



Pinellas County Opioid Task Force Notes

12/15/2022 – 2 pm- 4 pm – Mid-County Health Department and Virtual via Teams

Welcome and Opening Statement: Marianne Dean, MS

- Welcome and brief introduction given by Marianne Dean
- The meeting will be conducted in a blended format with both in-person and virtual component

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

- FDA released an alert on Xylazine on 11/08/2022 to warn health care professionals of risks to patients exposed to Xylazine in illicit drugs
 - Routine toxicology screenings do not detect xylazine
 - Additional analytical techniques are needed to detect Xylazine when it might be involved in an illicit drug overdose
- Xylazine is a non-opioid tranquilizer that can be used to extend the effect of opioids
- Naloxone will not reverse a Xylazine overdose
 - Experts are worried that a growing prevalence of Xylazine in the illicit opioid supply may render Naloxone less effective for some overdoses
- In 2022 there were 53 post-mortem Xylazine identifications
- In 2022 there were 158 identifications of Xylazine mixtures in seized drugs
 - 94.3% of Xylazine identification were found in fentanyl
- N-desethyl isonitazene new drug identified in Pinellas County
 - Two instances in seized drugs in Pinellas County
- Nitazenes
 - Still prevalent in Pinellas County
 - 10-100x stronger than fentanyl
 - Takes more Naloxone to reverse an overdose involving Nitazenes
 - Reports state it could take 8 or 9 doses of Naloxone to reverse a Nitazene overdose
- As of September 30, 2022, there were 464 drug related accidental deaths in Pinellas County
 - Projecting 619 deaths by the end of 2022 if the trend stays the same
 - 5% Increase from last year
- The rate of increase in overdose deaths has slowed down this year

- There will still be an increase in overdose deaths, but the rate of increase is decreasing
- Questions and Comments:
 - An informational email regarding Xylazines in the Tampa Bay area will be sent out to the Task Force
 - Are there any slang terms for Nitazenes?
 - Iso for Isonitazene

Trends in Transports: Chris Jordan, BSBA, NRP; Pinellas County EMS & Fire Administration

- There were 7,756 9-1-1 transports of suspected overdoses during the 2021-2022 fiscal year
 - Overall same trend for month-to-month comparisons of numbers
 - Trends have stayed comparable for the last four years
- There were 2,783 9-1-1 transports of suspected overdoses with Narcan administered during the 2021-2022 fiscal year
- St. Petersburg and other big cities have the most 9-1-1 transports with Narcan administered
- There were 172 reported Police Department Narcan Uses in 2022
 - In 2021, there was 162
 - In 2020, there were 150
- Leave Behind Narcan Program Update
 - Program will enable clinicians to hand out Narcan to patients and bystanders who are identified as having a potential need for Narcan
 - Training Pinellas County clinicians this month to roll out the program in 2023 with the implementation of the new Medical Operation Manuals
- Question and Comments:
 - Are EMS seeing any individuals who are unresponsive after Narcan administration?
 - There have been incidents where individuals have required several doses of Narcan, or they are still unresponsive after having Narcan administered
 - There is no definite data on the subject yet
- Craig Queen is taking the lead on the Leave Behind Narcan Program
- Top zip codes on the heat map were 33713 and 33714

EIS Update: Mohammad Alak, MPH; DOH

- Pinellas County Quarterly Overdose Report is a publicly distributed document that utilizes overdose surveillance to help maintain situational awareness, respond to trends rapidly, and inform prevention and treatment activities
 - Note that this is syndromic surveillance and is subject to change as updated reports are released
- Report uses ESSENCE-FI data to track Emergency Department (ED) visits for suspected overdoses
 - There was a 2% decrease in opioid related visits in quarter 3 of 2022

- There was a 15% decrease in stimulant related visits in quarter 3 of 2022
- The demographics of individuals more likely to have experienced an overdose in quarter 3 of 2022, were White, Non-Hispanic males between the ages of 30 and 54.
 - There were no significant changes in demographic data between quarter 2 and quarter 3 of 2022
- There was a drop in number of Opioid EMS Responses and Naloxone Administered by EMS between quarter 2 and quarter 3
- Overdose related Fatalities in 2022
 - Quarter 1 2022 – 129
 - Quarter 2 2022 – 148
 - Nearly 15% increase in overdose related fatalities from quarter 1 to quarter 2 of 2022
- If there are any questions regarding the data presentation, please reach out to Mo at Mohammad.Alak@FIHealth.gov
- Questions and Comments:
 - Dr. Barnett wanted to highlight that Mo is assisting in providing data for Pinellas County's Overdose Fatality Reviews

Overdose Data to Action: Marianne Dean, MS; DOH

- The Office of Overdose Prevention operates out of the Florida Department of Health in Pinellas County and is funded by the Overdose Data to Action Grant
- DOH-Pinellas has begun to hand out Naloxone
 - Currently available in five DOH-Pinellas Centers
 - Naloxone is also handed out during the Office of Overdose Prevention's outreaches
- The Office of Overdose Prevention has handed out 100 Naloxone kits in the last 30 days
 - The kits are handed out in bags that feature a QR code that takes individuals to the ISAVEFL website where they are instructed on how to get additional Naloxone
 - The bags contain four Naloxone sprays and an informational packet on how and when to use the spray
 - Naloxone that has recently been handed out will not expire until 2025
 - Informational packets in the bags are written in both Spanish and English
- Naloxone normalization is a top priority
- DOH-Pinellas has been featured several times in local news to get the information regarding Naloxone availability in their centers out to the general public
- The Office of Overdose Prevention recently ordered 3,500 2022-23 Opioid Use Prevention Toolkits
 - All the toolkits were spoken for within one hour of initial notification email that was sent out to members of the PCOTF
 - Pinellas County Schools are very interested in using these toolkits to further their prevention efforts

- The Office of Overdose Prevention has ordered more 2022-23 Opioid Use Prevention Toolkits and is currently trying to get them out to the public
 - Please reach out to Marianne Dean at Marianne.Dean@FIHealth.gov for more information on the toolkits
- The Office of Overdose Prevention has a community resource guide they update regularly on all available resources in Pinellas County
 - Visit this website to see a copy of the Resource Guide - [Resources | Florida Department of Health in Pinellas \(floridahealth.gov\)](https://www.floridahealth.gov/about/press-releases/2022/04-20-2022-pinellas-county-community-resource-guide.html)
- The Office of Overdose Prevention attended 39 outreach events in 2022
- The Office of Overdose Prevention provided Naloxone training to 108 individuals in 2022
 - This training includes information on when and how to use Naloxone
- There were 149 Naloxone Emergency Red Boxes placed throughout Pinellas County in 2022
 - Thanks to the community members that helped to get the Red Boxes out in the community!
- Highlighted the need to immediately begin working on public messaging for 2023
 - Important Overdose dates for 2023 include:
 - The start of new semesters for colleges and high schools
 - Gasparilla
 - St. Patrick's Day
 - Spring Break
 - Important to get prevention information out to the public as soon as possible
 - If you have informational campaigns for your organization, please send them to the PCOTF so that other organizations can distribute the information as well
- Questions and Comments:
 - Is there current data collection on how much Naloxone is being dispersed to the public?
 - The Office of Overdose Prevention is keeping track of the locations where they are distributing Naloxone as well as how much Naloxone they are distributing
 - The office will hand out Naloxone to anyone as long as they appear to be over the age of 18
 - The office is trying to keep Naloxone distribution as anonymous as possible to fight stigma surrounding Naloxone
- If anyone PCOTF members are participating in any outreaches they feel that the Office of Overdose Prevention should attend, then they should reach out to Samantha Goodfellow at Samantha.Goodfellow@FIHealth.gov
- Is there an online copy of the 2022-23 Opioid Use Prevention Toolkit?
 - Yes, Marianne Dean sent out a PDF version of the toolkit via email to all taskforce members
 - If organizations wish to alter the toolkit to meet their certain needs, then they assume the liability for the information that is contained inside
 - Everyone is free to use information that is contained within the toolkit

- Is there a current marketing plan to roll out messaging targeting Spring Breakers? The county is expecting a large number of Spring Breakers in Pinellas County this year
 - There are no current plans. However, Gayle Guidash from DOH-Pinellas states that the marketing strategies should be a countywide effort
- The Florida Harm Reduction Collective stated that it may be helpful to include their information on the Naloxone distribution bags that DOH-Pinellas is handing out
 - State that they are the ones that run the mail order Naloxone program for Florida
- Robert Jacobsen the director for Narcan stated they have come up with an initiative to proactively send out Narcan information to all health departments in the state
 - Rolling out the week of 12/19/2022
- Will Atkinson from the Recovery Epicenter Foundation stated that he had information to share on Naloxone distribution to businesses on Highway 19
 - He stated they have distributed over 1000 kits of Naloxone
 - He stated that he can provide information on the addresses and how many kits were dropped off, to individuals who need that information for data collection
 - Working with St. Pete College to start Recovery on Tables that will start up monthly meetings in Pinellas County
- For more information, please reach out to Marianne Dean:
 - Email: Marianne.Dean@FlHealth.gov
 - Phone: (727) 568-8193

COSSAP / FR-CARA Update: Joshua Barnett, PhD, MHS, MA; PCHS

- COSSAP – Comprehensive Opioid, Stimulant, and Substance Abuse Program
 - Department of Justice grant funded project
 - Formation of Quick Response Teams that are comprised of a case management staff and peer support services that engage individual after an overdose event in the hopes of getting them into treatment
 - 55% of EMS referrals are having a positive contact with a case manager and a peer. This means they have agreed to have their information referred over to PAR from the EMT they are interacting with
 - 13% of these individuals are moving onto formal treatment services
 - This means getting individuals into outpatient treatment services
 - Does not just consist of prescribing medication
 - There is currently a downward trend in treatment uptake
 - This is annual trend around the holidays as many individuals have a lot going on
 - Current substances that are available are now more lethal; therefore, the timing of availability and dosing of medications is very important during this stage of the epidemic
 - A formal treatment program could put someone into a withdrawal
 - These individuals will then have to go seek drugs elsewhere if they are initially put on a low dose
 - Problematic and systemic issue

- Conversations on dosing strategies where individuals are allowed to self-dose their medications are happening
 - Conversations are also happening regarding how to start individuals on medications where they are not automatically placed on the lowest dose available
 - Florida is working on beginning community-based MAT and MOUD services
 - It could be stigmatizing or challenging for individuals to go to traditional treatment centers
 - Community-Based services would help to preserve anonymity and increase access to treatment
- FR-CARA
 - SAMHSA Grant
 - Quick Response Teams (QRT) which are contracted through Gulf Coast Jewish Family Community Services
 - Replicating the QRTs under the COSSAP grant but translating it to Law Enforcement agencies
 - Law Enforcement agencies also respond to overdoses
 - Law Enforcement has more interactions with individuals who they know have had an overdose in the past or may be at risk of having an overdose in the future
 - This program allows Law Enforcement to refer those individuals to care
 - Since its inception the program has had 101 hits
 - The program has had a hard time getting individuals into recovery services around the holiday season
 - Dan Zsido is funded to avail himself to large groups in order to stigma bust and to provide information on naloxone
 - Has helped staff feel confident in recognizing and responding to an overdose
- Overdose Fatality Review
 - Using contemporary decedent data to determine what went wrong before overdose
 - Next of Kin interviewer
 - Hospice employee who has been trained in bereavement counseling, so she is enhancing the context around the interviews
 - Need life cycle data of decedents in order to transform the data into prevention strategies
- Syringe Service Program there is a provision in the ordinance that allows for Human Services to act as the enforcement arm
 - Makes sure that it meets the needs of the community while simultaneously making sure the ordinance is enforced
 - Florida Department of Health helps provide data and support to the SSP
- Pinellas MATTERS
 - Replication of a program out of Erie County, New York
 - Certified Addiction Specialist and Peer Specialist located in Emergency Departments

- Currently located in Bayfront as part of a pilot program
- Medical Staff will discuss treatment opportunities regardless of individual's insurance status
- They will talk with all individuals who are co-morbid for a substance use disorder regardless of the reason for their initial visit to the Emergency Department
- Heather Henderson is the current practitioner who is operating out of Bayfront
- Working on having hot handoffs with individuals in order to meet people where they are at and help them find the best treatment option
- MATTERS program has reached 47 individuals
 - Average age of individuals was around 40
- Pinellas County has also been working with the DOH-Pinellas regarding the CORE funding
 - Funding for a weekend prescriber that operates out of Operation PAR
- Pinellas County is also working on bettering education regarding what services are available to the community
 - Pinellas County is working with a consultant to learn about access point around the county
 - CAM – Coordinated Access Program:
 - Goal is to track how long it takes individuals to receive treatment after they call
 - Individuals will call first to decide where they should go to seek treatment
 - The County has partnered with the USF College of Behavior and Community Science
 - Outside of a crisis situation they will have a simple battery of questions where they can plug people into care
 - Not a warm handoff as the goal is to book people into care before they end the phone call
 - The process will include booking individuals' appointment, track the amount of time it takes to get to that appointment, track the follow-up to that appointment
 - If individuals fall off the track, then the program has steps in place to pick individuals back up and get them back on the track
 - More systemic launch is upcoming
 - Program is for all patients regardless of insurance or Pinellas County funded programs
- Questions and Comments:
 - Will there be additional funding to assist with the continuation of care in the CAM program?
 - No, this program's main goal is to track the time it takes individuals to receive care after they have called inquiring about care. The program also wants to expand knowledge of current resources in Pinellas County.

Northwestern University: Wouter Vermeer, PhD; C. Hendricks Brown, PhD

- Currently in the explore intervention impact using the model stage of the modeling process
- Found that the increase in Narcan Distribution had a moderate impact (-10%) on the overdose deaths in Pinellas County
 - When increased Narcan availability was combined with reductions in isolated use
- Explorations on the impact of increasing MAT capacity
- Three strategies for increasing MAT capacity:
 - A strategy in which current Opioid Treatment Programs (OTPs) capacity is increased
 - A strategy in which additional OTPs are opened
 - A strategy in which waived physicians provide additional treatment capacity
- Doubling of capacity can reduce the annual deaths by roughly 1/5
 - This would annually save approximately 100 lives
- Each proposed strategy for increasing MAT capacity (in isolation) has the potential to achieve significant reductions in overdose deaths
- Need to include all strategies together to address the overdose crisis completely
 - They also need to include the research that is being done on Narcan availability to fully address the crisis
- Questions and Comments:
 - OTP – is generic in the sense that OTP could mean methadone or suboxone and they do not always have the same level of services
- Need to include information on how we get people into treatment capacity and how we retain them in any kind of treatment

Syringe Service Program Updates: Amanda Bonham-Lovett, MPH, LMSW; IDEA Exchange Pinellas

- Amanda Bonham-Lovett is the program director for IDEA
 - IDEA: Infectious Disease Elimination Act
 - Under Fla. Stat § 381.0038
- Research shows individuals are 5 times more likely to enter treatment if utilizing a Syringe Service Program (SSP)
- Research shows individuals are 3 times more likely to stop using drugs if utilizing an SSP
- 10% of new HIV infections in Florida are among Persons Who Inject Drugs (PWID)
- IDEA operates under People Empowering and Restoring Communities (PERC)
 - Received contract through the FDOH to operate first legal Syringe Exchange Program in Pinellas County
- In Pinellas County the SSP must be a fixed site
 - PERC has multiple locations throughout Pinellas and Pasco County
 - IDEA Exchange Pinellas is located at:
1525 16th St. S., Suite 3
St. Petersburg, FL, 33705
- Offer other services at IDEA Exchange Pinellas
 - Have put a large emphasis on providing wound care
 - They appreciate all wound care supply donations

- Reach out to Amanda Bonham-Lovett at Abonhamlovett@exoffender.org if you have wound care supplies you would like to donate
- IDEA is currently in the process of converting the large back space of their building into more space for offices and to give privacy to clients
- City of St. Pete is planning to pave the whole alley behind IDEA Exchange Pinellas, and they are hoping to mural the whole alley
- Florida Harm Reduction Collective is housed with IDEA Pinellas, and they have been really helpful during the start-up process
- In the process of trying to get the SSP ordinance passed in Pasco County to push them past the exploration phase
- Pinellas sent 31.8 million dollars on wound care last year – hospitals don't run in a deficit so a program like this could really save people a lot of money
 - Please donate wound care supplies

Open Forum

- Tim Santamour from the Florida Harm Reduction Collective – Every month on the second Wednesday at 9:30 A.M. they host a Tampa Bay Harm Reduction Workgroup
 - Would like for others to join and will send out an invitation at the meeting
- Daphne Lampley from Operation Par has been handing out Naloxone at outreach events
 - Receive their Naloxone supply from a nurse at Operation Par
 - Wanted to make sure that Naloxone distribution counts are not overlapping
 - Everyone is keeping a personal count of the amount of Naloxone they are distributing so the counts should not be overlapping
 - Naloxone is often underutilized or goes bad so while it is easy to count how much is being given to the community it is hard to keep track of how much is getting used
- Marianne Dean from FDOH-Pinellas potentially would like to have a slide that shows how much Naloxone is being distributed by every organization at the next PCOTF meeting
 - Jennifer Williams can send a list of organizations that distribute Naloxone and how many Naloxone kits organizations are distributing
 - This will probably not cover everyone who is distributing but it could provide a nice snapshot to the county regarding Naloxone distribution
- Dan Zsido presented information on Fentanyl Test Strips
 - Reta Newman from Pinellas County Forensic Lab is going to complete a quantitative analysis on 100 fentanyl test strips using the substances that she has in house
 - Reta Newman will receive the test strips on 12/16/2022
 - Thanks to William Atkinson for ordering the fentanyl test strips
 - Fentanyl test strips themselves are not drug paraphernalia
 - They are considered drug paraphernalia when they are used with an illicit drug

- Fentanyl test strips are available for purchase on amazon as long as an address is selected in a state where they are legal

The next meeting will be held on March 16th, 2023