Opioid and Substance Use Disorder (OSUD) Grants Committee
Meeting Minutes

October 5, 2026, 2:00 PM
City Hall, 1st Floor, Lynwood Robets Room
Chair: Dr. Antonio Nichols
Vice-Chair: Sarah Smith
Secretary: Heather Rios

Committee Member Attendance

- Dr. Antonio Nichols - Chair - Present
- Sarah Smith - Vice-Chair - Present (late arrival, not present for votes)
- Heather Rios - Secretary - Present
- B. Brian Beardsley - Member - Present
- Dr. Lantie Jorandby - Member - Not Present
- Debbie O'Neal - Member - Present

Quorum Present: Yes

City Council Liaison (non-voting member):

- City Councilmember Ron Salem, At-Large, Group 2 (not present)

City of Jacksonville Staff:

- Madelaine A. Zarou, Manager of Opioid Abatement - Jacksonville Fire and Rescue Department
- Laura Viafora Ray, Program Coordinator - Opioid Abatement - Jacksonville Fire and Rescue Department
- Ashley Smith, Assistant General Counsel - Office of General Counsel, City of Jacksonville

I. Call to Order

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

II. Welcome and Introductions

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

III. Office of Opioid Abatement (OOA) Update

Madelaine A. Zarou - Manager of Opioid Abatement, provided an update from their office covering the following:

- *Fiscal Year 2025-2026 Quarterly Progress Reports (QPRs)*
  - All QPRs for Q1 (covering 10/1/25 to 12/31/25) and Q2 (covering 1/1/26 to 3/31/26) have been reviewed and approved.
  - QPRs for Q3 (covering 4/1/26 to 6/30/26) were due to the Office of Opioid Abatement on 7/15/26. 15 of 16 have been approved and one is pending additional revisions following review.
  - QPRs for Q4 (covering 7/1/26 to 9/30/26) are due on October 15th.
  - A detailed chart was shared during this section of the update which can be requested by emailing opioidabatement@coj.net.

- *Fiscal Year 2025-2026 Invoice Processing*
  - Out of a total of 192 invoices anticipated from programs for the months of October 2025 through September 2026, 191 have been processed and submitted for payment. One has been received and is being processed.
  - The 191 invoices that were processed and submitted for payment totaled just under $4 million.
  - A detailed chart was shared during this section of the update which can be requested by emailing opioidabatement@coj.net.

- *Legislation*
  - Appointment of Mental Health Professional to fill current vacancy
    - Resolution to be filed, anticipated to be heard at Rules Committee on 11/2/26
  - Appointment of Dr. Christopher DeStephano to Committee (2026-0730)
    - Resolution approved by Rules Committee earlier today
    - City Council will take final action on 10/13/26
  - FY 26-27 OSPG Program Budget (2026-0510-E)
    - Approved by City Council on 9/22/26

- *FY 2026-2027 OSPG Program Budget*
  - The total budget for the fiscal year 2026 to 2027 OSPG Program, as authorized via 2026-0510-E, is $5,279,951.00.
  - In accordance with 2026-0248-E, the budget is allocated across the three funded categories as follows:
    - Prevention at 34% = $1,795,183.34
    - Treatment at 33% = $1,742,383.83
    - Recovery Support at 33% = $1,742,383.83

- *Fiscal Year 2026-2027 OSPG Program Tentative Timeline*
    - May 14 and May 20: Mandatory Application Workshop (MAW) #1 and #2 held
      June 1: Application opened
    - July 1: Application closed
    - July 21: OSPG Appeals Board meeting
    - July 27 - August 28: Scoring period
    - August 24: Interviews, if requested by Committee (none were requested)
    - October 5: Tentative application rankings and funding allocations will be announced (at today's meeting)
    - October 13: Tentative OSPG Appeals Board meeting (will be cancelled if no valid appeals are submitted)
    - October 19: Final application rankings and funding allocations will be announced
    - October 1, 2026 - September 30, 2027: OSPG Agreement period of performance
      Note: All dates listed above are tentative and subject to change

IV. Public Comment

Dr. Nichols opened the floor to public comment. There were no public comments.

V. Vote: Meeting Minutes from September 21, 2026

Heather Rios, Secretary, put forth a motion to vote to approve the meeting minutes from the September 21, 2026, meeting. Debbie O'Neal seconded the motion. There was no discussion. The motion passed unanimously.

VI. Vote: Tentative Rankings and Funding for FY26-27 OSPG Programs

Ms. Viafora Ray provided the following information ahead of the vote to approve tentative rankings and funding for FY26-27 OSPG Programs:

- *Tie Scores*
    - This procedure was adopted by the OSUD Grants Committee on December 4, 2023: "In the event of tie average scores, the application with the highest individual score will be ranked higher. In the event that this also results in a tie, the application with the second highest individual score will be ranked higher, and so on until the tie is broken."
    - All tentative rankings and allocations as noted below were calculated in accordance with this procedure.
- *Outliers*
    - Per Sec. 84.306, "Upon determining the average score for each application, the Manager of Opioid Abatement shall discard any individual application score that is 20 points more or less than such

average score and recalculate the average score for said application based on the remaining scores."
    - All tentative rankings and allocations as noted below were calculated in accordance with this procedure - the amended average will be displayed, as applicable.

Dr. Nichols announced the tentative rankings and tentative funding allocations for the Prevention funded category, Treatment funded category, and Recovery Support funded category, as summarized in the charts on the following three pages. The associated votes are summarized below:

- Vote: Tentative Rankings and Funding for FY26-27 OSPG Prevention Programs
    - Prior to holding the vote to approve the tentative rankings and tentative funding allocations in the Prevention category, Dr. Nichols stated that they would abstain from the vote out of an abundance of caution due to a pending determination of conflict of interest with an agency in this funded category under the advisement of the Office of Ethics.
    - Ms. O'Neal put forth a motion to vote to approve the tentative rankings and funding allocations for the Prevention programs. Ms. Rios seconded the motion. There was no discussion. The motion passed unanimously.
- Vote: Tentative Rankings and Funding for FY26-27 OSPG Treatment Programs
    - Ms. Rios put forth a motion to vote to approve the tentative rankings and funding allocations for the Treatment programs. Ms. O'Neal seconded the motion. There was no discussion. The motion passed unanimously.
- Vote: Tentative Rankings and Funding for FY26-27 OSPG Recovery Support Programs
    - Ms. O'Neal put forth a motion to vote to approve the tentative rankings and funding allocations for the Recovery Support programs. Ms. Rios seconded the motion. There was no discussion. The motion passed unanimously.

Prevention Programs

Ranking	Average Score	Agency Name	Program Name	Request	Tentative Funding Amount
1	93.60	Partnership for Child Health	STOP Initiative (Strategies and Tools for Opioid Prevention)	$189,724.00	$189,724.00
2	93.00	Volunteers in Medicine Jacksonville	Forever Health Opioid Prevention Program	$317,885.47	$317,885.47
3	93.00	Hubbard House	RISE! Program	$299,342.77	$299,342.77
4	92.00	Boys' and Girls' Clubs of Northeast Florida	SMART Moves Duval: Strong Choices - BGCNF's Comprehensive Youth Opioid Prevention Initiative	$355,828.00	$355,828.00
5	91.20	Center for Children's Rights	Strengthening Community, Resiliency, and Mental Health Strategies to Prevent Opioid Use in Youth	$226,011.00	$226,011.00
6	86.80	Inspire to Rise	INSPIRED Youth Program	$500,000.00	$406,392.10
7	86.40	NAMI Jacksonville Florida	Connection Recovery Support	$263,893.75	$0.00
8	86.00	Community Coalition Alliance	Duval’s Approach to Reduce Opioid Overdose (DAROO)	$500,000.00	$0.00
9	85.80	Health Planning Council of Northeast Florida	Strategies That Inspire Growth, Mindfulness, Access (S.T.I.G.M.A.) - Stories of Lived Experience (S.O.L.E.)	$500,000.00	$0.00
10	84.60	Police Athletic League of Jacksonville	The PAL Prevention, Awareness, and Leadership (PAL) Initiative	$157,777.15	$0.00
11	83.00	Operation New Hope	Community Opioid Prevention Initiative	$500,000.00	$0.00

Treatment Programs

Ranking	Average Score	Agency Name	Program Name	Request	Tentative Funding Amount
1	95.33	Gateway Community Services	PSL - Hospital Bridge Program	$500,000.00	$500,000.00
2	89.33	Operation New Hope	Ready4Work Treatment Program	$269,260.13	$269,260.13
3	89.00	I.M. Sulzbacher Center for the Homeless	Sulzbacher Substance Abuse Treatment Program	$500,000.00	$500,000.00
4	84.67	Community Rehabilitation Center	LIFESTREAMS: Recovery Without Barriers Initiative - Treatment Program	$500,000.00	$473,123.70

Recovery Support Programs

Ranking	Average Score	Agency Name	Program Name	Request	Tentative Funding Amount
1	94.75	I.M. Sulzbacher Center for the Homeless	Sulzbacher Substance Abuse Recovery Support Program	$500,000.00	$500,000.00
2	91.25	Gateway Community Services	PSL - Residential	$250,000.00	$250,000.00
3	89.75	The City Rescue Mission	LifeBuilders Residential Addiction Recovery	$500,000.00	$500,000.00
4	89.00	Trinity Rescue Mission	Lifeline Program	$415,000.00	$415,000.00
5	88.25	Fresh Ministries	FreshMinistries Outpatient Recovery Program	$500,000.00	$77,383.83
6	84.33	Operation New Hope	Ready4Work Recovery Support Program	$500,000.00	$0.00
7	80.00	Community Rehabilitation Center	LIFESTREAMS: Recovery Without Barriers Initiative - Recovery Support Services	$500,000.00	$0.00

VII. Appeals Information & Next Steps

Ms. Zarou then summarized the appeals timeline, procedure, and appealable matters per Section 84.309(c) of Chapter 84. The application point of contact for all applicant agencies will receive this information in a follow-up email. The OSPG Appeals Board meeting is tentatively scheduled for Tuesday, October 13 at 2:00 PM in City Hall. Should no valid appeals be submitted by the deadline in accordance with Chapter 84, the meeting will be cancelled.

Next, Ms. Zarou summarized the next steps for tentatively awarded agencies. Final rankings and funding are anticipated to be announced and voted on at the OSUD Grants Committee meeting tentatively scheduled for Monday, October 19th.

VIII. Public Comment

Upon receiving a green public comment card, Dr. Nichols re-opened the floor to public comment. Dr. Chris DeStephano made a public comment. Their public comment card is on file and available upon request by emailing opioidabatement@coj.net.

IX. Discussion: Funded Categories

Following the initial discussion regarding funded categories that was held at the September 21st meeting, Dr. Nichols opened the floor for additional discussion. There was no further discussion or questions on this topic.

X. New Business

Dr. Nichols opened the floor for new business. There was no new business.

XI. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned by Dr. Nichols at 2:26 PM.

Meeting recording available upon request. Email opioidabatement@coj.net.

Next Meeting Date - Monday, October 19, 2026, at 2:00 PM
(tentative and subject to change)

To be signed by Heather Rios, Secretary, certifying approval by the Committee:

Signature: _____

Date: _____

Official signed original is on file and available upon request.