

OPIOID AND SUBSTANCE USE DISORDER (OSUD) GRANTS COMMITTEE

Meeting Minutes

June 17, 2024, 2:00 PM

City Hall, 1st Floor, Don Davis 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
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 2:00 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, noting that their office had been working to process invoices for FY23-24 awardees. They also shared that the FY24-25 application was currently open through July 1st and that their office had been conducting courtesy reviews as requested by agencies who wished to review their applications for eligibility and completeness prior to the submission deadline.

IV. Public Comment

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

V. Vote on Minutes from May 2024 Meeting

Antonio Nichols, Secretary, put forth a motion to vote to approve the meeting minutes from the May 20, 2024, meeting. Dr. John Tanner seconded the motion. There was no discussion. The motion passed unanimously.

VI. Vote on Amended FY 2024-2025 OSPG Timeline

Ms. Zarou shared a proposed amended timeline as follows:

- Monday, July 1: Application closes
- Monday, July 22: OSUD Grants Committee meeting
- Tuesday, July 23 - Friday, August 23: Scoring period
- Monday, August 5: OSUD Grants Committee meeting
 - Vote to conduct interviews with agencies (optional)
- Monday, September 23: OSUD Grants Committee meeting
- Monday, October 7: OSUD Grants Committee meeting
 - Announce tentative rankings of applications
- Monday, October 21: OSUD Grants Committee meeting
 - Announce final rankings of applications and funding allocations

They noted that there is not a way to avoid having two meetings in one month due to being required to announce and vote on the tentative rankings, have an appeals period, and then announce and vote on the final rankings and funding allocations. Ms. Zarou confirmed that their office will send out updated calendar invites for all meetings to the committee members.

Sarah Smith put forth a motion to vote to approve the amended timeline. Mr. Nichols seconded the motion. There was no discussion. The motion passed unanimously.

VII. Vote on FY 2023-2024 Program Budget Change Requests

Christina Mitchell, Director of Oversight with Rebel Recovery Florida, presented a summary of budget changes they were requesting for their funded program titled “Comprehensive Housing & Care Coordination.” They described the changes as follows:

- They thought they needed program oversight full-time, but as they have implemented the program, and with it being based on an existing program, they decided the oversight position could be a lower full-time effort. Instead, they want two Care Navigators assigned to the program.

There were no questions from the Committee.

Ms. Smith introduced a motion to accept Rebel Recovery Florida’s budget changes. Heather Rios seconded the motion. There was no discussion. The motion passed unanimously.

Next, Kat Attaway, Chief Administrative Officer and Program Director with New Hope Education & Addiction Services, presented a summary of budget changes they were

requesting for their funded program titled “Florida Recovery Schools.” Ms. Attaway described the changes as follows:

- When the budget narrative was originally submitted, there was a misunderstanding surrounding the 0.24 full-time equivalency (FTE) that was applied. They had a Peer Support Specialist as a part-time employee and there was a Case Manager, and they were able to find one person who could fulfill both roles.
- They are also requesting to change the FTE to 0.90 for both the Counselor and Case Manager positions.
- In addition, there were other funds in excess in certain line items and they would like those reallocated to the Rent and Insurance line items.

Ms. Smith asked for clarification about the Peer Support Specialist and Case Manager roles. She asked if they had found a certified Peer Specialist who could also fulfill the role of the Case Manager. Ms. Attaway answered by saying, no, and that the Case Manager that would do those duties is not a Certified Peer Specialist. Ms. Smith followed up by asking if that would impact the deliverables. Ms. Attaway answered by stating that peer support was coming through the group therapy sessions, and they feel they are currently providing the services they set out to provide with the Case Manager.

There were no additional questions from the Committee.

Mr. Nichols introduced a motion to accept New Hope’s budget change requests. Nancy Rice seconded the motion. There was no further discussion. The motion passed unanimously.

VIII. Vote on FY 2024-2025 Scoring Subcommittees

Laura Viafora Ray, Program Coordinator - Opioid Abatement, presented on the option to create scoring subcommittees. They shared that their office developed a framework for how the scoring subcommittees would be assigned based on requirements laid out in Chapter 84 as well as recommendations shared by the committee at last month’s meeting. They described the framework as follows:

- Requirements:
 - “No application shall be scored by fewer than three members of the OSUD Grants Committee”
 - “If a Member is unable to review, score and evaluate all of the applications assigned to a scoring subcommittee, the Chair shall assign a new Member to replace such Member.”
- Additional Considerations:
 - Strive to have at least one member of each type in each subcommittee, with the exception of the Health Administrator (as there is only one)
 - Strive to assign both Healthcare Professional members to the Treatment Subcommittee
 - Strive to assign both Peer Specialist members to the Recovery Support Subcommittee

- Assign one fewer Member to the funded category with the smallest number of eligible applications, if possible

Ms. Viafora Ray then described how this framework would have been applied had the committee voted to assign scoring subcommittees in the first grant cycle. Finally, they described how this framework would have been applied with a 'made-up' scenario with different numbers of applications in each funded category.

Ms. Smith put forth a motion to vote to adjourn the meeting. Dr. Tanner seconded the motion. There was no further discussion. The motion passed unanimously.

IX. FY 2023-2024 Awardee Presentations

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

Christina Mitchell, Director of Oversight with Rebel Recovery Florida, presented a summary of their recovery support program titled "Comprehensive Housing & Care Coordination." They shared the following:

- Services are streamlined
- Service delivery is low barrier
- Eligibility assessment used to determine risk factors for housing needs
- Voucher system used to support goals
- Flex funds used to support goals
- Recovery planning and capital assessments
- Figuring out sustainability
- Modeled off of an existing program in West Palm Beach
- Since 4/25/24, 12 participants have been enrolled, 8 have been housed, with 6 still housed and employed
- Foster relationships with housing providers within select zip codes
- Housing providers must be FARR-certified and accept residents utilizing MAT
- Private placement as well by building relationships with individuals who support people in recovery by taking out the background check and credit card check)

Dr. Wynn asked if there is a framework or criteria for private housing. Ms. Mitchell answered by stating that an HQS-qualified inspector does a virtual inspection of a house for HQS standards.

Ms. Smith asked if these were ongoing relationships with landlords with multiple properties. Ms. Mitchell answered by stating thus far they are working with two private property owners who own multiple units and are willing to forgo fees and deposits.

There were no additional questions from the Committee.

Next, Shawn Parker, Program Director - Jacksonville Treatment with Metro Treatment of Florida, presented a summary of their treatment program titled "H.O.P.E. Duval." Mr. Parker shared the following:

- 132 patients currently enrolled and receiving treatment
- Patients are uninsured or underinsured and would not be able to receive treatment without assistance
- Attendance has been steadily increasing
- Seeing less positive illicit screens (for fentanyl, etc.)

Next, Mr. Parker presented on Metro Treatment’s recovery support program titled “Ride to Recovery.” They shared the following:

- 132 patients enrolled and receiving transportation assistance
- Attendance over 96%
- Service has been a ‘lifesaver’
- Two patients who have been receiving services for years have given them their first normal screenings in two years

Mr. Nichols asked what tools or interventions the program used to achieve their lower absenteeism rate. Mr. Parker answered by saying they got patients more involved, and that the more [a patient] is there, the better they are feeling and less likely to self-medicate. They went on to say that patients who would regularly miss appointments would never get on a steady dose and would be self-medicating, taking fentanyl, and not showing up, and so Uber Health has been great because transportation can be a huge barrier. Mr. Parker added that they are working with a core set of Uber drivers because they are invested in their patients, and they have regular conversations with the drivers.

Dr. Wynn asked Mr. Parker if they have a contractual relationship with Uber Health. They answered ‘yes’ - the agency created a specific contract/MOU with Uber Health for both treatment centers.

There were no additional questions from the Committee.

Next, Stephen Reutz, Counselor with Community Rehabilitation Center (CRC) presented on their prevention program titled “CRC Prevention Programming.” Mr. Reutz shared the following:

- Community Rehabilitation Center has a history since it’s founding in 1993 of providing services to the disenfranchised people faced with challenges stemming from mental illness, substance abuse, and HIV/AIDS
- Opiate Prevention activities are:
 - This commitment to helping others continues with the addition of focused services for those suffering from opiate addiction
 - Outreach efforts are typically on a weekly basis to reach people that are struggling with substance abuse
- Working on prevention has involved going into the community and having meetings at different places including housing authorities and apartment complexes where they do HIV/AIDS testing, make a lunch, talk about opioids and get them thinking about treatment. 40-50 people typically attend and usually 20 or so will talk with them further.

Next, Mr. Reutz presented on CRC's treatment program titled "CRC Outpatient Treatment Programs." They shared the following:

- The program got started in May and entailed adding staff - a doctor and other support staff.
- They will start Suboxone treatment later in the month. It has taken some time to get set up.
- Methadone treatment is dependent on an evaluation at the end of the month with the State of Florida. Since River Region went out of business there is a need. They would like to do multiple clinics and add a clinic on the Northside. They have found that a lot of people prefer methadone because it gives them the encouragement to come in daily, whereas Suboxone is weekly. They want to do more drug screens with the Suboxone. Many people have contacted him looking for treatment.

Ms. Smith asked if this was a new access point for MAT. Mr. Reutz confirmed 'yes' - they had not previously offered MAT.

Dr. Wynn asked what the timeline was for offering treatment. Khardijah Burton stated that she was in contact with DCF, and they had submitted a letter of intent. Ms. Burton went on to say that with Suboxone they can start right away on a prescription basis under DEA regulations. Dr. Wynn also asked how they decide on prescribing Suboxone vs methadone. Ms. Burton stated that the decision is patient-specific and depends on a few factors.

There were no additional questions from the Committee.

Finally, Kat Attaway, Chief Administrative Officer and Program Director with New Hope Education and Addiction Services, presented a summary of their prevention program titled "Florida Recovery Schools." They shared the following:

- Program is for those aged 14-19 years old
- Full day of supervision, counseling as needed, group therapy, breakfast, lunch while going through grade completion
- Time they are enrolled may change
- 35 graduates in May
- Developing better relationships with DCPS to find students who are enrolled and not doing well (behavioral), and they have been getting more referrals.
- Implemented a new program for them:
 - Life skills training: new requirement that every student completes four life skills courses through Coursera (examples: personal finance, active listening, success)
 - Good response from students. They are 'really flying through' the courses
- Their students are low income typically, and receiving a diploma with a ceremony helps them to better equipped to enter adulthood

There were no questions from the Committee.

X. New Business

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

Dr. Wynn opened the floor to public comment. There was no public comment.

XI. Adjournment

Ms. Smith put forth a motion to vote to adjourn the meeting. Dr. Tanner seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned by Dr. Wynn at 2:48 PM.

Next Meeting Date - Monday, July 22 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 opioidabatement@coj.net.