



**Orange County Opioid Settlement Funds
Advisory Committee
Friday, May 10, 2024
10:00 am-11:00am**

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

In Attendance:

Josef Thundiyl – *Orlando Health*

Christian Zuver – *OC Health Services EMS*

Kathleen Russell – *City of Orlando Office of the Mayor*

Dennis Ela – *Orange County Sheriff's Office*

Cristopher Spurlin – *Orlando Fire Dept EMS*

Raul Pino – *OC Health Services*

Tyler D Olson – *City of Orlando, Police Dept*

Shane DeJarnett – *Orange County Sherrif's Office*

Robert Karch – *FL Dept of Health OC*

Maria Bledsoe – *Central Florida Cares*

Thomas Hall – *OC Drug Free Office*

Tara Rao – *OC Drug Free Office*

Yan Ingram – *OC Drug Free Office*

Public Comment

There was no public comment at this meeting.

Motion to Approve Minutes

The Committee approved the minutes drafted from the previous meeting.

Florida CORE Updates: Dr. Thomas Hall and Maria Bledsoe on Emergency Medical Services: Buprenorphine Field Start Protocol

- The protocol originated in California, and there needs to be a discussion on how to implement it with Orlando and Orange County Fire Rescue.
- This protocol includes assessing opioid withdrawal signs, accessing exclusion criteria, administering buprenorphine, and bringing them to the hospital and clinic for a follow-up.
- If implemented, more conversations will need to be held concerning policies and procedures and time dedicated to them.
- A 24/7 helpline and an on-call mental health provider are needed.

Hospital Inductions Updates: Dr. Josef Thundiyl

- Dr. Thundiyl explained that Orlando Health has recently gained an opioid navigator at Doctor Phillips and South Seminole Hospital. They have been working on educating all the staff on any new drugs, new processes, and safety issues.
- Funding will help the nursing staff monitor MAT patients inducted in the ED 12 hours a day, seven days a week.
- Must focus on building relationships with patients and not pulling them away from their support system.

Updates on New Opioid Settlement Fund Initiatives: Dr. Thomas Hall

- In 6 weeks, MAT will begin in the Orange County Medical Clinic.
 - Initial referrals will arrive from the jails; however, they will also accept any referrals if they meet the criteria.
 - Such criteria include being uninsured or underinsured.
 - True Health will provide MAT and behavioral health services.
 - The medication would be paid through a Department of Justice Grant
- Work is being done with Transformation Village in Bithlo. They have a MAT program and do outreach to the unhoused population.
 - We are working with the Samaritan Resource Center to provide two peer outreach specialists who will help with Transformation Village.
 - Additionally, AdventHealth will provide an on-site navigator.
- STEPS Program for the ten beds for mothers and mothers with children who are opioid dependent will start in about a month. They will receive residential treatment.
- The CDC Stop Overdose Campaign will be expanded. iHeart Media, All Over Media, and Clear Channel have been contracted to extend the campaign.

Updates on Existing Opioid Settlement Fund Initiatives: Dr. Thomas Hall

- The Mobile MAT clinic bus is in production and will be done by late May. It will then take about eight weeks to outfit the bus. The target date for the bus to be operational is August 1st.
 - STEPS will staff the bus and will have a Medical Clinic navigator.
 - Dr. Thundiyil asked about the bus's range. Dr. Hall explained that the bus could travel all over Orange County. The idea is for the bus to expand on existing services, not replace them.
 - Dr. Hall brought up the significant problem of residential care for people on MAT.
 - A group from Palm Beach will be meeting with Dr. Hall and Maria Bledsoe to discuss the opportunity to admit patients to their housing units.
- Kathleen Russell and Dr. Thomas Hall are working with the City of Orlando on the transportation initiative involving the transportation of Baker Act and Marchmen Act individuals.
 - Maria Bledsoe asked for clarification on which initiative this was. Dr. Thomas Hall explained that this was for alternative transportation for patients who have been Baker Acted instead of being transported by law enforcement.
- Three certified peer recovery specialists are assigned to the 9th judicial court (problem-solving court).
- The CDC Stop Overdose campaign is on gas station TVs, buses, UCF campus, and bus shelters.
 - Tyler Olson asked if a 24/7 helpline would be added to the advertisements. Dr. Hall responded that it is the next step.
- Fentanyl test strip distribution: Within eight weeks, 6 thousand kits have been distributed.
 - The kit includes 10 test strips and a scoop.
- Project Opioid is continuing Naloxone distribution.
 - Recovery Ready Workforce: a toolkit for HR departments to help people in recovery.
- UCF and other groups have shown an interest in naloxone vending machines on campus.

Committee Discussion:

- Maria Bledsoe mentioned that the contact line is already available to the public: 407 – RECOVER in response to Tyler Olson's concern about having a 24/7 helpline.
 - The Committee discussed the importance of expanding the services of 407 – RECOVER, instead of creating a whole new line. The current line is starting to receive calls, and

making a new line would confuse the public. Additionally, the 211 line is used for many services and would add to the confusion.

- Maria Bledsoe made the motion to utilize the 407 – RECOVER line. Dr. Josef Thundiyl seconded the motion. The entire Committee was in favor.
- Dr. Josef Thundiyl asked about the settlement funding after the CORE initiatives and proposed Regional Opioid Settlement Funds to fill funding gaps. Maria Bledsoe explained that what is not used in the first year will be pushed forward concerning CORE funding.
 - Dr. Hall stated that the Committee has received Year 2 funding from the county, the city, and the region.

ACTION ITEMS

Next Meeting: 8/9/2024 at 10:00 am

Adjournment: 11:00 am

Prepared by: Andrea Korner Date: 5/31/2024

Approved by: Thomas Hall Date: 06/04/2024

DRAFT