



## 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

# Statewide Council on Opioid Abatement

## Meeting Minutes

August 1, 2024

2:00 P.M. – 4:00 P.M. EST

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

Jeanette Cherubini welcomed all to the meeting. The meeting was called to order by Chair Designee Dennis Lemma. Roll call was taken by Jeanette Cherubini. Attendance Summary:

Amy Ronshausen  
Major Todd Shear  
Sheriff Robert Hardwick  
Commissioner Chris Dougherty  
Commissioner Kathleen Peters  
Vice Mayor Kimberly Glas-Castro  
Sheriff Dennis Lemma, Chair Delegate  
Secretary Shevaun Harris  
Commissioner Lee Constantine

### 1. Approve March 28, 2024, Meeting Minutes

Motion to approve minutes was approved by Council.

### 2. Overview on the Collaborative Efforts and New Initiatives in Combating Substance Use Disorder

Dennis Lemma, Seminole County Sheriff

Sheriff Lemma emphasized the urgency of addressing substance use disorder. He highlighted the growing number of successful programs in Florida that have gained national attention, stressing the importance of naloxone in preventing overdoses. With a positive shift towards citizens carrying naloxone and increased access to medical-based treatments through partnerships like Advent Health, new initiatives by Secretary Harris and the First Lady are focusing on prevention, especially given the rise in fentanyl-related incidents. While Florida has seen a 7% decrease in drug-related deaths, opioid-related deaths have increased by 11%. Lemma urged the promotion of best practices and widespread availability of naloxone, addressing the societal challenges posed by counterfeit fentanyl and the legacy of overprescription. He noted addiction's impact on mental health and the importance of viewing it as a disease affecting all demographics.

### 3. Overview for Counties, Cities, and the Public

John Guard, Chief Deputy Attorney General

Mr. Guard explained the creation of the council to address distrust between different government levels regarding the allocation and use of opioid settlement funds. Its role involves gathering and sharing data on effective interventions to ensure transparency and proper use of funds.

### 4. Overview of the State's Opioid Abatement Plan

Assistant Secretary Erica Floyd Thomas, Department of Children and Families  
Ms. Thomas outlined the Department of Children and Families' role as the state's authority on substance abuse and mental health, responsible for services from prevention to crisis management and the licensure of facilities. The Department focuses on uninsured individuals, filling gaps in services through partnerships with contracted managing entities. She detailed the allocation of state funds, highlighting efforts to maximize resources and build infrastructure to enhance service delivery.

### 5. Titusville's Opioid Abatement Plan

Stanley Brizz, Executive Director Brevard Prevention Coalition

Brevard County aims to enhance education for staff at various levels on effectively handling behavioral and mental health issues. Recognizing a lack of knowledge in



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treating these individuals, the county emphasizes the importance of a Peer Support Program, which connects those in need with individuals who have experienced similar challenges. Rather than creating new solutions, the county plans to leverage existing community services to address these gaps. The county advocates for comprehensive approaches that include counseling alongside medical treatment to address these root causes effectively.

### 6. Seminole County's Opioid Abatement Plan

Kelly Welch, Community Health Division Manager - Seminole County

Seminole County has implemented effective programs, resulting in decreased numbers of substance use disorder through collaboration with partners like Advent Health and Central Florida, and partnering with six out of seven cities to secure more funding for services. Their healing centers and EMS program, launched two years ago, have been highly effective, particularly in providing care for individuals discharged from emergency hospitals. The county has also increased penalties for drug dealers, especially around sensitive areas like churches, playgrounds, and treatment centers, and investigates overdose deaths as homicides to hold responsible parties accountable.

### 7. Floor was open for public comment.

### 8. Closing Remarks

Council Chair Lemma provided closing remarks. Meeting adjourned at 4:00PM.