

# Orange County Heroin Task Force Healthcare Subcommittee Report



# Healthcare Subcommittee

## Subcommittee Co-Chairs:

- Josef Thundiyl, M.D., Medical Toxicology & Emergency Medicine, Orlando Health
- Kevin Sherin, M.D., Director, Florida Department of Health in Orange County
- Ademola Adewale, M.D, Assistant Program Director, Florida Hospital Emergency Medicine Residency



## Participating Agencies/Members:

Alkermes  
Aspire Health Partners  
Bridges of America  
Central Florida Recovery Center  
CNS Healthcare  
Florida Department of Health, Orange County  
Florida Department of Health, Polk County  
Florida Hospital  
Kaleo  
Lake Howell Health Center  
Orange Blossom Family Health  
Orlando Clinical Research  
Orange County Corrections Health Services

## Members:

Orange County Family Services  
Orange County Fire Rescue  
Orange County Health Services  
Orange County Medical Clinic  
Orange County Medical Society  
Orange County Public School Health Svc.  
STEPS  
Sunrise Detox  
UF College of Pharmacy  
VCU School of Pharmacy  
Walgreens  
Winnie Palmer Hospital for Women & Children

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## Objectives:

- 1) Review current naloxone “narcans” legislation and research existing training and education tools for prescribers, pharmacists, and family members.
- 2) Review training needs for medical students, resident physicians, physicians, nurses and other medical staff regarding heroin use, prescription opioid abuse, pain management, safe prescribing for pain and managing patients who abuse prescription opioids, Screening, Brief Intervention and Referral to Treatment (SBIRT), medication-assisted treatment options, recovery support resources as well as review continuing education requirements for physicians. (Objective 2 and 4 have been combined)
- 3) Review local use of the Prescription Drug Monitoring Program (E-FORCSE) among physicians and explore opportunities and best practices in other states to increase use.

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## Objectives:

- 4) Work with the other subcommittees on strategies to share de-identified data on ER admissions, ME and NAS as well as other public health data regarding heroin use and prescription opioid abuse to assist in tracking drug trends and direct resources in the community.
- 5) Work with the Treatment subcommittee to discuss best practices that bring pain management physicians and psychiatrists and treatment providers together to discuss pain management and addiction.
- 6) Work with the Education and Prevention subcommittee to review existing public health campaigns addressing prevention of heroin use, prescription opioid abuse and other health-related risks for intravenous use of drugs.



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## Proposed Recommendation #1 & #2:

- **Advocate for Increased Access to Naloxone** via Authorization of Standing Order Language under Florida Emergency Treatment and Recovery Act
  - Allow for expanded access and distribution of naloxone and permit pharmacists to dispense naloxone under a standing order
  - Request modification to Emergency Treatment and Recovery Act Florida Statute 381.887
- **Initiate Pilot Project to Increase Access and Distribution of Naloxone by Identifying High-Risk Groups**
  - Treated at the Emergency Room
  - Admitted into a Treatment Facility
  - Other Healthcare Setting
  - Support providing naloxone prescription as part of discharge plan for high-risk patients



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## Proposed Recommendation #3:

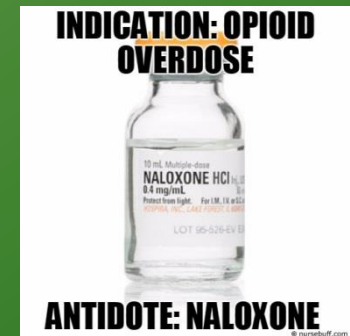
- **Implement Pilot Program for At-Risk Heroin-Addicted Inmates at Orange County Jail**
  - Overdose prevention education and distribution of naloxone for identified inmates
  - Education & screening for Vivitrol® injection and treatment services in partnership with Florida Alcohol and Drug Abuse Association (FADAA) approved Vivitrol® providers
  - Collaboration among Orange County Corrections Health Services, Corrections & treatment providers
  - Community Corrections Division (CCD) Education Plan:
    - Work with FADAA approved Vivitrol® providers on educational sessions for clients and family members
    - Provide educational handouts and PSA's on overdose prevention and administration of naloxone



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## Proposed Recommendation #4 & #5:

- **Advocate for Mandatory Continuing Education Requirement for Physicians and Nurses** on opiate misuse & heroin abuse, naloxone overdose prevention, prescribing & substance abuse
  - Subcommittee will work with FL Board of Medicine & Board of Nursing
- **Increase Awareness and Education among Physicians and Other Medical Providers on:**
  - Current heroin problem & signs and symptoms
  - Medication-assisted treatment
  - Safe prescribing and prescribing naloxone
  - Prepare FAQ's on the FL Emergency Treatment and Recovery Act
  - Work with Orange County Medical Society, Florida College of Emergency Physicians, Primary Care and Family Physicians, American College of Physicians and Florida Medical Association on distribution of information and webinars



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## Proposed Recommendation #7, #8 & #9:

- **Advocate for Appropriate and Adequate Increases in Funding for Detox Beds, Ambulatory Detox and Care and Coordination for opiate/heroin addicted patients**
  - Address problem at multiple levels - where and how referring patients to ensure appropriate level of care and treatment modality (Joint Recommendation by Treatment Subcommittee)
- **Increase Communication and Collaboration between Treatment Programs and Obstetric and Pediatric/Neonatal healthcare providers** in order to facilitate therapy for infants at risk of Neonatal Abstinence Syndrome
  - Connect family with necessary services after delivery
- **Early Referral of New Opiate/Heroin Addicted Patients for medically assisted therapy during pregnancy** in order to improve consistency of maternal therapy





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## Proposed Recommendation #10:

- **Advocate for Increased Funding for Data Collection and Provide Quarterly Data Reports to track the mortality and morbidity of heroin use** and measure the progress of the initiatives implemented
  - Data collection points would include but not limited to:
    - Emergency Room Admissions (AHCA and Essence)
    - Medical Examiner Heroin-Related Deaths
    - Treatment Admissions (Public and Private)
    - Health Department Data
    - Law Enforcement Arrests for Possession, Trafficking/Distribution
    - FDLE Lab Admissions
    - Corrections Heroin-Related Bookings
    - Corrections Pilot Program on Naloxone and Vivitrol®
    - Neonatal Abstinence Syndrome Admissions
    - Florida Youth Substance Abuse Survey
    - Youth Risk Behavioral Survey
    - CORE and College Health Assessment Survey



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## Proposed Recommendation #6 & #11:

- **Create Informational Handouts and Brief Video on Naloxone for medical providers and consumers** when and how to use naloxone, cost and where it can be purchased
- **Launch Town Hall Meeting in Collaboration with the Education and Prevention Subcommittee to increase education and awareness on:**
  - Current heroin problem (signs and symptoms)
  - Provide information on naloxone (administration, availability, cost)
  - Medication-assisted treatment options and resources
  - Highlight social marketing campaign & toolkit
  - Review the task force recommendations and action plan
  - Target audience: parents & guardians, parent associations, families and friends, businesses, neighborhood associations, faith-based leaders, educators, medical associations, and college peer educators

