

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

### **Meeting Minutes**

**October 30, 2025, 2:00 PM**

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

**Chair: Antonio Nichols**

**Vice-Chair: Sarah Smith**

**Secretary: Heather Rios**

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

**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 2:03 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 2024-2025 Quarterly Progress Reports*
  - Final QPRs (QPRs for Q4 covering 7/1/25 to 9/30/25) were due to the Office of Opioid Abatement on 10/15/25. As of 10/30/25, 13 out of 14 were submitted and 1 was pending submission (late). Of those that were submitted, 2 had been reviewed and required revisions and the remaining 11 are pending review.
- *Fiscal Year 2024-2025 Invoice Processing*
  - 100% of invoices processed and submitted for payment.
  - Just over \$4 million in invoices were processed and submitted for payment, representing about 79% of the total program budget.
  - This information had been shared out at the meeting on October 6th, so this was simply a reminder for committee members and members of the public who were not in attendance at that meeting.
  - A detailed chart was shared during this section of the update which can be requested by emailing [opioidabatment@coj.net](mailto:opioidabatment@coj.net).
- *Fiscal Year 2025-2026 OSPG Program Timeline (tentative and subject to change)*
  - The timeline for the FY 25-26 OSPG Program had been shared out at previous meetings and is also on the program website, so this was simply a reminder and update. Summary of the remaining dates:
    - October 30: Final application rankings and funding allocations announced
    - October 1, 2025 - September 30, 2025: Period of performance for awarded agencies
- *OSPG Appeals Board Meeting October 21, 2025*
  - Community Rehabilitation Center submitted two appeals in response to their applications being deemed ineligible. Both appeals were denied.
  - Meeting minutes are available upon request. Email [opioidabatment@coj.net](mailto:opioidabatment@coj.net).
- *Endo Health Solutions, Inc. Payment*
  - A payment from Endo Health Solutions was received on 10/23/25. This payment was a result of company bankruptcy.
- *Audits*
  - For agencies with fiscal year end June 30, their audits were due on 10/28/2025. The Office of Opioid Abatement reviews the section(s) of the audit pertaining to OSPG Awards and submits any findings to the Council Auditor's Office prior to their full review. Legislation was introduced (2025-812) to address the OMB delay for applicable agencies.

#### **IV. Brief Data Update**

Laura Viafora Ray, Program Coordinator - Opioid Abatement, provided a brief data update, summarized as follows:

- The measure “# of Suspected Opioid-Related (O-R) Overdose (OD) Patients” is down 31% from January to September of 2025 compared to the same time period in 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 second month in a row in September (106) compared to August (112).
- Two detailed graphs were shared during this section of the update which can be requested by emailing [opioidabatement@coj.net](mailto:opioidabatement@coj.net).

#### **V. Public Comment**

Dr. Nichols opened the floor to public comment.

John Nooney (address on file) made a public comment. Comment card is on file. There were no additional public comments.

#### **VI. Vote: Meeting Minutes from October 6, 2025**

Dr. John Tanner put forth a motion to vote to approve the meeting minutes from the October 6, 2025, meeting. Heather Rios, Secretary, seconded the motion. There was no discussion. The motion passed unanimously.

#### **VII. Vote: 2026 Meeting Dates**

The Office of Opioid Abatement proposed these meeting dates to committee members for calendar year 2026. The majority of dates fall on the fourth Monday of the month, except where noted below:

- January 26
- February 23
- March 23
- April 27
- May 18 - The fourth Monday in May is Memorial Day, so the Office of Opioid Abatement proposes holding the meeting on the third Monday.
- June 22
- July 27
- August 24
- September 21 - The fourth Monday in September falls on a “fifth week” for City Council when IT support for rooms in City Hall will be limited. The Office of Opioid Abatement proposes holding the meeting on the third Monday to ensure access to IT support.

- October 5 and October 19 - Per Chapter 84, tentative rankings and tentative funding allocations must be announced in the first full week of October. Following an appeals period, an additional meeting is required to announce the final rankings and funding allocations.
- December 7 - A meeting in November is not required. The Office of Opioid Abatement proposes an earlier December meeting date to account for increased travel and leave time closer to the holidays.

Ms. Rios put forth a motion to vote to approve the proposed calendar 2026 meeting dates listed above, meeting. Dr. Tanner seconded the motion. There was no discussion. The motion passed unanimously.

#### **VIII. Vote: FY 25-26 Final Application Rankings and Funding Allocations**

In preparation for the announcement and vote on the FY 25-26 final application rankings and funding allocations, Ms. Viafora Ray shared the following information:

- The total program budget for the FY 25-26 OSPG Program is \$5,222,642.00 per the appropriation as authorized via Ordinance 2025-0510-E.
- As authorized by Ordinance 2025-0182-E, 34% of this budget (\$1,775,698.28) will be allocated to Prevention programs, 33% (\$1,723,471.86) will be allocated to Treatment programs, and 33% (\$1,723,471.86) will be allocated to Recovery Support programs.
- Following the meeting, a detailed handout which shows all individual scores and clearly identifies tie scores and outliers will be sent to all applicants as well as the email distribution list.

Dr. Nichols announced the final rankings and 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.

Prevention					
Final Ranking	Average Score	Agency Name	Program Name	Request	Funding Amount
1	95.20	Boys' and Girls' Clubs of Northeast Florida	SMART Moves Duval: BGCNF's Comprehensive Youth Opioid Prevention Initiative with L.E.A.D.	\$349,977.00	\$349,977.00
2	93.20	Health Planning Council of Northeast Florida	Stories of Lived Experience (S.O.L.E.) - Breaking Stigma One Step at a Time	\$500,000.00	\$500,000.00
3	93.00	Volunteers In Medicine Jacksonville	Forever Health Opioid Prevention Program	\$342,829.74	\$342,829.74
4	92.80 *	Center For Children's Rights	Strengthening Community, Resiliency, and Mental Health Strategies to Prevent Opioid Use in Youth	\$150,542.39	\$150,542.39
5	92.80 *	Hubbard House	RISE! Program	\$286,873.55	\$286,873.55
6	92.60	NAMI Jacksonville Florida	Connection Recovery Support	\$207,537.04	\$145,475.60
7	92.40	Managed Access to Child Health	STOP Initiative (Strategies and Tools for Opioid Prevention)	\$187,950.00	\$0.00
8	91.20	Inspire To Rise	INSPIRED Youth Program	\$435,218.97	\$0.00
9	90.40	Gateway Community Services	Reduce the Stigma	\$300,000.00	\$0.00
10	89.60	Community Coalition Alliance	Duval's Approach to Reduce Opioid Overdose (DAROO) Prevention	\$471,929.50	\$0.00

\* When determining rankings, tie scores were addressed as applicable according to the following procedure that 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."

Treatment					
Final Ranking	Average Score	Agency Name	Program Name	Request	Funding Amount
1	94.40	I.M. Sulzbacher Center for the Homeless	Sulzbacher Substance Abuse Treatment Program	\$500,000.00	\$500,000.00
2	93.40	Gateway Community Services	PSL Housing	\$250,000.00	\$250,000.00
3	92.00	University of Florida Foundation	Thrive Together - Multidisciplinary Support for OUD Recovery at UF Health Jacksonville	\$499,999.72	\$499,999.72
4	89.60	Fresh Ministries	FreshMinistries Outpatient Expansion Initiative	\$350,000.00	\$350,000.00
5	87.60	United Way of Northeast Florida	Possible Always	\$500,000.00	\$0.00 *
6	87.40	Northeast Florida Healthy Start Coalition	Azalea Rose Project	\$416,873.72	\$123,472.14
7	80.50	Metro Treatment of Florida	MAT IOP	\$500,000.00	\$0.00

\* United Way of Northeast Florida declined their award. The rankings remain, but the funding allocation goes to the program with the next highest average score.

Recovery Support					
Final Ranking	Average Score	Agency Name	Program Name	Request	Funding Amount
1	95.25	Operation New Hope	Ready 4 Work	\$460,847.51	\$460,847.51
2	94.25	I.M. Sulzbacher Center for the Homeless	Sulzbacher Substance Abuse Recovery Program	\$500,000.00	\$500,000.00
3	93.50	Gateway Community Services	PSL Hospital	\$500,000.00	\$500,000.00
4	93.33	Fresh Ministries	FreshMinistries Outpatient Recovery Expansion Initiative	\$100,000.00	\$100,000.00
5	88.25	The City Rescue Mission	LifeBuilders Residential Addiction Recovery	\$500,000.00	\$162,624.35
6	78.75	Community Coalition Alliance	Duval's Approach to Reduce Opioid Overdose (DAROO) Recovery	\$454,539.20	\$0.00
7	77.00	Project Save Lives	Partial Fleet Replacement/Expansion Program	\$20,700.00	\$0.00

Prior to holding the vote to approve the final rankings and 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. Rios put forth a motion to vote to approve the final rankings and funding allocations in the Prevention category. Dr. Tanner seconded the motion. There was no discussion. The motion passed unanimously with one abstention.

Dr. Tanner put forth a motion to vote to approve the final rankings and funding allocations in the Treatment category. Nancy St. Clarie seconded the motion. There was no discussion. The motion passed unanimously.

Dr. Tanner put forth a motion to vote to approve the final rankings and funding allocations in the Recovery Support category. Ms. Rios seconded the motion. There was no discussion. The motion passed unanimously.

Ms. Zarou then noted that their office would work with the Office of General Counsel, Finance, and awarded agencies in finalizing and executing the agreements.

#### **IX. Vote: Budget Change Requests**

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

- Center for Children's Rights - Strengthening Community, Resiliency, and Mental Health Strategies to Prevent Opioid Use in Youth - Prevention
  - Betsy Dobbins, Executive Director, presented the budget change request.
  - There were no questions from the committee. Dr. Tanner put forth a motion to vote to approve the budget change request. Ms. St. Claire seconded the motion. There was no discussion. The motion passed unanimously.
- Fresh Ministries - FreshMinistries Outpatient Treatment - Treatment
  - Michelle Harcourt, Executive Director, presented the budget change request.
  - There were no questions from the committee. Ms. Rios put forth a motion to vote to approve the budget change request. Dr. Tanner seconded the motion. There was no discussion. The motion passed unanimously.
- Hubbard House - RISE! Program
  - Julio Lacayo, Chief Financial Officer, presented the budget change request.
  - Dr. Tanner and Dr. Nichols asked the agency representative questions for clarification.



- Dr. Tanner put forth a motion to vote to approve the budget change request. Ms. St. Claire seconded the motion. There was no discussion. The motion passed unanimously.
- NAMI Jacksonville Florida - Connection Recovery Support - Prevention
  - Suzanne Mailloux, Chief Executive Officer, presented the budget change request.
  - There were no questions from the committee. Dr. Tanner put forth a motion to vote to approve the budget change request. Ms. Rios seconded the motion. There was no discussion. The motion passed unanimously.
- The City Rescue Mission - LifeBuilders Residential Addiction Recovery - Recovery Support
  - Paul Stasi, Executive Director, presented the budget change request.
  - There were no questions from the committee. Ms. Rios put forth a motion to vote to approve the budget change request. Dr. Tanner seconded the motion. There was no discussion. The motion passed unanimously.
- University of Florida Foundation - Thrive Together: Multidisciplinary Support for OUD Recovery at UF Health Jacksonville - Treatment
  - Dr. Sophia Sheikh, Medical Director, Florida/USVI Poison Information Center, presented the budget change request.
  - There were no questions from the committee. Ms. St. Claire put forth a motion to vote to approve the budget change request. Dr. Tanner seconded the motion. There was no discussion. The motion passed unanimously.

Supporting documentation for the budget change requests described above (completed “Budget Change Request Templates” describing each line-item change request) were submitted to committee members for review ahead of the meeting. These documents are available upon request by emailing [opioidabatement@coj.net](mailto:opioidabatement@coj.net).

#### **X. New Business**

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

#### **XI. Adjournment**

Dr. Nichols 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 2:44 PM.

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

***Next Meeting Date - Monday, December 8, 2025, 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](mailto:opioidabatement@coj.net).**

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

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

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