

# OPIOID AND SUBSTANCE USE DISORDER (OSUD) GRANTS COMMITTEE

## Meeting Minutes

March 23, 2026, 2:00 PM

City Hall, 1<sup>st</sup> Floor, Lynwood Roberts 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
- Heather Rios - Secretary - Present
- Dr. Lantie Jorandby - Member - Present by phone
- Debbie O'Neal - Member - Present
- Nancy St. Claire - Member - Present
- Dr. John Tanner - 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 2:02 PM by Dr. Antonio Nichols, Chair.

#### II. Vote: Remote Participation by Dr. Jorandby

Dr. Nichols noted that Dr. Jorandby requested to participate in the meeting via telephone. Section 6.4 of the OSUD Grants Committee Bylaws states: *“Consistent with Florida laws governing local governmental entities, if a physical quorum of the Committee has been met at a meeting, members may participate by telephone, including voting on matters, provided the reason for the member’s physical absence is due to an extraordinary circumstance such as illness, out-of-town trips, an emergency situation or other comparable circumstances.”*

Sarah Smith, Vice-Chair, put forth a motion to vote to approve Dr. Jorandby's participation in the meeting via telephone in accordance with the bylaws. Heather Rios, Secretary, seconded the motion. There was no discussion. The motion passed unanimously.

### **III. Welcome and Introductions**

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

### **IV. Office of Opioid Abatement (OOA) Update**

Laura Viafora Ray, Program Coordinator - Opioid Abatement, provided an update from their office covering the following:

- *Legislation*
  - UFF Waiver (2026-0142)
    - Filed on 2/18/26
    - Introduced on 2/24/26 and assigned to Finance, NCSPHS, and Rules Committees
    - Passed unanimously in all committees
    - City Council to vote on 3/24/26
  - FY26-27 OSPG Program Funded Category Allocations & Process
    - Filed on 3/20/26
  - Amendment to Chapter 84
    - Discussion later in the agenda
  
- *Fiscal Year 2025-2026 Quarterly Progress Reports (QPRs)*
  - QPRs for Quarter 1 (covering 10/1/25 to 12/31/25) were due to the Office of Opioid Abatement on 1/15/26. All QPRs were submitted on time. Eight have been reviewed and approved, and seven are pending revisions. This excludes UFF while awaiting their waiver legislation.
  - A detailed chart was shared during this section of the update which can be requested by emailing [opioidabatement@coj.net](mailto:opioidabatement@coj.net).
  
- *Fiscal Year 2025-2026 Invoice Processing*
  - Out of a total of 45 invoices\* anticipated from programs in Quarter 1, 36 have been submitted for payment, 2 are currently being reviewed/processed, and 7 have not yet been submitted by the agency.
    - *\*Excludes UFF while awaiting waiver legislation*
  - Out of a total of 30 invoices\* anticipated from programs in January and February, 17 have been submitted for payment, 2 are currently being reviewed/processed, and 11 have not yet been submitted by the agency.
    - *\*Excludes UFF while awaiting waiver legislation*

- As of 3/20/26, 53 invoices were processed and submitted for payment, totaling approximately \$875,000.00.
- A detailed chart was shared during this section of the update which can be requested by emailing [opiodabatment@coj.net](mailto:opiodabatment@coj.net).
- Fiscal Year 2026-2027 OSPG Program Tentative Timeline\*
  - May 14: Mandatory Application Workshop #1
  - May 20: Mandatory Application Workshop #2
  - June 1: Application opens
  - July 1: Application closes
  - July 21: Tentative OSPG Appeals Board meeting
  - July 27 - August 28: Scoring period
  - August 24: Interviews, if requested by Committee
  - October 5: Tentative application rankings and funding allocations announced
  - October 14: Tentative OSPG Appeals Board meeting
  - October 19: Final application rankings and funding allocations announced
  - October 1, 2026 - September 30, 2027: OSPG Agreement period of performance
    - *\*All dates are tentative and subject to change*

## V. Presentation: Data Update

Ms. Viafora Ray provided a data update, summarized as follows:

- Jacksonville Fire and Rescue Department Data
  - The measure “# of Suspected Opioid-Related (O-R) Overdose (OD) Patients” is down 16% in January through February of 2026 compared to the same time period in 2025. In addition, February 2026 is down 9% compared to the previous month.
  - Two detailed graphs as well as data definitions were shared during this section of the update which can be requested by emailing [opiodabatment@coj.net](mailto:opiodabatment@coj.net).
- Florida Department of Law Enforcement Data
  - Prompted by a question regarding drug trends from Councilmember Salem at the February meeting, Ms. Viafora Ray compiled data from the two most recent “Drugs Identified in Deceased Persons by Florida Medical Examiners” reports - 2023 and 2024.
  - Three detailed charts as well as data definitions were shared during this section of the update which can be requested by emailing [opiodabatment@coj.net](mailto:opiodabatment@coj.net).

## VI. Public Comment

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

**VII. Vote: Meeting Minutes from February 23, 2026**

Debbie O’Neal put forth a motion to vote to approve the meeting minutes from the February 23, 2026, meeting. Ms. Smith seconded the motion. There was no discussion. The motion passed unanimously.

**VIII. Discussion: Proposed Amendment to Chapter 84**

Ms. Viafora Ray noted that members of the committee had been provided with a red-lined version of Chapter 84 and a summary of the proposed changes ahead of the meeting. They went on to clarify that Councilmember Salem is prepared to sponsor the legislation, but he wanted the committee to have an opportunity to discuss the proposed changes and provide any feedback.

Dr. Nichols and Ms. Smith remarked that the changes appeared to clarify expectations for agencies applying for funding. There was no further discussion.

Madelaine Zarou, Manager of Opioid Abatement, stated that the goal was to file the legislation by April 8th so that the changes could be in place prior to the Mandatory Application Workshop.

**IX. New Business**

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

**X. Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned by Dr. Nichols at 2:24 PM.

*Meeting recording available upon request. Email [opiodabatement@coj.net](mailto:opiodabatement@coj.net).*

***Next Meeting Date - Monday, April 27, 2026, at 2:00 PM***

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

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

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

Official signed original is on file and available upon request.