

**Palm Beach County Opioid Response Plan Steering Committee Virtual Meeting  
Thursday, December 10, 2020, 2:00pm-4:00pm**

Committee Members Present: Michael Schlossman (Chair) Nikki Soda Ariana Ciancio Bill Lynch Micah Robbins Maureen Kiliean Scott Rice John Hulick Marsha Martino Matt Mossburg
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**I. Welcome**

Ariana Ciancio made a motion to call this meeting to order at 2:05 PM in place of Chairman Michael Schlossman. This motion was seconded by Maureen Kielian.

**II. Approval of Minutes from Last Meeting**

Nikki Soda made a motion to approve the minutes from the October ORSC Meeting. This motion was seconded by Marsha Martino.

**III. Introductions from new and veteran committee members**

Committee members Maureen Kielian, Marsha Martino, Nikki Soda, Ariana Ciancio, Micah Robbins, Scott Rice, Michael Schlossman, Bill Lynch, Matt Mossburg, and John Hulick introduced themselves to the new and returning meeting attendees.

**IV. County Report (John Hulick: Palm Beach County Government)**

Hulick provided updates on several behavioral health contracts and initiatives across the county and expressed his gratitude for all of the positive changes made at the local level. All behavioral health contracts except for the South County Mental Health Center have been renewed for the coming fiscal year with several draft contracts in the works. Hulick also discussed outcomes from the September presentation to the BCC and the incorporation of the Recovery Capital Index (RCI) at both the micro and macro level, program monitoring, and provider training at the county level. Hulick will be before the board again Tuesday December 15th with a cross-departmental team presentation on strategic efforts to address substance use disorder and behavioral health issues in the county. Hulick discussed the work done by the six subcommittees over the last six months, the development of The Hub and The Recovery Leadership Institute, and the larger efforts to move to a recovery-oriented system of care model.

**V. Staff Report (Joshua Horton)**

Horton provided updates on current Hanley Foundation resources such as the Hub as well as the trainings and curriculum development for the Recovery Leadership Institute which will be launched virtually in 2021. Horton also directed members to the RLI Action Network page which is a digital advocacy tool used to connect individuals to their local and state legislators and key stakeholders on SUD issues.

**VI. Sub-Committee updates**

*Prevention and Education: Micah Robbins*

Robbins discussed several key focus areas for the committee including the importance of increasing the number of environmental strategies implemented and the strategic use of social media platforms to highlight county-wide resources, programs, and centers such as the Palm Beach County Hub which will be opening in 2021.

*Treatment and Recovery: Marsha Martino*

Martino discussed the importance of mental health parity and Medicaid expansion specifically for high-risk populations who face additional financial barriers when trying to seek adequate treatment. She also highlighted strategic efforts to engage insurance agencies in the work to increase access to treatment for individuals experiencing behavioral health issues. Martino also discussed treatment for individuals with co-occurring disorders and the importance of increasing educational opportunities for treatment providers and the general public on co-occurring disorders, treatment, and ways to ensure individuals receive appropriate services and programs.

*Public Safety and Law Enforcement: Ariana Ciancio*

Joshua Horton provided an update on the work of this committee and the efforts to ensure access to treatment in jails and prisons as well as increasing the number of community-based resources and programs available to individuals with substance use disorders post-incarceration.

*Public Policy: Matt Mossburg and Nikki Soda*

Soda discussed the new administrations' approach to mental health and substance use disorder issues, parity enforcement, and several pending policy items on the county Commissioner's docket focused on behavioral health.

*Essential Services: Bill Lynch and Michael Schlossman*

Lynch discussed the three key focus areas for this subcommittee and introduced Michelle Sena from Career Source who provided attendees with information about local services and opportunities for career development for those experiencing behavioral health issues and/or homelessness. Lynch also covered the importance of creating safe recovery environments for individuals in transition, access to mental health services post-treatment, housing services, and other community-based resources for individuals as they re-integrate.

*Evaluation and Monitoring: Maureen Kielian and Matt Mossburg*

Kielian discussed the importance of accessing data for overdose admissions at local emergency rooms and using ODI mapping and the RCI as primary tools for data collection. Kielian also brought up current efforts to implement and provide trainings on the RCI across different human-serving agencies in the county.

## **VII. Community Concerns/Updates/Q&A/Open Discussion**

John Hulick discussed current efforts to eliminate barriers and silos within the community by working collaboratively with key strategic partners at the Department of Health, the State Attorney's Office, the Southeast Florida Behavioral Coalition, and the Healthcare District to break down the walls of communication that are really hindering equitable outcomes for individuals and communities.

Scott Rice asked about the SEFBHN and ASU contract renewal process and it was concluded that these contracts are being monitored as we enter a new fiscal year.

Joshua Horton discussed his work with the Kennedy Forum and their efforts to enforce standards of care for insurance companies through litigation that holds providers who do not meet standards of care accountable. This also opens the door for policy change at the state and federal level specifically in the area of SUD law.

Michelle Sena from Career Source Palm Beach County discussed the services available in Palm Beach County for job seekers in recovery and individuals with other behavioral health issues. Sena also highlighted that staff members have expertise in terms of working with individuals that have substance use disorders and/or were previously incarcerated and are able to provide adequate services to those populations.

Officer James Mackey from the Palm Beach Sheriff's Office discussed barriers to housing and an overall lack of funding for housing for formerly incarcerated individuals and individuals with substance use disorders.

Joseph Grant with the Legal Aid Society of Palm Beach County added that the Fair Housing Act categorizes addiction and substance abuse as a disability, but that discrimination based on these preexisting issues is still a major issue in the county.

Charla Reese discussed J Ministries located in Riviera Beach as a possible resource that has a focus on recovery and other relevant housing services on their campus.

Maureen Kielian discussed her work on overdose mapping throughout the county, current data, and the impact of COVID-19 on data collected across county hospitals.

### **VIII. Next Steps/Next Meeting Date**

The next meeting will be held Thursday, January 14<sup>th</sup>, 2021 on Microsoft Teams from 2:00pm-4:00pm. The link to join this meeting is posted on the Hanley Foundation Website on the ORSC landing page. This meeting will include presentations from individuals across the behavioral health field and descriptions can be found in the January agenda.

### **IX. Adjournment**

This meeting was adjourned at 3:48 PM by Chairman Michael Schlossman and this motion was seconded by Scott Rice.