

December 16, 2021 2-4PM

Brief introduction from Dianne Clarke to open the meeting.

Brief welcome from Marianne Dean prior to recording commencement.

#### **Medical Examiner's Office Update: Presenter Reta Newman**

- Notable decrease in heroin related deaths; fentanyl continues to be main driver of overdose deaths
- Nitazenes – new class of synthetic opioids
  - Similar to fentanyl in potency but does **not** have the same chemical structure to fentanyl, heroin, morphine, and other synthetic opioids
  - Not currently illegal – some cases of nitazenes being transported through the mail system
  - 3 types identified in Pinellas: N-pyrrolidino etonitazene, isotonitazene, metonitazene
    - 4<sup>th</sup> one found recently (did not have name provided at meeting)
    - Metonitazene has been examined for medical use – 1000x stronger than morphine
  - 37 known analogues – only 4 have been identified in Pinellas
  - Hard to detect in blood and body fluids
- Pentobarbital – medication used for seizure treatments and euthanasia (animals and medical execution for humans)
- New classes of synthetic cannabinoids – Pinellas one of the first areas in country to see them
- Laced synthetic cannabinoid found in Hillsborough County
  - Causes bleeding in affected patients
  - No Pinellas cases yet
  - PSA shared by Pinellas County Human Services to homeless providers; will share PSA with PCOTF network

#### **PCOTF Survey - Dr. Joshua Barnett**

- 41 total participants; 68% of attendees for September PCOTF meeting
- Most effective strategies: education, naloxone accessibility, partnerships, use of OD data, community-based models for MAT, harm reduction, anti-stigma awareness, and subject matter experts
- Least effective strategies: arrests/criminality of drugs, limited treatment modalities, underutilization of current resources, lack of involvement from policy makers, physician education, open prescription for Narcan at a pharmacy
- Additional feedback: improve involvement and accountability of tasks, include partners that support PCOTF goals, promote destigmatizing language during meetings
- Technical assistance from Opioid Response Network coming Jan-June 2022 to help with strategic planning of PCOTF

**Comprehensive Opioid, Stimulant, and Substance Abuse Program (COSSAP) Update: Presenter Dr. Joshua Barnett**

- Update on their partnership with EMS that focuses on engaging individuals who have just overdosed.
- Quick Response Team contacts survivors of OD within 24-48 hours after the OD
  - 80 people have been referred
  - Difficulty with case contact information
- 22 actively in treatment, 8 pending/haven't committed to treatment, 20 no contact information, some needing to be discharged due to moving or expressed disinterest
- Looking to expand into serving justice involved individuals that are released from jail
  - Hillsborough County uses the court system and law enforcement to link people to services
- Looking to create visuals and a framework to share data/successes

**Northwestern University: Presenter Dr. Holly Hills & Dr. Wouter Vermeer**

Holly Hills – University of South Florida

- Currently have 9 locations in Pinellas that distribute Narcan
- Interested in providing training and incentives to encourage recipients to carry Narcan
- Strategies for reducing overdose deaths (most to least important):
  - Train individuals on use of Narcan, reduce stigma, improve linkage to services, remove MAT access barriers, increase Narcan accessibility for law enforcement, increase delivery of substance use prevention programs, reduce drug supply

Wouter Vermeer – Northwestern University

- Working on integrating data into their model
- Some correlation between timing and type of location of deaths between 2018-2020
  - Randomness in where deaths occur within the county
- Large gaps in Narcan provider coverage; current providers are closely clustered
- Big need to increase access to Narcan and limiting people using drugs alone
- Targeted placement of red boxes and a reduction in isolated drug use can save nearly 50 lives per year
  - DCF recommends providing at least 2 Narcan kits to each recipient; 245 providers throughout Florida

**Pinellas County Human Services Strategic Information Partnership (SIP)- Presenter: Meghan Westbrook**

- Final year of funding – ends 9/30/22
- Including Dr. Kim Johnson from USF to look for policy implications from white paper data
- Database from USF partners to look at 2 years prior to an OD death
  - Data sources: PDMP, CFBHN, funded treatment sources, jail

## **Overdose Data to Action Update / EIS Update – Presenter: Marianne Dean**

### **OD2A Update – Marianne Dean**

- Strategic plan approved by BOCC on 12/7; will help with state opioid settlement money
- Office of Overdose Prevention has a website! <http://pinellas.floridahealth.gov/programs-and-services/wellness-programs/substance-use-prevention/index.html>
  - Still in progress
- Office of Overdose Prevention is a project resource for undergraduate students at USF
- Working with EMS to provide overdose information to Pinellas County Schools during Explorer's program
- Outreach staff will be participating in the Homeless Leadership Alliance Point in Time Count January 27, 2022
- Red box distribution will be supported by Natalie Powers at Pinellas County Harm Reduction Initiative
- Presentation on stigma awareness is available
- We have about 400 toolkits left!

### **PAR Guest Presentation- Presenter: Angela Tomlin**

- Operation PAR received a 4 year grant from Florida Blue
  - Has been operating since late August 2021
- Placement of PARBOTS, iPads, that can directly link people to PAR services while in care
  - Bayside Clinic, Safe Harbor, St. Anthony's, Morton Plant, Mease Dunedin
- Available Monday-Friday between 8 AM and 7 PM
- 13 calls so far
  - 2 Safe Harbor, 6 Bayside, 3 St. Anthony's, 2 Morton Plant, 1 Mease Dunedin
  - Peer recovery specialist promoted program at Safe Harbor – saw increase in usage
- 8 of 13 have been admitted into PAR treatment

### **Closing Comments**

Gayle Guidash – Project Opioid Tampa Bay had presentation recently on regional problems; plans to share if she can find presentation

Promotion of structural change as a community versus individualized approaches

Joshua Barnett – Recovery-oriented systems of care embrace those in recovery to advocate for care workgroup; bring in more people with lived experience into discussions

Asked for possible representatives from attendees

Jacob Still – referred Tim Brown as a peer/resource; Dianne Clarke has contact information to share

Michael Jalazo – PERC will be moving forward with the SSP, more information in the March PCOTF meeting.