



## Pinellas County Opioid Task Force Notes

06/16/2022 – 2 pm- 4 pm – Mid-County Health Department and virtual via Teams

Welcome and Opening Statement: Marianne Dean & Dr. Dianne Clarke

- The meeting will be conducted in a blended format with both an in-person and virtual component.
  - This is how the meeting will be conducted going forward.

Trends and Data Review: Reta Newman, MA: Pinellas County Forensic Lab

- Pinellas County had 618 accidental drug related deaths in 2021
  - Most of the deaths were caused by fentanyl, or they were fentanyl related
- Pasco County had 318 accidental drug related deaths in 2021
- The number of accidental drug-related deaths has been increasing since 2013
- In Pinellas County, individuals who identify as White had the highest number of opioid/opiates related accidental deaths
  - Recently, numbers have also been increasing in the Black population
- Nitazenes
  - N-pyrrolidino etonitazene- Most common compound in Pinellas County
    - 15 deaths to date in Pinellas County
  - 10-100x stronger than fentanyl
  - Emergency ruling is scheduled in Florida
- Review of fentanyl submissions into seized drugs has led to the identification of 602 fentanyl cases from January- May 2022
  - Fluorofentanyl is the most identified fentanyl analog
  - Starting to identify nitazenes in the seized drug submissions
    - Nitazenes are more likely mixed with heroin than with fentanyl
- Fluoroisobutyryl fentanyl (pFF) is the only fentanyl analog currently in circulation in Pinellas County
  - pFF uses a different precursor than other fentanyl analogs
    - Common fentanyl analog precursors have become illegal to possess leading to a decreased circulation
- Cathinones possess both stimulant and hallucinogenic properties
  - N,n-dimethylpentylone was recently identified in 4 Medical Examiner Office cases
    - Waiting on further test to determine cause of death
  - Pinellas County is detecting the presence of Cathinones more commonly in DUI cases
  - Expect an uptick in cases during music festivals and spring breaks as Cathinones are a social drug (molly, ecstasy. etc.)

## Trends in Transports: Craig Queen, MBA: Pinellas County EMS & Fire Administration

- For the fiscal year 21-22 we are at 68% of the total transports of suspected overdoses from last year
  - Right on track to expect that there will be a similar total number of transports as there was in the fiscal year 20-21
- Numbers of transports for June 2022 are starting to trend upwards
  - This correlates with law enforcement reports
  - The last three months have contributed to overall number of transports increasing
    - Summer break and the decrease in COVID-19 restrictions are examples of why numbers may have increased recently
      - Will be a very interesting summer in terms of overdoses
- Seeing a trend in overdoses in the younger population
  - Age Range of 10-17 years old
  - Some infants have also overdosed recently
- The graphs with the information on transports with Narcan administered graphs are across the system and are not always indicative of an overdose
  - Trends are on par with last fiscal year
- Law enforcement has been very busy in the past couple of months
  - The Pinellas County Sheriff's Office has had a lot of Narcan administrations recently
- Yearly totals show the number of Narcan administrations that occur at the scene
  - Lately the number of administrations per incident has been increasing
    - This is indicative of stronger drugs being used as the need for more Narcan administrations is increasing

## EIS/ Overdose Data to Action: Mohammad Alak, MPH & Marianne Dean, MS: Florida Department of Health

### Quarterly and Monthly Overdose Reports – Mohammad Alak, MPH

- Has quarterly overdose reports available to anyone who would like to see the data
- Reports show that Pinellas County has highest number of overdoses in the bay area
- There have been less overdoses in 2022 than in 2021; however, the number of overdoses is still very high
- The demographics of individuals more likely to have experienced an overdose in Quarter 1 of 2022, were White, Non-Hispanic males between the ages of 30 and 54.
  - There was an increase in the age group 5-19
- FDOH uses medical examiner data to update the Substance Use Dashboard
  - Available here:  
<https://www.flhealthcharts.gov/ChartsDashboards/rdPage.aspx?rdReport=SubstanceUse.Overview>
- Seasonality- supports the trend that there is an increase in overdoses around June
- During Q1 there were a few overdoses that occurred in individuals in the 0–4-year-old range
  - Most of these incidents were not caused by opioids but were related to THC or ADHD medication

- Nightclub event- spotted a couple of cases that were linked by chief complaint in ESSENCE-FI
  - Cluster at the same adult club with contaminated cocaine
  - Located in Pasco (4 individuals)
- In 2021 one hospitality industry received around 40 calls, but by May 2022 they had over 20 and had recently experienced a spike in overdoses
  - Reached out to the facility
  - Most of the individuals consumed what they believed was fentanyl
    - Some said they were taking some pills
    - PCSO were the ones who arrived to perform life saving measures
- DOH-Pinellas, with the assistance of the EIS fellow, is staying up to date with syndromic surveillance to keep up with any outbreaks.
- Question: Who is reaching out to these facilities that have a spike in overdoses?
  - Marianne Dean: Currently the Office of Overdose Prevention at DOH-Pinellas is reaching out to facilities that have a suspected spike in overdose cases.
  - Mohammad Alak: Mentioned the success of the BREAD program in Broward County.
- Question: Do we know if any nightclubs located in areas with a large number of overdoses have naloxone on hand?
  - Mohammad Alak: Few businesses have naloxone, but cases of bystanders administering naloxone on scene is increasing.
    - We do not have access to the nightclub information
    - Providers understand that individuals who work at nightclubs have a high-risk occupation, and they sometimes will prescribe them naloxone to take with them
- Question: Are there other counties in Florida that have seen a rapid decrease per capita in overdoses? (Use what they are doing as a guide for Pinellas County)
  - Mohammad Alak: Has not analyzed the data from other counties
    - Will run the data as an action item.
  - Michael Jalazo: Pasco County saw a reduction in deaths last year
    - Law Enforcement programs – Toni Roach (getting people into treatment reduces crime overall)

#### Overdose Data to Action Update – Marianne Dean, MS

- Department is working on a Resource Guide that contains a comprehensive list of resources in Pinellas County.
  - Working on the final but a beta version is available
- A future goal is to send out the resource guide to partners in order to work on client community engagement and updating all the facilities in the area
- Gayle Guidash really wants to follow bread program in Broward and find a harm reduction group in Pinellas to get out there with the red boxes
  - Joshua Barnett suggested the secret shopper approach
- The department is on track to surpass 2021 outreach goals
- Reminder that CareerSource Pinellas is a great resource for community partners
- The department is still struggling to get Narcan emergency boxes out into the community
  - Currently working on getting community partners who can fill the boxes
    - Michael Jalazo: are there more creative ways to get out the naloxone into the community?

- The Department is currently looking at attendance in the PCOTF meetings to see if there are areas, they can reach out to gain more participation and collaboration in the community.
- There are efforts to create targeted messaging to areas where syndromic surveillance suggests a need for outreach
- The PCOTF Story Map is getting revamped and updated
- The Opioid Toolkit is also getting revamped and updated
- Recently attended a conference with all the OD2A groups around the state of Florida
  - Thanks to Dr. Joshua Barnett who came to speak on Overdose Fatality Reviews
- Question: What treatment protocols have had to be revamped, reconsidered, or are limited by regulations that we see some of our protocols cannot meet? What changes do we need to bring to the service to advocate for those we serve? Are we equipped now with our treatment protocols to meet the substance on board for treatment?
  - BayCare is spearheading ED power plans.
  - Update in chat from Jennifer Webb

#### SIP/ USF Update: Dr. Joshua Barnett, PCHS

- Working on a framework to make a PowerPoint on SIP deliverables
  - They have discovered a larger product at hand, so they are holding off on presenting results until they are finished
- Nearing the end of the grant period
- Want to do a greater analysis for the state for claims
- Review of data showed that nearly 71% of people who have had a fatal overdose have had some sort of interaction with a type of responders
- The grant will go away but the partnership will remain
  - Human Service and USF have created a working partnership
    - Will continue to work together on what they can do regarding the data and how they can leverage resources differently
      - Efforts to find data on what is working so that the county can push towards implementing procedures that will decrease overdoses
- Four things SIP wanted to look at:
  - Quick Response Teams (QRTs)
  - Medications in Jail
  - Retention to Treatment
  - What programs work and are helping people
- Goals to keep looking at the opioid response network and come up with more effective ways to approach the issue from a multi-disciplinarian network.
  - Back in contact with the opioid response network- Sheryl from Buffalo is ready to come down to Florida.

#### COSSAP Update: Dr. Joshua Barnett, PCHS

- There is a need to focus on all substance use in Pinellas County not just opioid use.
  - Backed up by data that suggests new drugs are causing an increase in overdoses
- Three things that COSSAP wanted to accomplish

- Overdose Fatality Reviews
- Quick Response Teams (QRTs)
- Increasing Naloxone distribution
- QRTs are a great mechanism to get individuals who have just overdosed into treatment
  - Intercept someone into treatment
  - Leverages the use of peers when interacting with individuals
  - EMS-referral-peer engages individuals on what resources and treatment is available to them
    - Sometime takes a few contacts to engage individuals
  - Recently received a new SAMHSA Grant that will build up QRT's and involve law enforcement
    - Working with another agency to bring law enforcement on board
  - A future goal is to have interactions with someone who has an overdose potential
    - Can engage with them prior to an overdose
  - All the documents are kept in the alert system
  - Working with Jim Miller to put together a data visualization
  - Trained 1000 EMT'S in QRT
- About 170 unique individuals who have been referred to Operation PAR
  - About 90 have had some form of contact
    - Nearly 23% of those who have had a contact have received some treatment
- FR-CARA grant works with law enforcement on the naloxone leave behind program
  - Dan Zsido- naloxone trainer
  - In the process of looking for an evaluator
- Question: Is there a portion of funding available for individuals to get treatment?
  - There is a portion of funding available for treatment; however, Operation PAR is the main resource so if individuals qualify, they are sent there.

Guest speaker: Shelby Meaders: FL Harm Reduction Collective

- Statewide organization
- Helping over 23 counties to get SSP's up in running and to get harm reduction organizations going
- She would like to talk to agencies about doing potential outreaches in Pinellas County and Pasco County
  - She believes that outreaches during PRIDE events would be a good idea
  - She would love to link up with peers and anyone on the call interested in doing an outreach
- She is working with providers in the area to get information to send out mail-based naloxone
  - Informing them of resources in their area and letting people know of what is out there
- HIV self-testing (work with EHE in a lot of counties)
- Network building (Harm Reduction)
- Offer technical assistance for over 23 counties
- Here to help in any way possible
  - Website: [Free Narcan | Syringe Exchanges | Florida Harm Reduction Collective \(flhrc.org\)](http://FreeNarcan|SyringeExchanges|FloridaHarmReductionCollective(flhrc.org))

Guest Speaker: Amanda Bohnam-Lovett, MPH, LMSW: PERC

- Working to get the syringe services program up and running
  - Hoping to get it to take off by the end of summer
- Looking for providers to build PERC's network to bolster services they can provide to individuals who come in for the syringe exchange program.
- Went around the State of Florida with Michael Jalazo to see what programs are being offered at other programs
  - Miami, Palm Beach, Orlando, Tampa, etc...
- PERC will have four fixed site's locations right where you want to be in Pinellas
  - They want to think about getting a mobile site up and running
  - They want to take a trip to Las Vegas and Seattle to see how they are running their syringe exchange programs
- City of St. Petersburg is going to pave the alley behind St. Pete location so that they can start operating out of the back of the facility
  - They have added murals and are getting the space ready
- They want to have volunteers from nursing and medical to provide wound care etc..
- Hillsborough- Got a lot of good insight of how you progress from the day you open to the day of where you meet people where they really are
  - Mobile unit in a parking garage
    - Meet needs with food and wound care
    - Word of mouth have really caused this program to expand and grow into something successful
- PERC owns the Continental Inn and they will begin to offer programs out of that location
  - 24/7 food kitchen
  - Housing programs etc.

### **Open Forum**

- Gayle: Reminder that June 27<sup>th</sup> is HIV testing day- All Health Department locations in Pinellas County will do it for free
  - Rapid or blood draw
- Marianne Dean is working on getting messages out to the community regarding being safe during PRIDE events.
- Jim Fogarty: Is there anybody on the task force from PSTA?
  - Transportation component to where and how we can provide services
  - Want to get transportation involved
- Jennifer Webb: said that she would be happy to call Jim Miller regarding the PSTA
  - June 28: Live Tampa Bay Live- Session
- William Atkinson: Recovery Epicenter
  - Operation BedCenter
    - Putting Narcan in hotels
      - Interested in putting Narcan in bus locations
  - Partnered with DOH to put boxes out
    - Want to partner with bus stations to put out boxes and will fill them for them
- OD2A Manatee: Put naloxone information on the bus lines themselves
  - Should work on getting messages out to PSTA

**The next meeting will be held on September 15, 2022**