

March 18, 2021 – 2 to 4pm

Due to tightly condensed schedule, all questions were held of the end of the presentation.

Brief welcome from Marianne Dean prior to recording commencement.

Medical Examiner's Office Update: Presenter Reta Newman

- Semi annual update – what drugs we are seeing and the trends we are seeing.
- Contending with fluoro fentanyl 8 deaths in past few weeks. Other fentanyl analogs are more prominent most likely a single source dealer, law enforcement officers (LEOs) are aware and trying to track it down.
- Other fentanyl analogs are trending down, but they do see 10-15 analogs prior to covid19.
- Brophine is a synthetic, state non-scheduled drug, but federal emergency scheduled as of 03/2021. New drug – have not seen it in Pinellas and Pasco. Expect to see trending. Most drugs are all compounds of several drugs. One powder had 6 controlled substances in it.
- 2020 drug classes identifications discussed. #1 drug identified is methamphetamine, 5 years ago it was irregular to see, 10 years ago only heard of in discussion. Overtaking cocaine and other fentanyl analogs.
- Pinellas County had over 100 additional drug deaths last year 2020. Pasco had significant increase as well almost near 100.

Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Review: Presenter Craig Queen

- As of Feb 2021 EMS surpassed 2020 data regarding suspected overdose transports. Spring break is here and suspect to see increase. Numbers may bounce around until the summer, and based on previous trends that a spike is anticipated.
- General Narcan administrations are tightly grouped, and over the last 2 years have been tight knit as well. More people and overall population growth.
- Suspected overdose with Narcan admin – thought we would level off but took spike in December 2020, and now is starting to follow same trends and set new highs.
- Top 4 areas of EMS transports: St. Petersburg, Largo, Pinellas Park, and Clearwater – St. Pete has largest area of impact. No major changes expected.

Northwestern University: Presenter Holly Hills & Wouter Vermeer

Holly Hills – USF

- Reporting on community and modeling approaches to support decision making in Pinellas county. Reporting on some of the changes that was most significant. They questioned clinicians what has been the most significant change to service delivery for persons with opioid use disorders, during the pandemic?
- Common responses included transferring services to a telehealth format, moving to take-home dosing, and the loss of face to face (F2F) contact with clinicians.
- The team then asked what challenges have occurred in attempting to implement any forms of practice change? Three most common responses were training staff and clients in the use of technology or treatment guidelines, access to the needed technology/equipment/private spaces, and acclimating to delivering services or conducting meeting over Zoom.

- Lastly, they asked their clinicians of any of the service changes that have been implemented or modified, which do you believe will be sustained? Their responses included the continued use of telehealth, continued enhanced sanitation & infection control practices, and the expansion/continuation of take-home doses if possible.

Wouter Vermeer – Northwestern University

- Modeling Narcan model – mechanisms included: local demographics, delivery system for Narcan, and dynamics of opioid use. Dynamics of rescue include social, police, and EMS determinants. Social includes peer Narcan admin, police include LEO responses, and EMS includes EMS usage of Narcan.
- Graphs illustrate if Narcan supply to the public was increased by 25%, and the figures provide scenarios of expected death or mortality rates and the results based off the available Narcan.
- Caveat includes that there is in progress development where information needed is not present in the model. To fine tune the model NW requests assistance from the PCOTF.

Drug Demand Reduction Outreach OIC: Presenter Major Nathan Dinger

- Introduced the Drug Demand Reduction Outreach program with the US National Guard. Support mission categories and speak specifically towards treatment. Provides development and support with the community – conduct assessment to determine what the true problem is and identify initiatives to address assessments.
- DDRO promotes prevention messaging and framework through strategic planning and action. Due to COVID-19 restrictions in 2020, the counterdrug program was able to remove almost 2 tons of Rx medications with only 1 DEA takeback event that lasted about 4 hours. Drug takebacks in 2021 are hopefully going to be more robust with reduction of COVID-19 restrictions.
- DDRO works with students in schools regarding substance use education including marijuana in addition to other substances. In 2020 DDRO was able to connect with over 32,000 students using virtual methods to provide tools to meet health standards, and with no risk of having people come in and out of classrooms.
- Trainings for the multijurisdictional counterdrug task force training (MCTFT) occur at Camp Blanding located in north Florida. Discussed skillsets taught to law enforcement officers through online, traditional, distance learning and/or mobile training teams – the training is often at zero cost. Reconnaissance and observation team assists with air & marine radar, as well as setting up cameras for LEOs. Their services free up agents of LEOs so they can assist with LEO safety, and at no cost.
- Include several support areas including analysis, linguistics & transcription, communications, and illicit finance. The DDRO is a multifaceted organization that can supply many skillsets to organizations that could benefit their services.

EIS Update: Presenter Mohammad Alak

- Introduction of surveillance – what is EIS and syndromic surveillance. Collects automated data and generation of statistical alerts by monitoring for disease indicators.

- Detects outbreaks of disease in near real time. Electronic Surveillance System for the Early Notification of Community based Epidemics (ESSENCE) – used by federal agencies and deployed around the globe.
- **Data is provisional, and must be cautiously interpreted.**
- In 2020 throughout the COVID-19 pandemic there was a reduction of hospital seeking behaviors, however there was no decrease in encounters of opioid overdoses in emergency rooms. There is nearly a 100% increase in encounters related to opioids. From 01/01/2020 to 03/16/21, there are about 4,259 encounters to Pinellas County Emergency Departments with a steady rate of increase.
- Graphs have not been adjusted for other population characteristics and do not represent an issue in those specific areas. White males are statistically favored to overdose from opioids.

Dianne Clarke (DC) – question – how long is grant through?

Mo Alak – unsure, but heard rumors that grant is extended to 08/2023.

Gayle Guidash (GG) – suspects there will be renewals, and that money will still be available.

GG – wants to speak towards hospital response regarding Northside being the highest with OD response – would like to discuss pilot missions for hospitals.

Overdose Fatality Review: Presenter Meghan Westbrook

- 2021 OFRs: What is an OFR? It involves reviews of deaths via overdose to determine where gaps occurred that might be put in place to prevent overdose in the future.
- Find missed opportunities, interventions, and how can they be implemented for success.
- Discussion regarding data sharing considerations such as state legislations, HIPAA, 42CFR part 2, interagency data sharing agreements, and confidentiality agreements.
- Part of the COSSAP grant is to develop an OFR, and would like to invite individuals to assist with these goals where they fit.

SIP – White Papers Update: Presenters Mary Murrin & Kavitha Gopalakrishnan – USF

Components of outpatient care after outpatient services – Mary Murrin

- Looked into individuals between 2018-2019 identified by the MEO had who had a crisis in the 2 years prior to death and what care was provided. Of 220 people identified about half received crisis care in that period.
- There are many repeat individuals, and 33% died prior to their last follow up period. Important to determine patterns. Research shows that a multicomponent treatment care is needed as crisis care is a critical contact point.

The relationship between opioid drug related deaths and jail stays. Kavitha Gopalakrishnan

- SIP paper investigates individuals with opioid drug related deaths having a previous jail stay and how soon after the jail stay did the overdose death occur? 70% of all overdose drug deaths are opioid related, and almost 1 in 4 had a previous jail stay.
- Half of all deaths occurred within 6 months after jail stay. Next steps include identifying trends in criminal charges and overdose incidences.

Meghan Westbrook (MW): Resources link Forum Sessions – provide OFR examples using the link provided.

Questions accepted at this point.

GG – question for MW – who will lead the OFR?

MW – COSSAP planning group needs to discuss who will hold OFR – still TBD.

Dianne Clarke (DC) – question about legislative support discussion – what to look for or advocate for?

MW – first step is that PAR & DOH is involved with COSSAP – future conversation within PAR & DOH to assess angles to discuss. BJA has draft legislative language at our disposal.

DC – Thanks to the SIP white papers committee and the insight and data that was presented.

Overdose Data to Action (OD2A) Grant Updates: Marianne Dean

- Deliverables update – story map update is available and is looking for any feedback on content or design. Data updated to 2018, 2019, and 2020 data.
- Data will be updated as it comes in. MAT opportunities are increasing through OperationPAR and the HOME team.
- Toolkit is in progress just awaiting graphics to be inserted.
- Speaking with students at St. Petersburg College as University of South Florida to discuss opioid epidemic to provide subject matter expert details.
- Ordering 2,000 drawstring bags for individuals for outreach events as a simple, yet effective tool and needed.
- Training and continuing education commencing regardless of travel ban – utilizing virtual training to assist with OFRs as well.
- Staff in the Office of Overdose Prevention will also be assisting in COVID-19 vaccination PODS.
- Development of the mobile app – introduction to the Arkansas app to provide features and potential layout of the Pinellas app. Request for feedback.
- Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP) – revision of goals and would like to have feedback from PCOTF.

GG – Brief overview of the purpose of the CHIP, and the goals of the collaborations. What is feasible to assist in reducing the deaths due to overdose, as well as objectives that will assist. This is a working opportunity for all.

Wouter Vermeer – would like inclusion to the CHIP and assist with their models to contribute towards goals.

HOME Program Updates: Presenter Meghan Westbrook & Kelci Tarascio

Meghan Westbrook

- Overview of program which was funded by the University of Baltimore, and is in the process of closing out.

Kelci Tarascio

- Overview of highlight of the HOME program, and the projection to move many of the HOME program attributes to the OD2A program.
- Naloxone distribution success, emergency box placement success, and touchpoints with clients across Pinellas County linking them to care.

Syringe Exchange Program Updates: Presenter Gayle Guidash

- SEP was approved by the Board of County Commissioners in January 2021.
- Some concessions were made to address concerns over the SEP including disallowance of mobile operations and certain materials.
- Next steps include letter of intent by interested parties.
- There will possibly be a community information session for those interested. This is a big step forward in harm reduction.

End of presenter portion of the PCOTF meeting. Opened for questions.

Daphne Lampley – inquiry about school flyers for students. Will follow up to find these resources for Daphne and ensure they are updated. Interested in the impaired driving infographics to share.

GG – what are your numbers looking like @ Heather H?

HH – Jan 1st: IDEA Tampa SEP in Hillsborough 80 participants, 40% returning, exchanged between 2,000-4,000 syringes on a 1:1 exchange. Identified 2 new HIV infections and linked to care, 3 new Hepatitis C infections and linked them to care, prevented downstream infections including wound care – linked 2 to detox, and 1 to MAT.

GG – Discussed the benefits to harm reduction including wound care.

HH – Feb 17th and on are the dates for the figures provided. Discussed having to provide filters would be beneficial and needed to filter out toxins and pollutants as well.

GG – We tried our best to include the necessary needs for the SEP – the ordinance is passed so we can revisit in time to amend these initial exclusions.

HH – Will you be doing testing as well?

GG – It will be dependent on the providers that apply to run the SEP in Pinellas.

HH – We do Hep A/B/C, HIV, and are trying to get COVID19 as well.

Rebecca – Letters of intent – will there be an info session – how many providers will be used?

GG – County was addressed, does not preclude agencies from working together – ensuring the LOI is accurate.

C. Hendricks Brown – Commended the quantity and quality of discussions today – inquired about reaching out and engaging hospitals.

GG – did discuss a few pilot programs, but need to circle back to discuss where we can do better.

MD – assist in discussion about hospital involvement in the PCOTF.

Jennifer Webb – Introduced Project Opioid Tampa Bay to the PCOTF.

MD – Invited Dianne Clarke to make a closing statement.

Dianne Clarke – This is a working group so we will call on you because we need your input and expertise. Very grateful to have solid foundation to build from, and ability to share. Thanked all for continued participation.

MD – Closing statement & end of PCOTF meeting. Total time 1 hour 52 minutes.