categories - prevention, treatment, and recovery support. Ms. Viafora Ray went on to say that should the Committee vote to split into scoring subcommittees then her office would sort applications by funded category and randomly sort members to two subcommittees each, while taking into consideration things like conflict-of-interest issues and the number of applications in each funded category. She also noted that the ordinance mandates that each application be scored by a minimum of three members and that their plan would ensure this minimum requirement is met or exceeded. Ms. Viafora Ray went on to explain that if the Committee votes not to split into scoring subcommittees, then the process would be the same as in the first cycle wherein each member scored every application with the exception of conflict-of-interest considerations. She went on to say that due to the deadline being extended the Committee could vote to push this vote to June and further explained that they will not know exactly how many applications they will receive this year because many agencies wait until close to the deadline to submit, but they have 33 agencies that are eligible to apply and each agency can submit multiple applications.

Dr. Jorandby opened the floor to Committee discussion on this topic.

Dr. Wynn asked how much time committee members will have to score the applications and Ms. Zarou answered by saying they anticipate scoring will begin sometime around July 26th and extend until around August 26th and that they would have at least four full weeks.

Dr. John Tanner noted that the timing of the FY 2023-2024 scoring period was optimal because it fell during the holidays and that gave him more time since he went through

all of the applications twice. He added that there was a lot of information to go through and that he favors splitting them up, but he is flexible.

Ms. Smith asked Ms. Viafora Ray to elaborate on how the subcommittees would be split up and asked if equal representation by the different types of committee members would be considered. Ms. Viafora Ray answered that there were a lot of considerations to take into account including following the ordinance and sunshine laws but that they would take points brought up during this discussion into consideration. Ms. Zarou clarified with Ms. Smith if her concern was not having equal representation from the different types of committee members i.e. mental health specialists and peer specialists and Ms. Smith verified that was her concern. Dr. Tanner added that he felt that was a valid point and that he felt stronger about the clinical side of things compared to assessing budgets.

Heather Rios asked if the scoring training was going to be before the next meeting and Ms. Zarou clarified that the CyberGrants workshop will be moved since the application deadline was extended, and as a result the workshop will likely occur after the next Committee meeting. Ms. Viafora Ray stated that there are no differences in the evaluation criteria and the descriptions of those criteria compared to the last cycle and that the purpose of the training is for the committee members to familiarize themselves with CyberGrants as a platform from a technical standpoint. She addressed Dr. Tanner's earlier comment by noting that regardless of the application type - prevention, treatment, or recovery support - there would be an evaluation component related to the budget.

Nancy Rice echoed what Dr. Tanner said and noted it was fortuitous that they had the holidays in the first cycle to put towards looking at the grants. She also stated that scoring 33 applications or more was a lot. Ms. Rice went on to say she would be more inclined to divide the applications up through scoring subcommittees, but that she would comply with whatever the Committee decided on.

Antonio Nichols, Secretary, said he was also in favor of scoring subcommittees, but he was also flexible with going based on what the majority of the Committee decides.

Ms. Zarou reminded the Committee that they do not need to vote on this today and that her office would work on putting together some scenarios to share what splitting up applications by subcommittees might look like.

Dr. Wynn moved that the Committee vote on whether to split into scoring subcommittees at the next meeting. Ms. Smith seconded the motion. There was no further discussion. The motion passed unanimously.

VII. Vote on Budget Change Requests

Kathleen Roberts, CEO of Community Coalition Alliance, presented a summary of budget changes they were requesting for their funded program titled "Duval's Approach to Reduce Opioid Overdose" (DAROO). Ms. Roberts described the changes as follows:

- Changes to the percentage efforts of personnel due in part to the loss of a staff member and needing to allocate their responsibilities to other positions.
- They did not have to pay as much as they had expected for speakers to present at their Regional DENs meetings, and they would like to use that excess funding to support another part of the project to build a data system. Currently they rely on 30 to 40 data dashboards covering substance use (consumption and consequences), geography, mental health, partner data (resource distribution), etc. and they would instead like to pull all this data together into one system to see where gaps exist and make data-informed decisions.

There were no questions from the Committee.

Ms. Smith introduced a motion to accept the budget changes. Mr. Nichols seconded the motion. There was no discussion. The motion passed unanimously.

VIII. FY 2023-2024 Awardee Presentations

Five awarded agencies presented a summary of their OSPG-funded programs.

First, Dr. Colleen Bell, President of Health Services with I.M. Sulzbacher Center for the Homeless, presented a summary of their treatment program titled “Sulzbacher Substance Abuse Treatment Program”. Dr. Bell shared the following:

- The program provides individuals with Suboxone/Sublocade free of charge to continue their treatment.
- Patients may enroll in other services such as the recovery program, peer support, medical, dental, eye, behavioral health, benefits, and housing, but it is not mandatory that they enroll in other services.
- They meet people where they are. They make it easy to access these medications without a lot of strings attached other than safety.
- As a federally qualified health center (FQHC), everyone is eligible. Services are either free or low cost. They work with any insurance or lack of insurance. They work with anyone including those who are undocumented and do not turn anyone away.
- An email was created for referrals: togetherwecan_osus@sulzbacherjax.org.

Next, Dr. Bell presented a summary of Sulzbacher’s recovery program titled “Sulzbacher Substance Abuse Recovery Program”. She shared the following:

- Jeremiah is a peer specialist with a military background and many years in recovery and he has been getting the program started, but they have been able to hire most of the staff they put in the budget.
- The Outpatient Substance Use Program at Sulzbacher is a place where adults can get access to optimal outpatient substance use services, a place where persons served can be educated, counseled, trained, and supported regarding their substance use without the fear of being abandoned, judged, or perceived as problematic.

- The program strives to be welcoming, open, and low barrier. They want to encourage people who have been in multiple systems, and they strive to do things differently.
- They have screened 41 patients so far with assessments since beginning the program in March.
- They do intakes, individual and group sessions, and case management tailored to each client. The program is based on choice, encouragement, and engagement for clients to link to other services if they choose, but it is not mandatory. They are striving to have a 'no wrong door' model to enter and begin receiving services.
- Everyone is eligible.

There were no questions from the Committee.

Next, Susan Pitman, Founder and Project and Strategy Director with Safe and Healthy Duval Coalition d/b/a Drug Free Duval presented on their prevention program titled "North Florida Poly-Drug Task Force". Ms. Pitman shared the following:

- They are the substance abuse prevention coalition in Duval. They focus on how to prevent by reducing risk behavior. They take an environmental strategy approach and are members of CCA, a coalition of coalitions.
- They use a logic model approach, looking at the outcomes here. Then they look at the whys and look for gaps in resources and how to fill them.
- They first convened the North Florida Poly-Drug Task Force back in 2016 and is now about 300 members strong. They focus on three functioning committees: (1) Healthcare Educator Training & Education, (2) Community, and (3) Employers.
- Since the Task Force was first started being funded by the Committee in February they have:
 - Hosted two task force meetings with an average of 71 attendees
 - Hosted four committee meetings
 - Done multiple trainings and have met those goals for this year so far
 - Posted 40 of 64 social media posts (per their goal for the year) - specific posts around healthcare and community strategies
 - Started a podcast called "Conversations with Substance" and they are in the process of storyboarding that
 - Provided Narcan training with the schools, law enforcement, JAA, JTA, and more

There were no questions from the Committee.

Next, Richard Preston, President of Serenity Granted d/b/a New Life Jax Recovery Services presented on their recovery support program titled "Operation Opioid Abatement Director". Mr. Preston shared the following:

- They are one of five accredited sober livings in Jacksonville, accredited through the Florida Association of Recovery Residences (FARR)
- Mr. Preston is in long term recovery, published two books, and is also the Executive Director of another FARR certified program called Project Save Lives

- Recovery support is a passion of his because it was a game changer for him. Sober living is the third leg in the relay race of recovery with prevention and treatment. Some studies suggest sober living gives individuals a 30 to 70% better chance at staying sober.
- With the funding, they hired an Operation Opioid Abatement Director (OOAD) tasked with guiding men in recovery. The Director has 36 months in recovery. They are 100% on track with their goals and objectives.
- They have incorporated information about the program into their website, built relationships with discharge planners at treatment facilities to let them know about the new program, and included a section in application process to identify those with OUD who would participate in the program.
- The Director monitors weekly progress with documentation, a weekly progress report, to measure growth in recovery, ask what challenges they faced this week, ask what goals they are working toward, keep track of job interviews scheduled, work schedules, and if they did any volunteering. Once a month, the Director and the President sit down to assess progress. They focus on things like accountability, flexibility, willingness to develop skills, organizational skills, and conflict resolution.
- The results they have seen have been “astounding” and above their “wildest dreams” - all residents now attend five meetings or more a week, 100% have maintained sobriety, 100% have obtained sponsors, and 66% have gotten to the gym. All homes are in the 32246 and 32258 zip codes. All residents are white males, aged 32 to 50 years.
- Next year they would like to enhance the program by incorporating funding for housing vouchers for those who don't have the means to enter the program.

There were no questions from the Committee.

Next, Kim Simon, Director of Programs - North Florida with Yoga 4 Change, presented on their prevention program titled “Preventing Opioid and Substance Use with Evidence-Based Resilience Skills for Youth”. Ms. Simon shared the following:

- Their mission statement: “Yoga 4 Change fosters holistic wellbeing, resilience, and transformation for individuals and communities through evidence-based trauma-informed curricula.”
- With this program, they are focusing on youth and prevention. Three separate organizations reached out stating a need and a want for Yoga 4 Change programming - Inspire to Rise, Girls of Virtue, and the North Florida School of Special Education (requested a summer program).
- They track the benefits of yoga through pre- and post-tests on a card handed out before and after classes.
- Last year they saw an average of a 16% increase in mood and a 26% decrease in stress.
- This year, so far, they have seen a 37% increase in mood and a 27% decrease in stress. They also shared qualitative data wherein participants noted the classes gave them more self-awareness and self-compassion.

- Yoga can increase emotional awareness and regulation, so it can help with the prevention of substance use.
- They are on their way to meeting program goals, especially as summer programs are starting.
- She demonstrated the program's use of a sphere, wherein participants are told to breathe in as the sphere is expanded, and as participants are told to exhale, they constrict the sphere. Ms. Simon noted this is one of many tools they use in their classes.

There were no questions from the Committee.

The final program presentation was from Kathleen Roberts, Chief Executive Office of Community Coalition Alliance (CCA). She presented on their prevention program titled "Duval's Approach to Reduce Opioid Overdose" (DAROO). Ms. Roberts shared the following:

- CCA is a regional coalition made up of local coalitions.
- They leverage ideas and efforts and use same messaging, relying on data and best practices.
- Since 2017, they have brought together stakeholders in Jacksonville for their Drug Epidemiology Networks (DENs) meetings where they look at data. This was originally an initiative from the Department of Children and Families. Opioids affect every community a little differently, so it was important to look across zip codes.
- They have two DENs subcommittees - a Data Subcommittee and a Sober Living/Recovery Supports Subcommittee. These subcommittees are an opportunity to talk about what are the issues, share ideas, and make ideas a reality.
- Their goals and activities for this program:
 - Expand data collection and make data-informed decisions
 - Create infographics and info sheets with county profiles
 - Update the needs assessment including all different substances, behavioral health, and mental health
 - Bring in great speakers to share expertise at the regional DENs meetings. They recently hosted a regional DENs meeting focused on youth with speakers from FYSAS, the DFD Youth Co+Lab, Youth Challenge Academy through National Guard, and more. They received feedback indicating it was one of the best DENs meetings.
 - Build up of data tool to look at all these different data points and pieces in one place
 - Work in collaboration to reach more people
 - Offer different trainings to provide supports and skill sets, with CEUs
 - Work with messaging and marketing to promote things like DEA Drug Take Back Day in the Money Pages where people are looking for coupons. The next messaging in the Money Pages will focus on the 9-8-8 crisis phone line.

- Launch Credible Minds - an online system that allows people to get self-help tools and tips and link to services
- Partner with Inspire to Rise and others to do 'murals with meaning' with at their new youth recovery school
- Partner with Sober Living Alliance - they are DENs Sober Living subcommittee chairs - to provide sober living housing assistance and collect data on that. They got a video testimonial from a man who said if it weren't for this program, he'd be on the street.
- Distribute resources such as Narcan and Deterra kits at community outreach events.

Ms. Smith said thank you and stated that she loved the infographics and could see how useful they would be to members of the community.

There were no additional questions or comments from the Committee.

IX. New Business

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

X. Adjournment

Dr. Wynn put forth a motion to vote to adjourn the meeting. Ms. Smith seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned by Dr. Jorandby at 2:55 PM.

Next Meeting Date - Monday, June 17, 2024 at 2:00 PM

To be signed by Antonio Nichols, Secretary, certifying approval by the 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 opiodabatement@coj.net.