

## **Palm Beach County Opioid Response Plan Steering Committee**

**Thursday, March 11<sup>th</sup>, 2021, 2:00pm to 4:00pm**

### **AGENDA**

#### **I. Welcome**

Chairman Michael Schlossman moved to begin this meeting at 3:04 p.m. This motion was seconded by Dr. Scott Rice.

#### **II. Introductions from new and veteran committee members**

Chairman Michael Schlossman introduced all current and ex-officio steering committee members, and both sets of presenters for this meeting.

#### **III. County Report (John Hulick)**

John Hulick, Jill Singer, and Joanna Reid presented the Palm Beach County Community Services Department Behavioral Health Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) with updates and progress to the committee. The purpose of this NOFO is to address substance use and behavior disorders by providing evidence-based prevention, medication-assisted treatment, and recovery support services at the county level. Hulick highlighted the importance of the recommendations from both the Opioid Response Steering Committee and the PBC Behavioral Health Needs Assessment published in 2019. The Behavioral Health NOFO will allow the Community Services Department to achieve the following:

1. Identify and continue FAA funding to three (3) primary service categories: Support Services, Community-Based Treatment and Services, and Deep-End Treatment.
2. Place emphasis on Support Services category and Community-Based Treatment and Services.
3. Prioritize applicants able to demonstrate services are person-centered, recovery-oriented, integrated, employ evidence-based practices that are scalable and data-driven.

Both presentations have been distributed to all meeting attendees and will be available on the Community Services Department webpage.

#### **IV. Special Meeting Presentation:**

*John James*, Director of Public Health and Disaster Services, Palm Beach County Medical Society

*Katherine Zuber*, Director of Membership Development & Events, Palm Beach County Medical Society

This presentation focused on the Palm Beach County Medical Society's (PBCMS) Opioid Healthcare Response Initiative developed by a taskforce comprised of 14 behavioral health practitioners and professionals across the county. The Health Council of Southeast Florida awarded PBCMS a three-year grant for opioid education and to continue the development of this initiative. The goal of this initiative is to reduce the number of opioid related deaths in Palm Beach County through a comprehensive approach that recognizes addiction as a medical illness. The Response Plan can be broken down into the strategic areas of:

**Prevention:** Safer prescribing, supply & demand reduction

**Rescue:** Use of Naloxone as a standard of care

**Treatment:** “Every Door is the Right Door” philosophy

**Recovery:** Expansion support

James and Zuber also explored the individual components of the Response Plan and highlighted their Year One deliverables including the Opioid Addiction Treatment Guide and Addiction Treatment Center Checklist published in 2020.

## **V. Q&A/Open Discussion**

The Question and Answer and Discussion focused on several key issues listed below:

Question 1: Regarding the medical society initiatives: Is there any plan for palm Beach County Emergency Room physician training on addiction, overdose, narcotic dependency, how the 211 system works, peer support recovery services, safe discharges Also, why are our ER physicians still unaware of the ASU and are not transferring overdose patients to the JFK ASU? Also, when will our ER's begin suboxone dosing where indicated?

Answer 1: We held two educational summits on the training of addiction, overdose and narcotic dependency in the past and made it available to all physicians; It's extremely difficult to narrow our training focus to just ER physicians but we can bring these topics, along with Addiction Stabilization Center training back to our Taskforce to get their suggestions.

Question 2: Are you intending to educate physicians on alternatives to opioids for pain management? Also, are you planning to conduct counter-detailing to diminish issuing opioid prescriptions in the first place?

Answer 2: Yes, we held an educational summit in November of 2019 which covered this very topic and 6 hours of CMEs were provided. We plan to conduct another in late June.

Question 3: Are you intending to educate physicians on alternatives to opioids for pain management? Also, are you planning to conduct counter-detailing to diminish issuing opioid prescriptions in the first place?

Answer 3: Yes, we held an educational summit in November of 2019 which covered this very topic and 6 hours of CMEs were provided. We plan to conduct another in late June.

## **VI. Community Concerns (Open)**

Dr. Scott Rice asked about the possibility of initiatives towards care management as opposed to case management described in the CSD presentation. John Hulick responded and highlighted the neutral care coordination pilot project currently underway, the updated language in the recent White Paper from the CSD, and the shift from a three-year cycle to a two-year cycle for current behavioral health contracts.

John James and Katherine Zuber also discussed the increase of opioid use and other behavioral health issues due to the pandemic and the struggles to engage community members through virtual services and programs as opposed to in person events. As more of the population receives the vaccine, the hope is to resume in-person meetings and educational seminars.

John Hulick discussed the transition to telehealth and the efforts to implement a county-wise system of care and help individuals navigate the process of resuming in-person services and events.

Jan Cairnes brought up the impact of prescribing opioids to adolescents and provided the example of a colleague's 18-year old daughter being provided a 30-day supply of opioids after wisdom tooth surgery. She discussed how prescribing opioids at such a young age does really increase the likelihood of a later addiction and the impact of adolescent brain development. She highlighted the community efforts to develop "Counter-Drug Rep" and prescriber education trainings for doctors and other providers.

Michael Schlossman echoed Cairnes sentiments and discussed the alarming number of addiction psychiatrists prescribing narcotics to individuals in recovery.

Maureen Kielian also expressed concern about the overmedication of Medicare patients specifically with benzos and opioids and the need for more intensive implicit bias education for providers to reduce the number of individuals who are overprescribed based on biased conceptions of what substance use disorder looks like. Kielian also discussed Medicare chronic care management and Prescription Drug Monitoring Programs (PDMPs) and their effectiveness as a prevention and monitoring tools particularly for elderly patients.

Marsha Martino also raised a question regarding the number of elderly individuals who have overdosed in Palm Beach County and whether or not their deaths were counted as overdoses.

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

April 8<sup>th</sup>, 2021, 2:00pm-4:00pm via Microsoft Teams

## **VIII. Adjournment**

Chairman Michael Schlossman moved to adjourn this meeting at 3:45 PM. This motion was seconded by Scott Rice.