

**MANATEE COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
WORK SESSION  
BRADENTON AREA CONVENTION CENTER, LONGBOAT KEY ROOM  
One Haben Boulevard  
Palmetto, Florida  
May 2, 2017**

Present were:

Betsy Benac, Chairman  
Robin DiSabatino, First Vice-Chairman  
Charles B. Smith, Second Vice-Chairman (entered during the meeting)  
Stephen R. Jonsson, Third Vice-Chairman  
Vanessa Baugh  
Carol Whitmore  
Priscilla Whisenant Trace

Also present were:

Ed Hunzeker, County Administrator  
Mitchell O. Palmer, County Attorney  
Angelina Colonnese, Clerk of the Circuit Court  
Robin Toth, Deputy Clerk, Clerk of the Circuit Court

**AGENDA**

BC20170502DOC001

**WELCOME**

 Mike Carroll, Secretary, Department of Children and Families (DCF), welcomed everyone to the work session. Participants at the discussion table introduced themselves and the organization they represent.

 Moderator, Lisa Mayrose, DCF Suncoast Regional Managing Director, introduced speakers as they came forward.

**OVERVIEW OF CURRENT AND PLANNED STATE ACTIVITIES/RESOURCES**

**Department of Children and Families**

 John Bryant, Assistant Secretary of Substance Abuse and Mental Health, spoke on Florida being awarded grant funds for the Opioid State Targeted Response Project to include the expansion of medication-assisted treatment, increased services to mothers with substance-exposed newborns, and improved partnership with child welfare clients.

 Amanda Muller, Overdose Prevention Coordinator, Department of Children and Families (DCF), spoke of a Partnerships for Success/Primary Prevention Grant to focus on reducing prescription drug use. Manatee County is one of eight County recipients to receive funding for a school-based prevention program that is to start this year. DCF has an overdose prevention program that provides overdose response training.

**Managing Entity**

 Linda McKinnon, Central Florida Behavioral Health Network Director, stated the Network is working in collaboration with DCF to assure that prevention substance abuse and mental health services are provided to clients who cannot pay for services. Manatee County received \$25 million of Federal funding for behavioral health, \$4 million of which is targeted for prevention and substance abuse services.

**Department of Health**

 Dr. Celeste Philip, Florida Surgeon General, stated that more recent guidelines are being looked at regarding pain management and the use of Opioids and how prescriptions are written. The Florida Medical Association is examining their curriculum to see where improvements can be made to share current, accurate information with students. Groups are committed to change how pain treatment is addressed and the administering of Opioids.

(Enter Commissioner Charles Smith)

There has been a sharp increase in newborns with Opioid withdrawal during the prenatal stage. Workshops are being held to determine the needs of each community.

**Office of the Attorney General**

 Andrew Benard, Assistant Deputy Attorney General, spoke on the efforts of the Attorney General to cease drug trafficking.

**INITIATIVES AND NEEDS IDENTIFIED BY LOCAL STAKEHOLDERS**

**Law Enforcement**

 Manatee County Sheriff Rick Wells commended all partners in the treatment efforts of Opioid overdoses. The Sheriff's Office is the first responder to the scene, finding the victims and starting life-saving measures until Emergency Medical Services (EMS) arrives. The Sheriff's office is working with State and Federal levels to seek funding for the administration of Narcan.

**Local Government**

 Chairman Benac expressed appreciation to everyone for coming together to seek solutions to the Opioid epidemic. More efforts are needed, and she commended Legislature in seeking to prevent Opioids from entering Manatee County. Lake Erie College of Osteopathic Medicine has stepped up in educating their pharmacy students on the Opioid epidemic.

 Joshua Barnett, Manatee County Healthcare Services Manager, spoke of dedicated leadership and community partnership in Manatee County, Manatee County alone sought out funding resources to bring peer coaches to the community, today's current focus is Manatee County's Community Paramedicine Program that is looking toward becoming a Best Management Practice, the collaboration between agencies, law enforcement, and detox resources, Manatee County is participating in a statewide, and a real-time drug epidemiology workgroup is responsible for exchanging and analyzing trend data to come up with strategies to address this disease.

Discussion was held on the rise in intravenous infections, pain is seen as something to be treated rather than a symptom of something else that is occurring, medication-assisted treatment needs to be expanded and implemented in a way that is commensurate with evidence, behavioral and non-medication approaches, yielding to the American Psychiatric Association, supporting physicians to address the underlying symptom to some other issue, Manatee County is dedicated to the closure of pill mills and is partnering with Central Florida Behavioral Health Network and Drug Free Manatee, and anticipation that DCF will continue to engage Manatee County in recommendations for solutions at local and State levels.

**Treatment Provider**

Melissa Skinner-Larkin, Chief Executive Officer of Centerstone, spoke on the need for more treatment and prevention resources, the treatment system is overtaxed, and it will require

coordinated state-wide effort, establishment of a psychiatric residency allowing physicians to be heavily educated on the Opioid addiction, continued funding request to pay for Suboxone and Vivitrol (medications to reduce symptoms of Opiate addiction/withdrawal), increased workforce is needed, resources are needed for first responders, policy changes on drug monitoring use, state- and nation-wide public awareness campaigns, all stakeholders need to make sure that laws are passed and the resources are used wisely, and the epidemic will continue to increase if the implementation of a plan is delayed.

### **Emergency Medical Services**

 Bob Smith, Manatee County Public Safety Director, deferred his comments to Mr. DiCicco and Mr. Crutchfield to discuss details of the epidemic in Manatee County.

 Paul DiCicco, Public Safety Chief, shared data on the substantial increase in doses of Narcan over the past five years, which has strained the system and staff. One individual was administered Narcan 27 times to combat the effects of Heroin.

 James Crutchfield, Community Paramedicine Program, stated the Paramedicine Program has partnered with Manatee Memorial Hospital to align resources with the patient's needs.

 Laura Little, Clinical Leader, Manatee Memorial Hospital, stated there were 1,400 Opioid overdoses last year, and there have been 423 Opioid overdoses this year to date.

### **Prevention**

 Sharon Kramer, Executive Director, Drug Free Manatee, stated the Addiction Crisis Task Force was established to combat the Opioid epidemic. Drug Free Manatee collaborated to identify and implement evidence-based strategies that include prevention education and intervention, crime reduction, public policy and awareness, access to treatment, and medication-assisted treatment. Drug Free Manatee's role in the task force is prevention.

### **DISCUSSION OF OPPORTUNITIES FOR COLLABORATION**

 Chairman Benac questioned how to share Best Management Practices (BMPs), how they can be learned and applied, and the process for getting the needed resources.

 Mr. Bryant commented that the community collaboration with treatment providers and Emergency Medical Services is unique. BMPs must first be identified and then distributed and shared among Florida communities.

 Ms. Muller addressed the BMPs in other areas of the State, specifically the Miami and Palm Beach areas.

 Dr. Jennifer Bencie, Manatee County Health Department Director, stated BMPs have been examined throughout the Country to share data and develop partnerships.

 Mr. Carroll addressed BMPs; however, from a community response perspective, this issue is prevention and the makers and prescribers of these drugs and their responsibility. There is no long-term strategy in place, and the right people need to be at the table to come up with solutions to address broad-based efforts.

 Dr. Philip advised that when referring to prevention, the first 1,000 days is critical in lifelong wellness.

 Commissioner Charles Smith expressed concern to not make the same mistake as with the past Cocaine epidemic. Caution must be taken to address prevention, understand the concept of what is taking place, and the focus must be on treatment and healing. Former Opioid addicts should be at the discussion table and, we need to lead by example.

 Ms. Muller spoke of other states that have Law Enforcement Assisted Diversion (LEAD) Programs; however, there is not always a clear distinction between drug sellers versus drug users. She encouraged Manatee County to look at LEAD Programs.

 Sheriff Wells explained the current step-by-step rehabilitation process of drug users that have gone to jail.

 Don Ladner, Assistant Commissioner, Department of Law Enforcement, spoke of the infiltration of Fentanyl occurring in the Country and on the partnerships in Law Enforcement.

### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

 Monica Russo, Pasco County Alliance for Substance Abuse Prevention, state Pasco County is tackling the Hepatitis outbreak largely due to needle sharing. Opioid overdose rates will not lower until we involve those who have addiction and struggle with addition. She urged Manatee County to engage people with addiction into the treatment strategies and the need to increase social support and emphasize that people do recover.

 P.J. Brooks, Sarasota Outpatient Services, spoke on the prescription monitoring program, Sarasota County suggested considering circuits in treatment and prevention, and recognize that we are all working together.

 Dana Damstra, Residential Director of the Girls Discipleship Program, thanked Manatee County EMS for rescuing her from drug overdoses. She said a prayer and stated that faith-based organizations are needed to reach out to the community and show people God's love and share with them that drugs are not the answer.

 Angel Colonnese, Manatee Clerk of the Circuit Court, shared compelling, increasing statistics of children shelter cases and the surge of drug-related charges. She expressed hope for a good, workable solution to the problem.

 LarryAnn Owens of Behavioral Health, mentioned two solutions (1) a two-prong approach to open hospital admitting staff for consultation to addiction professional physicians, and, Implement the Marchman Act, and (2) using a prevention initiative, EverFi, which is an online digital approach to treatment to educate children in schools on Opioid abuse and use.

 Ryan Casco, Spring Gardens Detox, suggested a simple solution of asking doctors to prescribe less Opioid medications. He strongly urged Manatee County to talk with the Attorney General's Office about the six-month treatment approach implemented by New Jersey Governor Chris Christie.

 Julia Negram, Suncoast Harm Reduction Project, stated this session addressed many accomplishments, but offered no solutions. She asked that harm reduction be dealt with at the discussion table, and those who are in recovery should be at the discussion table.

 Dr. Hongjian He, Oriental Family Medicine, stated that acupuncture should be part of the recovery solution, because it is safe and promotes healing to reduce inflammation, insomnia, depression and anxiety. The Narcan Journal of Medicine shows that acupuncture is proven effective, non-addictive, patient centered, and is covered under insurance.

 Jerry Stanhope, No Longer Silent Program, stated she lost five family members since 2014 to Opioid overdoses. Heavier jail sentences, treatment centers and funding are needed.

 Jamica Marshall stated she lost her son from a drug overdose and attributed her recovery and lifestyle change to a faith-based program.

 Fello Daigh stated recovery is possible, but resources and rehabilitation programs are needed. Opioids are not the solution to chronic pain, and a crisis must be dealt with. The recovery community is ready to assist with a peer pilot program.

 Diane Clarke, Operation PAR, stated the Marchman Act is consistent statewide, but there is no follow-up treatment. Deeper issues should be confronted, and the Methadone needs assessment process should be re-examined.

 Tom Lajeunesse, Director of His Girls Discipleship Program, spoke of the success of the faith-based Discipleship Program. Funding is needed to make more beds available at the facility. He asked everyone to pray for wisdom.

 Melissa Heron questioned the affects of taking the medication, Suboxone long term.

 Ellen Teeter, Florida State Oriental Medical Association, pointed out that from a broad-based perspective, there are answers to prevent people from becoming addicted.

 Mark Fontaine, Florida Alcohol and Drug Abuse Association, summarized Strategies to Address the Opioid Crisis. A coordinated, statewide response is at the highest level of government, with the leading initiative of trying to change this pathway. BC20170802DOC002

 Natalie Selene, Children's Network of Southwest Florida, asked for reconsideration of background screening requirements.

 Mark Libowitz, Holistic Lifestyles Institute, stated that a wisdom-based approach is the key, including a healthier society, working with family systems education, whole person education classes, and an integrated health care approach.

 In conclusion, Mr. Carroll thanked everyone for their participation. The solution is multi-dimensional; there is hope and people can recover.

 Dr. Philip stated the Surgeon General will be engaging with Florida Department of Education to increase awareness to young people to make wise decisions and commented on the holistic approach and Blue Zones Lifestyle Concept of helping people to make healthy choices.

**MEETING CONCLUDED**

There being no further comments, Chairman Benac concluded the meeting at 11:11 a.m.  
Minutes Approved: \_\_\_\_\_