

**OPIOID AND SUBSTANCE USE DISORDER (OSUD) GRANTS COMMITTEE**

**Meeting Minutes**

**January 29, 2024, 2:00 PM**

**City Hall, 1<sup>st</sup> Floor, Lynwood Roberts Room**

**Chair: Dr. Lantie Jorandby**

**Vice-Chair: Dr. Richmond Wynn**

**Secretary: Antonio Nichols**

<b>Committee Meeting Attendance</b>	
<b>X</b>	<b>Dr. Lantie Jorandby - Chair</b>
<b>X</b>	<b>Dr. Richmond Wynn - Vice-Chair</b>
<b>X</b>	<b>Antonio Nichols - Secretary</b>
<b>X</b>	<b>Heather Rios</b>
<b>X</b>	<b>Dr. John Tanner</b>
<b>X</b>	<b>Nancy Rice</b>
<b>X</b>	<b>Sarah Smith</b>

**Quorum Present: Yes**

**Staff:**

- Madelaine Zarou and Laura Viafora Ray - Jacksonville Fire and Rescue Department, City of Jacksonville
- Jeremy Brown - Office of General Counsel, City of Jacksonville

**City Council Liaison:**

- City Council President Ronald Salem

**I. Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order at 2:00 PM by Dr. Jorandby, Chair.

**II. Welcome and Introductions**

Staff members introduced themselves, and each OSUD Grants Committee member in attendance introduced themselves.

**III. Office of Opioid Abatement Update**

Madelaine Zarou, Manager of Opioid Abatement, gave an update from the Office of Opioid Abatement. She stated that the appeals period concluded last week, and no appeals were filed. Therefore, she noted, the tentative rankings and fundings announced at the Committee meeting on January 19th remain unchanged.

**IV. Public Comment**

Dr. Jorandby opened the floor to public comment. There was no public comment.

**V. Vote on Minutes from January 19, 2024 Meeting**

Dr. Wynn put forth a motion to vote to approve the meeting minutes from the January 19, 2024, meeting. Sarah Smith seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**VI. Announcement of and Voting on Application Rankings and Funding Allocations for FY 2023-2024 Opioid Settlement Proceeds Grants Program**

Laura Viafora Ray, Program Coordinator of Opioid Abatement, stated that the rankings of the agencies and their respective program applications in the “Prevention” funded category were the same as what was announced at the meeting on January 19th. The rankings, where “1” was the highest ranked application by average score, “2” was the second highest, and so on, were as follows (they were not announced verbally, but were presented on the slide deck):

1. SAFE AND HEALTHY DUVAL COALITION, INC. – North Florida Poly-Drug Task Force
2. COMMUNITY COALITION ALLIANCE, INC. – Duval’s Approach to Reduce Opioid Overdose
3. INSPIRE TO RISE, INC. – Inspired Youth Program
4. VOLUNTEERS IN MEDICINE JACKSONVILLE, INC. – Primary Opioid Prevention for At-Risk Patients
5. NAMI JACKSONVILLE FLORIDA, INC – Connection Recovery Support
6. BOYS' AND GIRLS' CLUB OF NORTHEAST FLORIDA, INC. – BGCNF SMART Moves Program
7. YOGA 4 CHANGE INCORPORATED – Preventing Opioid and Substance Use with Evidence-Based Resilience Skills for Youth
8. ACE MEDICAL, LLC – The ATRAC Program - Prevention
9. COMMUNITY REHABILITATION CENTER, INC. – CRC Prevention Programming
10. NEW HOPE EDUCATION AND ADDICTION SERVICES, INC. – Florida Recovery Schools

Next, Ms. Zarou reiterated that the rankings of the agencies and their respective program applications in the “Treatment” funded category were the same as what had been announced at the previous Committee meeting. The rankings, where “1” was the highest ranked application by average score, “2” was the second highest, and so on, were as follows (they were not announced verbally, but were presented on the slide deck):

1. GATEWAY COMMUNITY SERVICES, INC. – Mobile MAT Unit
2. I.M. SULZBACHER CENTER FOR THE HOMELESS, INC. – Sulzbacher Substance Abuse Treatment Program
3. BAPTIST HEALTH SYSTEM, INC – Path to Sobriety: Providing Life-Saving Treatment to Patients with IV Drug Associated Endocarditis
4. COMMUNITY REHABILITATION CENTER, INC. – CRC Outpatient Treatment Programs

5. METRO TREATMENT OF FLORIDA, L.P. – H.O.P.E. Duval (Healing. Opioid. Prevention. Education.)
6. ACE MEDICAL, LLC – The ATTRACT Program - Treatment

Finally, Ms. Zarou listed the rankings of the agencies and their respective program applications in the “Recovery” funded category, noting again that these are the same as what was announced during the tentative announcement at the previous meeting. The rankings, where ‘1’ was the highest ranked application by average score, ‘2’ was the second highest, and so on, were as follows (they were not announced verbally, but were presented on the slide deck):

1. I.M. SULZBACHER CENTER FOR THE HOMELESS, INC. – Sulzbacher Substance Abuse Recovery Program
2. OPERATION NEW HOPE, INC. – Ready4Work Recovery Support
3. REBEL RECOVERY FLORIDA INC – Comprehensive Housing & Care Coordination
4. THE CITY RESCUE MISSION, INC – LifeBuilders Residential Addiction Recovery Program
5. PROJECT SAVE LIVES, INC. – OUD Residential Director
6. METRO TREATMENT OF FLORIDA, L.P. – Ride to Recovery
7. SERENITY GRANTED, LLC – Operation Opioid Abatement Director
8. ACE MEDICAL, LLC – The ATRAC Program - Recovery

Ms. Viafora Ray shared that the total funds awarded across the three funded categories is approximately \$6.5 million. The total amount requested by agencies was less than the total amount budgeted in each funded category (totaling approximately \$7.2 million), so at this point it is expected that all programs that were announced in the rankings will be funded.

Antonio Nichols, Secretary, made a motion to accept the final application rankings and funding allocations. Dr. Wynn seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

## **VII. Overview of Committee Feedback on the FY 2023-2024 Grant Cycle**

Ms. Zarou said that her office summarized the feedback received by committee members on the inaugural grant cycle into four main points and that she and Ms. Viafora Ray would describe how that feedback was being addressed. Ms. Zarou said that there was some concern and interest from committee members as to how applications were sorted into the three funded categories of prevention, treatment, and recovery support. She went on to say that opioid use disorder is complex and multifaceted and that her office expected from the beginning that some programs would include activities that would fit into multiple funded categories and that it was the responsibility of the agencies to select which funded category they would apply under. She noted that when they saw that there was an application that fit better into another category that they would discuss this with the agency and mutually agree on which category the application would be submitted under, and these determinations were based on

where the majority of the program activities and budget line items lied. She also noted that they are using Schedule B, a state document that outlines approved uses of these funds, as well as the Office of General Counsel, to make these determinations. She went on to say that committee members can request interviews with an agency to clarify any questions about the applications during the scoring period.

Dr. Wynn asked if one committee member wants to conduct an interview if the Committee would need to decide and vote on whether or not to interview. Jeremy Brown, Office of General Counsel, said that per the ordinance a motion would need to be made to vote on whether or not to conduct an interview. He is also going to clarify the wording of that.

Ms. Viafora Ray addressed the next feedback item. She noted that someone suggested creating a glossary of terms, and noted that the program is beholden to Schedule B, the list of approved uses, and they do fall under the categories of prevention, treatment, and recovery, and their concern with the creation of any separate document is running the risk of confusing things or contradicting Schedule B. She stated that they would better enmesh Schedule B in the application process in the future.

Ms. Zarou described the next feedback item which was a request for committee members to have the ability to meet during the scoring period and she noted that this is possible, and the meeting would need to be publicly noticed. Her office would look at their schedule and offer a few dates to hold as a placeholder for this.

Ms. Viafora Ray described the final feedback item which was to ensure that there is as much awareness of the program as possible. She noted that her office agrees, but also wanted to share what outreach activities the office engaged in to advertise the program at the community level prior to the first cycle including sharing out information about the program meetings of the Duval Drug Epidemiology Network, the North Florida PolyDrug Task Force, and Northeast Florida Sober Living Alliance, as well as including blurbs in newsletters from the Community Coalition Alliance and the Nonprofit Center of Northeast Florida. They set up a program website on Jacksonville.gov and have kept it updated on a biweekly basis, set up a program email listserv that now contains over 150 people, and all committee meetings have been publicly noticed. She concluded by saying they are also open to suggestions for how to get the word out and publicize the program especially in a way that is targeted to their stakeholder audience. Ms. Zarou also added that they hope to engage more with the Mayor's Office in future cycles.

## **VIII. New Business**

Dr. Jorandby opened the floor for new business.

Council President Salem was recognized by Dr. Jorandby, and he asked when various agencies could expect to start receiving money and if the office could describe the process of monitoring these programs and activities to ensure the money is used as indicated.

Ms. Zarou answered by stating that her office is working with the Office of General Counsel to draft contracts and that they are going to be effective as of February 1st, so any agency is able to submit for reimbursement related to their program beginning February 1st and thereafter until September. She went on to say that they would be working with awarded agencies by providing a workshop that describes what the monitoring requirements and process would look like. Ms. Zarou stated that agencies will submit a quarterly programmatic report that will show if they are adhering to the goals and objectives that they set for their program, and in addition they will submit a monthly financial report that will track all of the expenses and invoices they are requesting funds for as well as the backup documentation. In addition, she noted that the program falls under the jurisdiction of the Council Auditor's Office and can be audited.

Ms. Viafora Ray added that their office is responsible for reporting to the state, and they have seen a draft of this report, and it entails aligning funds expended from this program with Schedule B approved uses.

There was no other new business.

**IX. Adjournment**

Ms. Smith introduced a motion to adjourn the meeting. Dr. Wynn seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously, and the meeting was adjourned by Dr. Jorandby at 2:19 PM.

***Next Meeting Date - Monday, February 26, 2024 at 2:00 PM***

To be signed by Antonio Nichols, Secretary, certifying approval by Committee:

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**This version of the meeting minutes is the accessible version to be uploaded to the Program website. The version containing the Secretary signature certifying approval by the Committee is on file with the Office of Opioid Abatement and can be requested by emailing [opiodabatment@coj.net](mailto:opiodabatment@coj.net).**