

**OPIOID TASK FORCE
REGULAR MEETING**

ANNOTATED AGENDA

MARCH 27, 2023

**PREPARED IN THE OFFICE OF
NIKKI ALVAREZ-SOWLES, Esq., CLERK & COMPTROLLER**

**THE MINUTES WERE PREPARED IN AGENDA ORDER
AS PUBLISHED AND NOT IN THE ORDER
IN WHICH THE ITEMS WERE HEARD**

10:00 A.M.

**WEST PASCO GOVERNMENT CENTER, BOARD ROOM 1ST FLOOR
8731 CITIZENS DRIVE, NEW PORT RICHEY, FL 34654**

Members:

Paula Baracaldo, Chairman
Support Services Director
Public Services

Parnia Roghani
Co-chair, Pasco County Alliance for
Substance Addiction Prevention (ASAP)

Jeremy Sidlauskas
Deputy Chief of Administration
Fire Rescue

Michelle Hudson, MSW
Supervisor of Social Work
Pasco County School Board

Captain Toni Roach
Pasco County Sheriff's Office

The Honorable Judge Shawn Crane
Sixth Judicial Circuit Court

Lauren Letona,
Deputy Chief
City of New Port Richey Police Department

Derek Brewer - **ABSENT**
Police Chief
City of Zephyrhills

Trang Chitakone
Administrative Services Director
Department of Health

Darlene Marshello - **ABSENT**
Program Director
Agency for Community Treatment
Services

Tracey Kaly
Director of Clinical Operations
BayCare Behavioral Health

Art Rowand
Retired Pasco County
Sheriff's Office Sergeant

Legal Counsel:

Jordan Wolfgram

Staff:

Brian Hoben – Community Services, Community Services Director
Lori Bushway – Administrative Assistant for Support Services
April Anderson – Community Services, Administrative Assistant

Call to Order

Madam Chair Baracaldo called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.

Invocation and Pledge

Ms. Meaghan Legnini, Deputy Clerk, gave the Invocation and led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

Welcome and Introductions

There were none.

Roll Call

Ms. Legnini called the roll. All members were present with the exception of Mr. Derek Brewer and Ms. Darlene Marshello who were absent.

Public Comment

Madam Chair Baracaldo called for public comment.

Ms. Estelle Keshock, Marching Forward, spoke regarding their Be the Voice project, a Q & A Conference that would be held in the future, and their invite to facilities to pass out literature at the event. She thanked Captain Roach for sending Sheriffs to their recent 5K event and thanked the Committee for all they do.

The Committee approved to receive and file documents submitted by Ms. Estelle Keshock.

Ms. Julie K. Kettles spoke regarding the number of overdoses in the United States in 2020, the passing of her daughter, her presentations to community organizations, the need for grief support for those affected by opioids, a grief support group that she started, and her offer to help.

Ms. Andrea Arflack, HPH Hospice, spoke regarding the need for grief support, services they offer, their offer of a partnership, and their new center.

Mr. Adam Stanza, Vice-President of Development and Executive Director of Chapters Health Foundation, spoke regarding the Chapters Health System, economic impacts, and the free resources and services they had available.

Ms. Mary Ann Kussmaul spoke regarding Shady Hills Mission Chapel, homeless people, the need to address mental health in recovery, housing, the difficulty for people with felonies to get jobs, and churches at the forefront.

Pastor Jen Kerouac, Shady Hills Mission Chapel, spoke regarding the Recovery Roundtable, her sons' current struggles with addiction, the lack of collaboration between services, and the struggles of people with felonies after transitioning out of jail. She noted Captain Roach had been an amazing resource to her.

Ms. Tina Miller, Florida Recovery Schools of Tampa Bay, spoke regarding Victory High School and the celebration of one of her students being substance free. She asked the Committee to remember the young people who were struggling.

Mr. Thomas Harold, Founder of Coming Home Coalition, spoke regarding his past involvement with drugs, the creation of his non-profit organization, his status as a registered NARCAN distributor, the life coaching he offers to others, and his Thomas FreeMe podcast.

Ms. Julia Pauls, CEO and Founder of the End Recidivism Project, spoke regarding support provided by her organization, the need for a transition program for when individuals get out of prison, the causes of recidivism, the need for teaching people at a young age, housing needs for the homeless, and the facilitation of classes in prisons.

Ms. Misty Engel, MAT Director for WestCare GulfCoast, spoke regarding the free services that are offered, the funding of her organization, medication benefits, the location of their offices, and the need for more programs for middle and high school aged kids.

Mr. Don Anderson spoke regarding his first wife's addiction and recovery, that addiction touches everyone, his past experience with prescribed opioids, the possibility of corner store type operations, and impacts of mental illness.

Ms. Amy Hicks spoke regarding the Recovery Epicenter Foundation, that there was a roundtable meeting in the afternoon, the need for education, evidence-based programs, that addiction can't be measured, the need to come together as a community, the solutions to come from people who had lived the experience, and thanked everyone for what they had done in the community.

Ms. Cathy Pearson, Assistant County Administrator for Public Services, thanked the people who had spoken for the services they provided and thanked the Committee for the work they had done over the year. She spoke regarding the opportunity to make a difference in the County, the lack of low barrier housing, her request to get with people after the meeting to hear their suggestions, and the Harmful Reduction Act.

Madam Chair Baracaldo thanked everyone for their comments.

New Business

1 Update on Funding

The item was for information only. No action was required.

2 Community Updates

The item was for information only. No action was required.

Approval of Minutes

3 OTF Meeting Minutes 1/30/23

The Committee approved the Minutes for the meeting of January 30, 2023.

Old Business/Committees Reports

Ms. Chitakone thanked Ms. Cathy Pearson, Assistant County Administrator for Public Services. She spoke regarding a previous presentation on a syringe exchange program and the need for a hub to refer and connect services.

Ms. Kaly congratulated the Honorable Judge Crane on his recent appointment as Chief Judge of the Sixth Judicial Circuit.

Madam Chair Baracaldo displayed a PDF document that was sent by Commissioner Mariano and noted the application process had not opened yet.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 11:29 a.m.

Prepared by: Meaghan Legnini, Deputy Clerk, Board Records Division