

OPIOID AND SUBSTANCE USE DISORDER (OSUD) GRANTS COMMITTEE

Meeting Minutes

January 26, 2026, 2:00 PM

City Hall, 1st Floor, Don Davis Room

Chair: Antonio Nichols

Vice-Chair: Sarah Smith (*not present*)

Secretary: Heather Rios

Committee Meeting Attendance	
Present	Dr. Antonio Nichols - Chair
Not Present	Sarah Smith - Vice-Chair
Present	Heather Rios - Secretary
Not Present	Dr. Lantie Jorandby - Member
Present	Debbie O'Neal - Member
Present	Nancy St. Claire - Member
Present	Dr. John Tanner - Member

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. 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:

- *Audits*
 - For agencies with fiscal year end June 30, their audits were originally due on 10/28/2025. Legislation was enacted (2025-812-E) in

November to address the OMB delay as a result of the federal government shutdown for applicable agencies. This extended the deadline to March 25, 2026.

- *Fiscal Year 2025-2026 Agreements and Purchase Orders (POs)*
 - 8 out of 15 agreements have been fully executed.
 - 6 out of 8 of the POs associated with those agreements have been released, meaning that invoices from the programs can be submitted for payment.
 - 7 out of 15 agreements are partially executed and awaiting final signatures by the City of Jacksonville.
 - One agreement is on hold - with the University of Florida Foundation, Inc. - pending approval of legislation that would waive a subsection of Chapter 118. This was discussed in further detail later in the meeting (see item V.).
- *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 January 15th. All QPRs were submitted on time. Three have been approved, four are pending revisions, and the remaining nine are pending review by Office of Opioid Abatement staff.
 - A detailed chart was shared during this section of the update which can be requested by emailing opioidabatment@coj.net.
- *Fiscal Year 2025-2026 Invoice Processing*
 - Although invoices cannot be submitted for payment until the agreements are fully executed and the POs are finalized, the Office of Opioid Abatement has invited agencies to submit their October, November, and December invoices for review so that they can be submitted as soon as possible. Out of a total of 48 invoices anticipated from programs in Quarter 1, 33 have not yet been submitted by agencies.
 - As of January 26th, 9 invoices had been processed and submitted for payment totaling just under \$200,000.00.
 - A detailed chart was shared during this section of the update which can be requested by emailing opioidabatment@coj.net.

IV. Presentation: Data Update

Laura Viafora Ray, Program Coordinator - Opioid Abatement, 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 28% in 2025 compared to 2024.

- Following a spike in March of 2025, with the measure “# of Suspected O-R OD Patients” increasing from 86 in the previous month to 142 in March of 2025, this measure has tracked down some. There was a decrease for the fourth month in a row in November (86) compared to October (96), September (106), August (112), and July (128). However, the number of calls increased from November (86) to December (100).
- The measure “Suspected O-R OD Patients” by Incident Zip Code was also shared by count and by rate, displaying the top 10 for each.
- Finally, the measure “Suspected O-R OD Patients” by race/ethnicity, gender, and age range was also shared (displayed as a percentage). The mode by race/ethnicity and gender was white males at 39.8% of all calls, and the mode by age range was a tie between ages 20-39 (39.0% of all calls) and ages 40-59 (38.9% of all calls).
- Five detailed graphs as well as data definitions were shared during this section of the update which can be requested by emailing opioidabatement@coj.net.

V. Discussion: Legislative Waiver for University of Florida Foundation, Inc.

Ms. Zarou introduced the topic by explaining that, at the recommendation of the Council Auditor's Office, the Office of Opioid Abatement was pursuing legislation for a waiver of a subsection of Chapter 118 for an FY 2025-2026 awardee, University of Florida Foundation, Inc. (UFF). UFF was awarded an OSPG Program award for the establishment and operation of a MAT clinic. UFF applied for this award on behalf of the University of Florida College of Medicine-Jacksonville (UFCOM-J) since, due to being a state entity, UFCOM-J does not have a certificate of good standing, one of the eligibility documents required to apply for an OSPG Program award. UFCOM-J is the entity establishing, staffing, and operating the MAT clinic as outlined in the OSPG Program application. As confirmed with UFF, the entirety of the OSPG Program grant funds awarded to UFF will be transferred to UFCOM-J in reimbursement for their activities outlined in the former's OSPG Program application. The legislation would waive Subsection 118.301(A)(3)(III) to allow the OSPG Program funds to be used as "contributions" to UFCOM-J in the performance of the activities as outlined in the UFF's OSPG Program application. The OSPG Agreement has not been executed yet, and no funds are being expended from the City to UFF. Representatives from the agency were present to answer questions.

Dr. Nichols opened the floor to comments or questions from committee members. Debbie O'Neal and Dr. Nichols asked questions. Ms. Zarou and Ms. Viafora Ray provided answers and clarification.

There were no further comments or questions from committee members.

VI. Public Comment

Dr. Nichols opened the floor to public comment. There was one public comment by John Newby. Their comments are available in the meeting recording (available upon request by emailing opioidabatement@coj.net). Their written comment card is on file and is also available upon request.

VII. Vote: Meeting Minutes from December 8, 2025

Ms. O'Neal put forth a motion to vote to approve the meeting minutes from the December 8, 2025, meeting. Dr. John Tanner seconded the motion. There was no discussion. The motion passed unanimously.

VIII. Vote: Budget Change Request

The following Fiscal Year 2025-2026 OSPG Program awardee presented budget changes for consideration by the committee:

- Agency: Center for Children's Rights, Inc.
- Program: Strengthening Community, Resiliency, and Mental Health Strategies to Prevent Opioid Use in Youth
- Funded Category: Prevention

Betsy Dobbins, Executive Director, presented the budget change request. They described the purpose of the budget change as a response to the changing non-profit funding landscape, wherein their agency wishes to prioritize staff capacity and infrastructure in case of unexpected changes.

Ms. O'Neal and Dr. Nichols asked questions about some of the changes and Ms. Dobbins provided answers and clarification.

Heather Rios, Secretary, put forth a motion to vote to approve the budget change request. Dr. Tanner seconded the motion. There was no further discussion. The motion passed unanimously.

Supporting documentation for the budget change request described above (completed "Budget Change Request Template" describing each line-item change request and a letter from the agency detailing the changes) were submitted to committee members for review ahead of the meeting. These documents are available upon request by emailing opioidabatement@coj.net.

IX. New Business

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

X. Adjournment

Ms. O'Neal put forth a motion to vote to adjourn the meeting. Dr. Tanner seconded the motion. There was no discussion. The motion passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned by Dr. Nichols at 2:40 PM.

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

Next Meeting Date - Monday, February 23, 2026, at 2:00 PM

This version of the meeting minutes is the accessible version to be uploaded to the OSPG 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 opioidabatement@coj.net.

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

Signature: _____

Date: _____