



Orange County Opioid Advisory Committee
Friday, February 9, 2024
9:00am-10:00am
BCC Chambers 201 S. Rosalind Ave. Orlando, FL 32801

Welcome & Introductions: Dr. Thundiyl, MD, | Dr. Zuver, MD.

In Attendance:

Josef Thundiyl - *Orlando Health*
Robert Karch – *FL Dept of Health OC*
Christian Zuver- *Medical Director Orange County EMS System*
Raul Pino - *Health Services Department*
Candiss Ducksworth – *FL Dept of Health OC*
Kimberley Engeman - *OC Fire Rescue Dept.*
Paul Maxwell - *HIDTA*
Shane DeJarnett - *Orange County Sheriff's Office*
Tylor Olson - *Orlando Police Department*
Jaime Bridges – *Orlando Health*
Michelle Dodson – *AdventHealth*
Heather Flanagan – *AdventHealth*
Thomas Hall – *OC Drug Free Office*
Andrea Korner – *OC Drug Free Office*
Janet Rivera – *OC Drug Free Office*
Yan Ingram – *OC Drug Free Office*
Kathleen Russell – *City of Orlando Office of the Mayor*
Rob Pigman – *Valencia College*
Neeshan Tulshi – *DEA*
Makenzie DeMarco – *AdventHealth*
Scott Tucker – *AdventHealth*
Ronique Bain – *FL Dept of Health OC*
Jordan Clear – *Orlando Health*
Dennis Ela – *Orange County Sheriff's Office*
Crystal Smalldon – *Orlando Police Department*
Caroline Austin - *Institute for Social & Behavioral Sciences UCF*
Christine Schippert – *AdventHealth*
Morgan Aley – *AdventHealth*
Taylor Cozy – *SAMH DCF*
Nora Alkhatib – *SAMH DCF*

Web-ex

Jasmatti Seeram – *OC Drug Free Office*
Megan Giddens – *OC Drug Free Office*
Leonard Kinerson - *Orange County Fire Rescue*
Kelly Steel - *State Attorney 9th Judicial Courts*
Tara Rao – *Florida Health*
Chris Spurlin – *City of Orlando Fire Dept*
Joshua Stephany – *Districts 9 and 25 Medical Examiner's Office*
Craig Moser - *AdventHealth*

Public Comment

No public comment at this meeting

Approval of Minutes

The committee approved the minutes drafted.

Unintentional Overdose Mortality & Morbidity Review (OMMR): *(Caroline Austin, MA)*

Caroline Austin went over the unintentional fatal overdose data from Q4-2023. Using what data has been processed, it seems that fentanyl has been responsible for most of the ODs so far this year. Fentanyl alone caused 17.8% of the ODs, while fentanyl-related polysubstance use was 51.1%. They have also started Hotel and Motel Interviews. These interviews are with managers at hotels/motels where at least one fatal overdose took place from 2018-2023. So far, 20 interviews have been conducted and will continue through February. The Next of Kin interviews have also been started on, with one interview having been completed. These interviews are scheduled with the family members of fatal overdose victims to find out what might have led to an overdose and work on preventing them in the future. Recruitment has been resumed with the assistance of Recovery Connections. As for the Good Samaritan 911 Laws project, which is geared towards raising awareness of such laws among residents and law enforcement, the literature review is complete and interviews with OCSO will begin shortly. ISBS has continued working with the Jail MAT (Medication Assisted Treatment) program to analyze Orange County Jail Data, specifically concerning individuals who suffered a fatal overdose within 365 days of release from 2018-2022.

Orange County Fire Rescue Report (*Chief Scott Egan and Lieutenant Kimberley Engeman*)

Lieutenant Engeman reviewed the suspected overdoses during the evaluation period between 2014 and December 2023. Looking at the suspected overdoses by month, an upward spike is seen in December 2023, which is made apparent in comparison to the downward trend from August 2023 to November 2023. Engeman then showed a schedule with the concentration of suspected overdoses by hour and day of week, with Fridays and Saturdays nights having the highest impact. The amount of Narcan administered to patients was decreasing, with total dosage and per patient, until December 2023, when the dosage spiked upward. The different routes of administration for Naloxone were compared, both from EMS and before EMS. In both instances, intranasal was the most common one. As for the demographics of suspected drug overdose patients, the highest age/gender group was 30–39-year-old males. The racial/ethnic distribution comprises a majority of whites, followed by Hispanic/Latino. An incident distribution heat map was presented, showing the monthly concentration of suspected overdoses in areas around Orange County.

Subcommittee Updates—Law Enforcement

Central Florida HIDTA (*Paul Maxwell, Drug Intelligence Officer (DEA ret.)*)

Officer Maxwell covered the top three drug threats: fentanyl/heroin, methamphetamine, and cocaine. Fentanyl/heroin was labeled the top drug threat, mainly due to involvement in the highest percentage of non-fatal and fatal overdose deaths. In all of 2023, CFHIDTA seized approximately 110 kilograms of fentanyl powder and 9 kilograms of heroin, surpassing the 85 kilograms of fentanyl from 2022. Methamphetamine/ice is ranked second as a threat, with about 386 kilograms of meth being seized in 2023. Cocaine is ranked third as a threat, with 1012 kilograms of cocaine being seized in 2023. Maxwell warned that they have been seeing more fentanyl lacing in “party drugs”. There is a national emerging drug threat of nitazenes, which has been found more out-West. Nitazenes are a stronger synthetic opioid than fentanyl, with some compounds being 10 times stronger. There is a chance that nitazenes can be used to lace other drugs and can possibly increase fentanyl tolerance.

Orange County Sheriff's Office (*Lieutenant Shane DeJarnett*)

Lieutenant DeJarnett reviewed the Overdose Statistics Report, showing the data from Q1-Q4 of 2023 compared to Q1-Q4 of 2022. According to the data, there is a 30% drop in overdoses, but DeJarnette attributed this to the differences between the old and new reporting systems. He theorized that the drop in overdoses is not as drastic, but is a decrease, nonetheless. There has been a decrease in Narcan deployments from Orange County deputies, with 2022 having 81 deployments and 2023 having 54. DeJarnette explained that these numbers can be attributed to the programs organizations that provide Narcan to the community. The Sheriff's Office had some recent cases of

seizing fake M30 pills. These pills presumptively tested for fentanyl and xylazine. It is unknown if the lacing is due to cross-contamination or if dealers are attempting to create a 'better high'. In late 2023, Attorney General Ashley Moody outlawed tianeptine, also known as "gas station heroin," in Florida. Recently, the D.E.A. interdicted 5K pounds of tianeptine coming out of Jacksonville. This drug was set to be delivered to a gas station in east Orange County before being seized.

Orlando Police Department (*Sergeant Tylor Olson*)

Sergeant Olson reported on a murder indictment that the Overdose Investigative Unit had a part in. They had identified suspects and conducted several operations to target the drug dealers. As of now, both suspects have been indicted on 1st Degree Murder charges and arrested. The case is currently pending trial. Olson reviewed and compared the statistics of overdose deaths and naloxone deployments between Q4-2022 and Q4-2023. The OPD saw an increase in overdose deaths, with 10 deaths in Q4-2022 and 19 in Q4-2023. Additionally, there was an decrease in naloxone deployments, from 15 in Q4-2022 to 13 in Q4-2023.

Olson presented an overdose density map, showing two hotspots in the Central and East divisions. The D.E.A. approached the OPD about conducting a joint operation called Operation Overdrive, which was acted on during Q3-2023. He compared the densities from Q3-2023 to Q4-2023, showing that the operation shifted the hotspots away from the sectors previously identified. They were able to target several dealers and make many arrests during the operation.

For Q4-2023, the OPD has been working on community events, such as Project Noelle's Christmas gift collection and the DEA Prescription Pill Take Back on October 28th. During the Take Back Day, they collected 48 pounds of unwanted prescription medications. The Christmas gift collection was able to provide gifts for 40 children who have lost their parents to the opioid epidemic. Using the OIU data, a large number of overdoses were identified in Downtown. In response, a community resource awareness fair was held at the Lynx Central Station. The OPD has also recently hired a new Victim Advocate, Crystal Smalldon. As for future events, DEA Pill Take Back event on April 27th will be held at five different sites in Orlando.

Subcommittee Updates— Education & Prevention & Treatment

Orlando Health (*Jaime Bridges, LCSW*)

Jaime Bridges reported on the data collected by Orlando Health in Q4-2023, in which the number of overdoses and patients missed have stayed relatively the same, but the number of Narcan kits passed out in the Dr. Phillips area has increased since the last quarter, jumping from 157 to 226 kits. Recently, a Navigator was hired at South Seminole and Orlando Health is in the process of onboarding them. As for the Narcan Take Home Program, Orlando Health is now giving out more Narcan to inpatients and patients seen in the emergency departments, especially as they are now on campus and are educating more. The Florida Blue Medically Assisted Treatment (MAT) grant finally ran out. This grant had provided up to 2 weeks of buprenorphine at discharge to patients inducted at the hospital. Currently, they are in the process of creating a contract with the Orange County Drug Free Office to help with funding. Additionally, a buprenorphine algorithm has been created for inductions in EPID. This algorithm makes it easier for doctors at Orlando Health hospitals to start their patients on buprenorphine and will give a step-by-step on how to proceed.

Bridges explained their partnership with Aspire and mentioned that their referrals for the Aspire Treatment Team have increased. It was explained that the most likely reason for low referrals to detox was most likely attributed to patients being offered a different service in the hospital, such as MAT. For Q4-2023, the Aspire Treatment Team Pilot has had 189 total referrals, with 68 referrals to MAT, 17 to detox, and 27 to residential. Aspire has been

unable to fill the position of Peer Support Specialist. Lastly, Orlando Health has started an Addiction Medicine Rotation for their medical students, in which they have a resident on board for two weeks to learn.

AdventHealth (*Michelle Dodson, LCSW, Morgan Aley, LCSW, and Heather Flanagan, LCSW*)

Michelle Dodson reported nine LCSWs covering eight AdventHealth campuses, as well as eight free standing Emergency Departments. Currently there are plans to build more free-standing Emergency Departments and another campus. Their medical director Dr. Ganjam is consulting with patients and inducting them on MAT at the hospital. There is talk of a research project on following up with patients in the community after they start on MAT, asking questions about their success, relapse, readmission, etc. As for the Hope and Healing Center, which covers short-term residential and intensive outpatients, it will be moved to Altamonte and expanded within 2024.

Morgan Aley gave updates on the Recovery Enhancement Project, which is a partnership with Orange County, which includes the Orange County Jail and the Community Outreach Program. Jail-based Opioid Navigators meet with patients in the jail participating in the jail-based MAT program. In Q4-2023, they had 12 new referrals, 93 face-to-face interactions, 1700+ non-face-to-face interactions, and ten patients referred to benefits programs. Since January 2023, they have had 38 inmates enrolled and retained, with 8 successful program completions, meaning that the patients remained engaged for the entire six months. Lastly, they have had 23 scheduled and attended primary/behavioral care appointments, 20 patients referred to transitional housing, and 22 to residential treatment. Additionally, they found that 72% of patients that had their assessment completed in the jail, ended up initiating REP post-release. Of those clients that initiated, 48% did so within the same day as their release. Looking further at the clients who initiated, 83% were homeless and were sent directly to a treatment program or sober living. A majority of clients have co-occurring mental health issues, with 82% having a history of anxiety, 73% with history of depression, and 56% with history of PTSD. Lastly, they had a 46% successful discharge rate from May 2022 to September 2023.

Heather Flanagan gave updates on the Community Outreach Program, which works with Behavioral Health Navigators in the hospital. In Q4-2023, they enrolled and retained 4 new patients, with 13 patients in total, and have received 30 referrals from ED, Community, and EMS. From October to December 2023, they had 75+ face-to-face interactions with patients, 5000+ non-face-to-face interactions, and 30+ scheduled and attended primary/behavioral care appointments. Additionally, 11 patients have been referred to benefits programs, and 115+ referrals to various programs, services, and treatment facilities. Since January 2023, they have had 20 patients referred to transitional housing. They have also distributed 170 Narcan kits to the community.

Opioid Task Force (*Thomas Hall, Ph.D., LCSW*)

Dr. Thomas Hall reviewed the two grants that the Regional Opioid Settlement Funds Committee oversees. The first grant had the focus of education of stakeholders. This was carried out by Heather Flanagan with Orlando Health, going out to fire stations, and talking with first responders about Narcan revival and treatment. That grant has run its course and now the committee is working with the Department of Justice Grant. This grant has the focus of coordinating an emergency room, frequent and persistent overdoses specific to opioids, and to transition patients to Flanagan's team. From there, Flanagan would transition patients to primary care, behavioral healthcare, and MAT. Currently, the Regional Opioid Settlement Fund Committee is contracted with True Health and with Orange County Medical Clinic to provide the behavioral healthcare and MAT. Moving forward, there are plans to expand the group to other hospitals with navigator teams in the community to address specific populations, such as patients coming out of the ER back to jail.

Another issue brought up was that over half of the fatalities in Orange County last year included cocaine or methamphetamine. This information has shown that it is important to promote and provide fentanyl test strips. Dr. Hall has been approached by two non-profit organizations that are interested in making this happen.

Next Quarterly Meeting: May 10th, 2024

Adjournment: 10:00 am

Prepared by: Andrea Korner Date: 2/15/2024

Approved by:  Date: 2/15/2024