



# Statewide Council on Opioid Abatement

Virtual Meeting Minutes

September 27, 2023

2:00 P.M. – 3:00 P.M. EST

## Council Members

Attorney General Ashley Moody  
Chair

Secretary Shevaun L. Harris  
Vice Chair

Amy Ronshausen  
Governor's Appointee

Major Todd M. Shear  
Senate President's Appointee

Sheriff Robert A. Hardwick  
Office of the Speaker's Appointee

Commissioner Chris Dougherty  
Florida Association of Counties

Commissioner Lee Constantine  
Florida Association of Counties

Commissioner Kathleen Peters  
Florida Association of Counties

Vice Mayor Kimberly Glas-Castro  
Florida League of Cities Appointee

Vice Mayor Jolien Caraballo  
Florida League of Cities Appointee

## 2:00 P.M. - Welcome and Call to Order

Attorney General Ashley Moody, Chair

Attendance Summary:

Attorney General Ashley Moody

Secretary Shevaun Harris

Amy Ronshausen

Major Todd Shear

Sheriff Robert Hardwick

Commissioner Chris Dougherty

Commissioner Lee Constantine

Commissioner Kathleen Peters

Vice Mayor Kimberly Glas-Castro

Vice Mayor Jolien Caraballo

## Roll Call

### 1. Introduction of Council Members

Attorney General Moody, Council Chair

Attorney General Moody discussed the impetus behind the creation of the Council.

Each member briefly introduced themselves.

### 2. Overview of Florida Opioid Settlement Agreement

John Guard, Chief Deputy Attorney General

Presentation detailing the overview of the Opioid Abatement Settlement and how the recovery money is structured to come into the state. Achieved eight settlements and several bankruptcy plans that will cause more than \$3.1 billion to flow into the State of Florida's cities and counties over the next 17 years. Year one has already been received and distributed to qualified cities and counties and have begun receiving year two payments. All of the \$3.1 billion must be spent to abate the opioid crisis and is being split into three funds: 45% state, 40% regional, and 15% city/county. Large counties with populations greater than 300,000 are qualified counties that will receive their money directly whereas smaller counties are non-qualified counties and the legislature will spend their money based on The Department of Children and Family Regions. A breakdown of funds can be seen on presentation.

### 3. **Data Overview of Opioid Dashboard**

Erica Floyd Thomas, Assistant Secretary for the Office of Substance Abuse and Mental Health

Evan Barksdale, Knowli Data Science

Presentation of the dashboard to demonstrate a high-level overview of baseline data to include how the state is performing, specifically as it relates to fatal and non-fatal overdoses, drug arrests, healthcare response to opioid overdoses and if the measures the department has put in place is being effective in our abatement strategies. The dashboard will develop an estimate of need for additional support based on the captured information. The dashboard will be posted on the forthcoming Florida Opioid website.

### 4. **Evidence-Based Opioid Abatement Treatment Services**

Department of Children and Families Secretary Shevaun L. Harris, Chair

Jeffrey Cece, Office of Opioid Recovery

Presentation to support why evidence-based services are essential to receiving opioid settlement funding. Explains the settlement agreement states that it's the intent of the state to ensure that the funds are expended in compliance with evolving evidence-based best practices. Funds are approved for evidence-based services that adhere to the American Society of Addiction Medicine (ASAM), Continuum of Care for opioid use disorder and any co-occurring substance, use disorder, or mental health conditions. In addition to counseling, the ASAM recommends two particular medications, methadone and buprenorphine as effective to restore brain circuits impacted by addiction, with 64% retention rate for patients on methadone and 54% retention rate for patients on buprenorphine. ASAM also recognizes cognitive behavioral therapy, contingency management and motivational enhancement therapy, or motivational interviewing as other successful counseling mechanisms. Noted there is a decrease in opioid caused death by 10%, fentanyl decreased by 9% and total drug-related deaths decreased by 5%. A data breakdown can be found within the presentation.

### 5. **Public Comment**

- Elaine Barber  
Can we increase the number of peer specialist?  
Can the timing of peer specialist receiving their certification be addressed?
- Commissioner Kathleen Peters  
Requesting guidance on syringe services (permissible uses).  
Reporting and tracking of the funds and performance metrics.
- Dr. Twanna House  
Is there an opportunity for community members with lived experiences to have a place on the Council?
- Yamila Jorge-Escalona  
Wants more information on how or if funds will be allocated for cultural competency in communities such as special populations.

**6. Closing Remarks**

Attorney General Ashley Moody, Chair

Reminded Council and guests the website will be launch soon and will include all presentations and video for today's meeting.