



Pinellas County Opioid Task Force Notes

09/15/2022 – 2 pm- 4 pm – Mid-County Health Department and virtual via Teams

Welcome and Opening Statement: Marianne Dean, MS

- This meeting was recorded
- The PCOTF meeting in December will also be conducted in a hybrid format
- Feel reach out to Marianne Dean, Marianne.Dean@FHealth.gov, if you would like more information on individuals who presented in the meeting today

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

- For the fiscal year of 21-22 there have been 6,929 9-1-1 transports of suspected overdoses as of August 31, 2022
- From October 2021 to February 2022 there was a steady decline in number of suspected overdoses
 - However, after February 2022, the number of suspected overdoses has remained consistently high
- The Pediatric, ages 10-17, number of suspected overdoses began to shift down after May of 2022
- For the fiscal year of 21-22 there have been 3,213 9-1-1 transports of suspected overdoses with Narcan administered as of August 31, 2022.
 - Will surpass last year's administrations
- For the fiscal year of 21-22 there have been 2,595 9-1-1 transports with Narcan administered as of August 31, 2022.
- St. Petersburg, Largo, Pinellas Park, and Clearwater have the highest number of suspected transports in Pinellas County
 - Even with overdose numbers increasing these cities still consistently see higher numbers of transports
- There was an increase in number of individuals who have had 5-9 repeated incidents suspected overdoses with Narcan administered
- The law enforcement Narcan administrations for 2022 is suspected to surpass the number for 2021.
- Working on a new leave-behind Narcan program
 - Goal is to put out 1,600 bags shortly
 - Currently working on a training program for clinicians across the county
- Jeff Preising: The Pinellas County Sheriff's Office has had 137 Narcan deployments so far this year
- Question: Is any of this data available in a per capita comparison?
 - Craig Queen states that he will have to check, but the data he presents is strictly EMS data.

EIS Update: Mohammad Alak, MPH: DOH-Pinellas

- Presentation on the Pinellas County Quarterly Overdose Report for Quarter 2, 2022
- The data on the report is considered provisional and is subject to change
- There was an increase in Opioid and Stimulant related Emergency Department visits in Quarter 2
 - This increase also occurred during 2021
- Demographic data shows that most individuals are largely White, Non-Hispanic Males between 20-54 years of age
- Between Quarter 1 and Quarter 2 of 2022, there was approximately a 20% increase in the number of EMS response calls for an opioid overdose event
- EMS is still administering a lot of naloxone in Pinellas County
- The Overdose-Related Fatalities data comes from Department of Vital Statistics and is different from what the Medical Examiner puts into their report
 - For Quarter 1 of 2022 there was 128 Overdose-Related Fatalities
 - This data is also considered provisional
- Question: Is there a reason that the data indicates a spike in Quarter 2 for both 2021 and 2022?
 - There is no definitive answer to this question, but it could partially be caused by the co-occurrence of spring break during this time-period.
- Question: Is there a map that goes along with this data?
 - They are working on a map, but they will have to use a different data source that is not considered provisional
 - EMS typically has a radar map of where overdose related visits occur

Overdose Data to Action: Marianne Dean, MS: DOH-Pinellas

- The OD2A outreach coordinator has been working on a resource guide for Pinellas County which is a live document and is updated as needed
 - The document is available here - <https://pinellas.floridahealth.gov/programs-and-services/wellness-programs/substance-use-prevention/resources/index.html>
- The Office of Overdose Prevention has attended 30 outreach events to date
- The Office of Overdose Prevention has trained 79 individuals on how to administer naloxone
 - If you would like a Naloxone training, please reach out to the Office of Overdose Prevention at 727-568-8188
- 129 Narcan Emergency Red Boxes has been placed throughout Pinellas County
- The PCOTF Story Map was recently updated and is available here – <https://storymaps.arcgis.com/stories/57761bafd0aa459697ac4ebaf4aecb4f>
- The updated Opioid toolkit is finalized and will be printed soon
 - If you would like some opioid toolkits for your business, please reach out to Marianne.Dean@FIHealth.gov before 09/23/2022
- Addiction Stabilization Unit grant awarded - \$101,689
 - Secure funding to assist Operation Par to maintain their weekend prescribers
- Florida Department of Health Opioid Overdose Prevention Program
 - CHDs to begin distributing naloxone in 2022
 - Pilot project currently occurring in select counties, but distribution to remaining counties will soon follow
- NOPE Candlelight Vigil will be held on October 20, 2022 at 7pm in Largo Central Park

COSSAP / FR-CARA Update: Dr. Joshua Barnett, PCHS

COSSAP

- Since August of 2020, there have been 216 EMS Alerts/Referrals to COSSAP
 - Of those referrals, 41 individuals have received formal OUD treatment
 - There are 15 individuals currently active in OUD treatment
- Recently sent over a request to the Medical Examiner's Office to request contact information for next of kin to the decedents they selected for the Overdose Fatality Review (OFR)
 - Decedent selection requirements were: overdose occurred in the past 12-months, overdose was labeled accidental, and the decedent fell in the age range of 31-60.
- The summary document from the OFR review committee will be presented to the PCOTF

FR-CARA

- Looking to expand Quick Response Teams (QRT) for law enforcement agencies
- QRT Vendor: Gulf Coast Jewish Family and Community Services
 - Kick off meetings held on 08/09 and 08/12
- Dan Zsido is the naloxone trainer for Pinellas County and is getting ready to go out into the community
 - Just completed a soft rollout of naloxone trainings with Gulf Coast Jewish Family and Community Services
- Currently waiting on getting an evaluator who will evaluate the program and Quick Response Teams throughout Pinellas County
- Pinellas MATTERS Program currently has two staff members consisting of a waived medical doctor and a certified addiction professional, who are currently working in the Emergency Department at Bayfront Hospital
 - Goal is to embed themselves in Emergency Departments
 - Currently 60 days into the pilot program
 - Next phase is to work with Operation Par to hire 3 Certified Peer Recovery Specialists to work in Emergency Departments
- Question: Is there a way to connect with children whose parents interact with the Quick Response Teams?
 - They are going to go ahead and add that line of questioning to the referral packet

Northwestern University: C. Hendricks Brown, PhD

- New 5-Year NIDA funding to support overdose reduction in Pinellas County
- Using local data to model alternative implementation strategies
 - No results to show to the task force yet
 - Used an illustration from Chicago's efforts to model the National Ending HIV Epidemic Goal to show where they want to go with their project
- They are currently in the integrating the data into the model step of the building process
- In preparation of running experiments to the model they have identified the following main intervention targets: scale up of Narcan, scale up of treatment capacity, and increased linkage to treatment
 - William Atkinson suggested adding looking at continuing of care to the model

- Dr. Joshua Barnett suggested looking at treatment delivery and supports for optimizing recovery
- Results from findings from the COVID-19 pandemic
 - There was an immediate Increase in ALL drugs except Heroin during the start of the COVID-19 pandemic
 - Highest increase occurred in May of 2020
 - There was a continued elevation of overdoses in ALL drugs except Heroin
 - Primarily: Opioids (Fentanyl) and Stimulants (mostly methamphetamine)

CareerSource Pinellas: Melissa Ehrhardt, Recovery Navigator Supervisor

- Operating under a grant program to help individuals who are in recovery get back to work
- Since March of 2022, the program has grown a lot
- Have a career counselor to help those who are in recovery
- Funding to help get people back in school
- Working on a list of employers who are recovery friendly
- Feel free to connect with her at recovery@careersourcepinellas.com
- Question: Are there resources for individuals in recovery that have a record who might want to work in the healthcare field?
 - Biggest thing is finding employers who are willing to give someone a chance
 - There are some AHCA exemptions for these individuals
 - Working to find legal professionals who could help to get records expunged

Open Forum:

- Gayle Guidash – First Lady Case DeSantis announces “The Facts. Your Future.” Substance Abuse Curriculum launch for schools throughout Florida.
 - Should be coming to Pinellas County in November
- Live Tampa Bay – Has a few events coming up
 - September 20th - Link, Lunch and Learn Webinar [register here](#)
 - September 29th - Leadership Coalition Meeting, will have a presentation by the Assistant Attorney General for updates on the settlement funding
 - October 28th - Friday Night Lights, Live event
 - November 10th - First Annual Law Enforcement and First Responders Summit
 - December 1st - Joint strategic progress meeting
 - Email Parnia @ pr@livetampabay.org for more info on events or call 813-447-0924
- Michael Sheehan, Operation Par – Working on recruiting patients who need to be started on suboxone
 - Also recruiting patients who want to stop taking suboxone to see how well they will do while keeping them safe
- Misty Engel – WestCare GulfCoast offers MAT services for Pinellas and Pasco County
 - Funders pay for all suboxone, Sublocade, and Vivitrol as well as all medical and clinical services provided
 - Anyone can email anytime for anyone that may need to be seen
 - Misty.Engel@westcare.com

The next PCOTF meeting will be held on December 15th 2022