

STATEWIDE COUNCIL ON OPIOID ABATEMINE COUNCIL ON OPIOID ABATEMINE COUNCIL ON OPIOID ON OPIOID ON OPIOID ON OPIOID ON OPIOID OPIOID ON OPIOID O

MEETING PACKET

Combating the Opioid Epidemic

See how the State of Florida is serving communities by supporting prevention, treatment, and recovery efforts statewide.

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Council Members

Commissioner Lee Constantine Florida Association of Counties

Commissioner Kathleen Peters Florida Association of Counties

Vice Mayor Kimberly Glas-Castro

Vice Mayor Jolien Caraballo Florida League of Cities

Florida League of Cities Appointee

Appointee

Statewide Council on Opioid Abatement

Meeting Agenda May 7, 2025 2:00 P.M. – 3:30 P.M. EST

Attorney General James Uthmeier Chair	2:00 – 2:05	Welcome and Roll Call Sheriff Dennis M. Lemma, Delegate Chair
Sheriff Dennis M. Lemma Delegate Chair	2:00 – 2:10	Approval of March 11, 2025 Meeting Minutes Sheriff Dennis M. Lemma, Delegate Chair
Secretary Taylor Hatch Vice Chair	2:10 – 2:30	Neonatal Abstinence Syndrome and Opioid Use Disorder Lenette Serlo, Generation O
Amy Ronshausen Governor's Appointee	2:30 – 2:50	Early Childhood Court Dr. Mimi Graham, Florida State University, Center for Prevention & Early Intervention Policy
Major Todd M. Shear Senate President's Appointee	2:50 – 3:10	Jail-based Medication Assisted Treatment Dr. Laura Bedard, Chief of Corrections, Seminole County Sheriff's Office
Sheriff Robert A. Hardwick Office of the Speaker's Appointee	3:10 – 3:20	Public Comment
Commissioner Chris Dougherty Florida Association of Counties	3:20 – 3:25	Closing Remarks Sheriff Dennis M. Lemma, Delegate Chair



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Statewide Council on Opioid Abatement

Virtual Meeting Minutes March 11, 2025 2:00 P.M. – 4:00 P.M. EST

Welcome/Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 2:00 PM Delegate Chair, Sheriff M. Lemma Roll call was taken by LaDarius Gammage

Attendance Summary

Sheriff Lemma, Delegate Chair

Attorney General James Uthmeier, Chair

Assistant Secretary Erica Floyd Thomas on behalf of Secretary Taylor Hatch, Vice Chair

Amy Ronshausen, Governor's Appointee

Major Todd Shear, President's Appointee

Tara Wildes on behalf of Sheriff Robert Hardwick, Office of the Speaker's Appointee

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

Todd Hockert, Subject Matter Expert

Laura Viafora Ray, Subject Matter Expert

Dr. Samantha Thompson, Subject Matter Expert

Opening Remarks

Sheriff Dennis Lemma opened the March 11, 2025, meeting by welcoming council members, staff, and public attendees, expressing gratitude for their continued dedication to the Council's work. Sheriff Lemma acknowledged the postponement of the originally scheduled February meeting, offering a formal apology. The reason, he explained, was his invitation to testify before the U.S. Senate Special Committee on Aging, chaired by Senator Rick Scott where he presented a comprehensive review of Florida's opioid epidemic, and the coordinated statewide response led by the Opioid Abatement Council. Sheriff Lemma congratulated Secretary Shevaun Harris on her appointment as Secretary of the Agency for Health Care Administration and welcomed Secretary Taylor Hatch to the Department of Children and Families leadership and the Council. Attendance was taken and a quorum was established.

Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes

Motion passed to approve minutes from the October 30, 2024, meeting.

Motion: Commissioner Kathleen Peters

Second: Major Todd Shear

Attorney General James Uthmeier, Council Chair Direction of the Statewide Council on Opioid Abatement

Attorney General Uthmeier commended the Council's impressive progress and stated that its performance has exceeded expectations laid out when the Council was created by executive order. Attorney General Uthmeier outlined several key principles and goals that will guide his leadership of the Council:

 Access to Treatment: Develop strategies to ensure every Floridian has access to highquality treatment.



Statewide Council on Opioid Abatement

- Youth Protection and Prevention from Opioid Exposure: Emphasized the importance of protecting
 children from the dangers of opioid misuse and vowed that his administration would center youth in its
 prevention messaging and increase efforts to restrict youth access.
- Support for First Responders and Healthcare Providers: He committed to prioritizing the needs of frontline personnel by ensuring they have the tools and support to effectively respond to overdoses and related crises.
- Public Education and Awareness: Stressed the need to expand public education efforts, including use of PSAs and multimedia campaigns to raise awareness about the risks of opioid misuse and the availability of treatment resources.

Fiscal Year 2025 Citrus County Opioid Settlement Funds

Presenter: Todd Hockert, Department of Health Citrus & Marion; Chair, Citrus Opioid Task Force Todd shared the FY 24-25 Citrus County Opioid Settlement Funds plan. The plan included:

- LSF Health Systems partnership to oversee fund allocation.
- Establish tracking mechanisms for program effectiveness, with an annual progress review meeting.
- Prioritize "one and done" projects to ensure sustainability as funding decreases annually.
- Highlighted projects included:
 - o CORE team expansion
 - o SUD treatment services via Langley Health
 - o Recovery housing by Zero Hour Life Center
 - Youth prevention through school-based programs

City of Jacksonville Strategic Use of Opioid Settlement Funds

Presenter: Laura Viafora Ray, Program Coordinator, Jacksonville Fire & Rescue Jacksonville's Opioid Settlement Funds Strategic Approach includes:

- Administered through Jacksonville Fire and Rescue Department
- The grant program prioritizes prevention, treatment, and recovery support.
 - o Implement mobile outreach programs to address gaps in services, particularly in high-risk zip codes.
 - o After-school programs to support healthy decision-making attitudes and skills to prevent substance misuse.
 - Strong data tracking and site monitoring

The ATRAC Program

Presenter: Dr. Samantha Thompson, Jacksonville ACE Medical ATRAC Program Jacksonville ACE Medical ATRAC Program includes:

- Mobile treatment services to underserved communities in Jacksonville.
- Expand Remote Life Health Support (RLH) program to track patients' health data in real-time.
- Conduct opioid prevention education sessions at middle and high schools, including Narcan training.
- Host community health fairs to increase outreach and engagement.

Highlighted youth training, community events, and gaps in health insurance access.

Statewide Opioid Recovery Efforts

Presenter: Erica Floyd Thomas, Assistant Secretary for the Office of Substance Abuse and Mental Health The Assistant Secretary provided high-level overview of opioid abatement data for the state of Florida.

- Florida saw a 14% decrease in opioid-related deaths in Florida from 2021 to 2023.
- Major drivers:
 - o Overdose Prevention Programs increased naloxone access.



Statewide Council on Opioid Abatement

- o CORE Network expanded to 30 counties: 96.3% population coverage by the end of Fiscal Year 2024-2025.
- Continued support for Medication-Assisted Treatment programs; over 18,000 individuals received MAT, 45% initiated in treatment settings.
- o 33% increase in certified peer recovery workforce.

Open Forum

Council Member Commissioner Kathleen Peters proposed a statewide opioid education campaign, modeled after the "Truth" tobacco initiative. It was confirmed that active efforts are underway via:

- The "Fact Your Future" campaign and toolkit.
- Multiple grants awards.
- Statewide prevention messaging.

Closing Remarks

Sheriff Lemma ended the meeting by calling on the Council to remain laser-focused on saving lives, strengthening communities, and ensuring every dollar of settlement funding yields measurable results. He thanked everyone again for their participation and officially adjourned the meeting at 3:54 PM.





Generation O began with a dream—to bring light to the often overlooked and misunderstood struggles of children prenatally exposed to opioids.

As a parent of two opioid-exposed children, I know firsthand the challenges these incredible kids and their families face. It begins with the terrifying and stressful experience of opioid withdrawal.

These children, now numbering over a half million, are innocent victims of our country's opioid crisis. Their prenatal injuries can be a lifelong struggle. They cannot be ignored.

Lenette Serlo, Founder & CEO

Generation O: The National Organization for Opioid-Exposed Children



MISSION

- Support parents and caregivers through education, resources and community.
- Help professionals and policy catch up with evolving science around prenatal opioid exposure and its long-term effects on children as they grow.
- Provide information and scientific research, in plain English, about the long-term outcomes of prenatal opioid exposure.





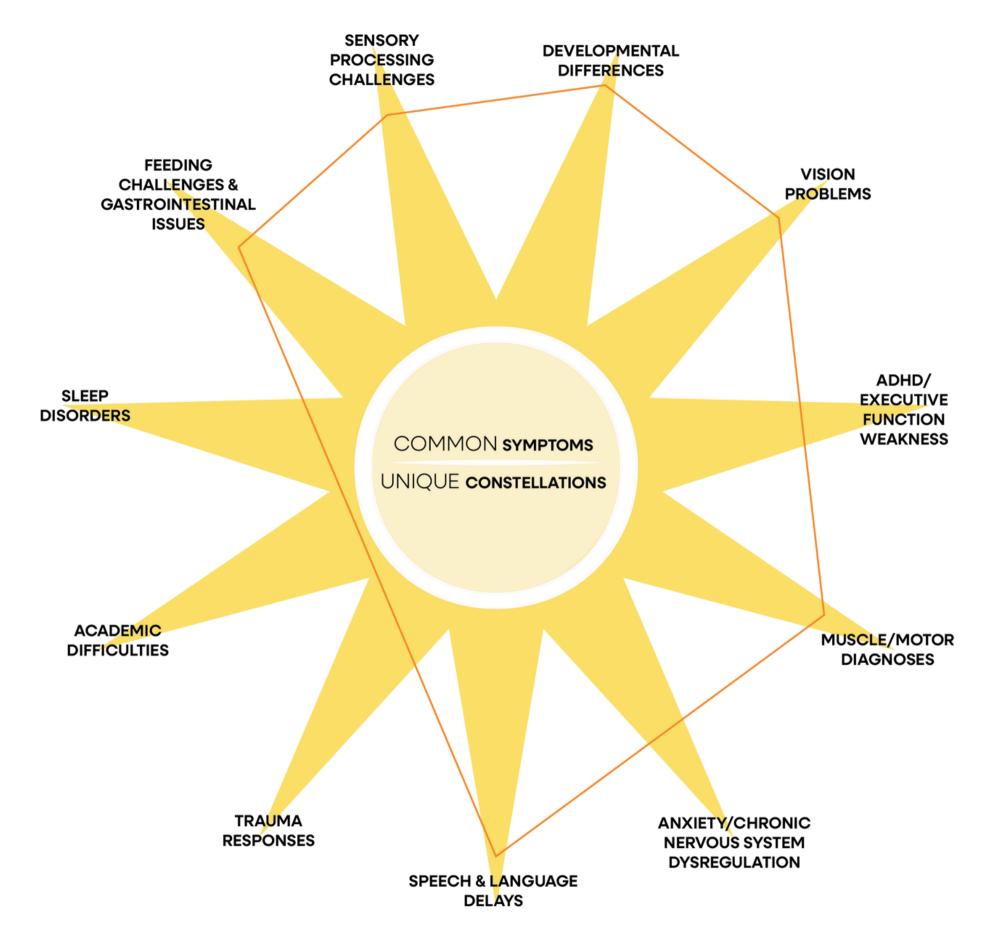


NAS/NOWS* ends in the NICU. The effects of opioid exposure can last a lifetime.

Parents and caregivers of babies born with opioid exposure have begun to see common symptoms in their children.

Not every child has every symptom. They do, however, experience their own unique constellation of symptoms from this common group.

*Neonatal Abstinence Syndrome (NAS) Neonatal Opioid Withdrawal Syndrome (NOWS)







SCIENCE

Is there proof that prenatal opioid exposure causes the challenges faced by Generation O? Yes-there is!

11 MOST COMMON LONG-TERM OUTCOMES:

- Developmental Differences
- Vision Problems
- Executive Function Weakness & ADHD
- Sleep Disorders
- Anxiety/Chronic Nervous System Dysregulation
- Feeding Challenges & Gastrointestinal Issues
- Speech & Language Delays
- Academic Difficulties
- Muscle/Motor Diagnoses
- Trauma Responses
- Sensory Processing Challenges





Incidence of Neonatal Abstinence Syndrome (NAS) in Florida, as reported in the Statewide Council on Opioid Abatement 2024 Annual Report.

"Since 2018, the rate of NAS has steadily decreased."

- 2018: 62 infants with NAS per 10,000 live births
- 2022: 42 infants with NAS per 10,000 live births

"...number of infants with NAS reduced by 32%."

It's time these children are brought into the light. They deserve to thrive.

Consider the baseline of NAS births in Florida prior to the ramp up of the opioid epidemic

- 2008: 24 infants with NAS per 10,000 live births
- 2009: 35 infants with NAS per 10,000 live births

Also consider the rates of NAS in 2022 in rural counties

- Bradford County: 268 infants per 10,000 live births
- Putnam County: 196 infants per 10,000 live births
- Clay County: 134 infants per 10,000 live births





BILLIONS OF OPIOID SETTLEMENT DOLLARS HAVE BEEN DISBURSED NATIONALLY.

FLORIDA OPIOID ALLOCATION AND STATEWIDE RESPONSE AGREEMENTS

Schedule A **Core Strategies**

- D. Expanding Treatment for Neonatal Abstinence Syndrome
 - 1. Expand comprehensive evidence-based and recovery support for NAS babies;
 - 2. Expand services for better continuum of care with infantneed dyad; and
 - 3. Expand long-term treatment and services for medical monitoring of NAS babies and their families.





FLORIDA OPIOID ALLOCATION AND STATEWIDE RESPONSE AGREEMENTS

Schedule B Approved Uses

E. ADDRESS THE NEEDS OF PREGNANT OR PARENTING WOMEN AND THEIR FAMILIES, INCLUDING BABIES WITH NEONATAL ABSTINENCE SYNDROME

- 1. Support evidence-based or evidence-informed treatment, including MAT, recovery services and supports, and prevention services for pregnant women or women who could become pregnant who have OUD and any co-occurring SUD/MH conditions, and other measures to educate and provide support to families affected by Neonatal Abstinence Syndrome.
- 2. Expand comprehensive evidence-based treatment and recovery services, including MAT, for uninsured women with OUD and any co-occurring SUD/MH conditions for up to 12 months postpartum.
- 3. Training for obstetricians or other healthcare personnel that work with pregnant women and their families regarding treatment of OUD and any co-occurring SUD/MH conditions.
- 4. Expand comprehensive evidence-based treatment and recovery support for NAS babies; **expand services** for better continuum of care with infant-need dyad; expand long-term treatment and services for medical monitoring of NAS babies and their families.



Hour Support is Pritical

Change the conversation around the opioid crisis to focus more on the children who are impacted, rather than simply adults who are addicted. Make Florida a leader in this fight.





Mat we can do Together

Peer Support for caregivers raising opioid-exposed babies

Education for families through the Thrive Points Program

Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU) and Pediatrician outreach

Opioid-exposed children summit including Florida policy-makers, medical and therapeutic professionals and parents

The 10% Pledge: Protecting children in the wake of the opioid crisis







Florida's Opioid Settlement: Opportunities for Florida's Early Childhood Courts to Break the Intergenerational Cycle of Trauma

Dr. Mimi Graham, Director, FSU Center for Prevention & Early Intervention Policy mgraham@fsu.edu. www.cpeip.fsu.edu







Adverse Childhood Experience



High Risk Teen Years

ACE

Transmission Risk



Adverse Adult Experience

Dependency Court

Juvenile Court

Adult Courts:
Criminal Court
Drug Court
DV Court
Divorce Court
Veteran's Court

Foundation for Healthy Generations 2014



Florida's Early Childhood Courts

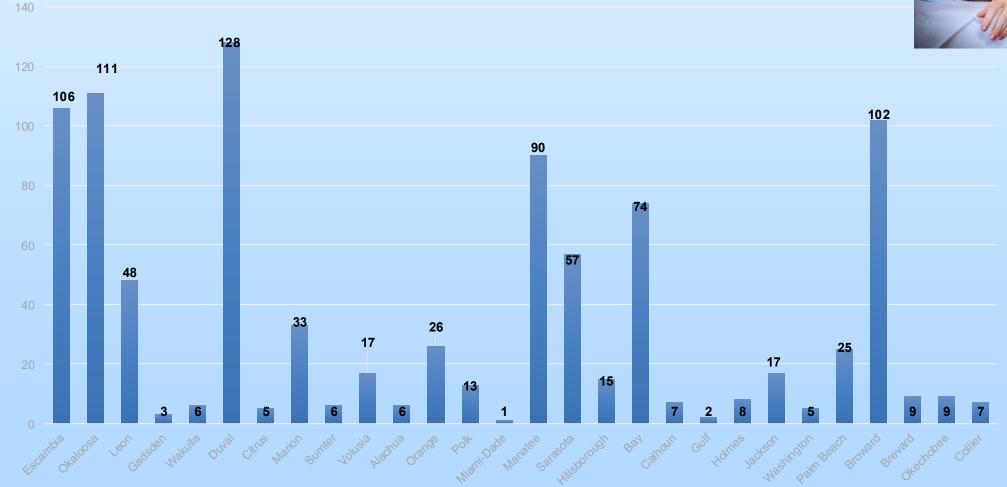
82% of children in ECC had substance use as removal/referral reason

(936 out of 1137 during the period 1/1/2018-4/4/2023)

ECC Children with a Removal/Referral Related to Substance Use

Data from 1/1/2018 - 4/4/2023 Compiled by Florida's Office of State Courts Administrator







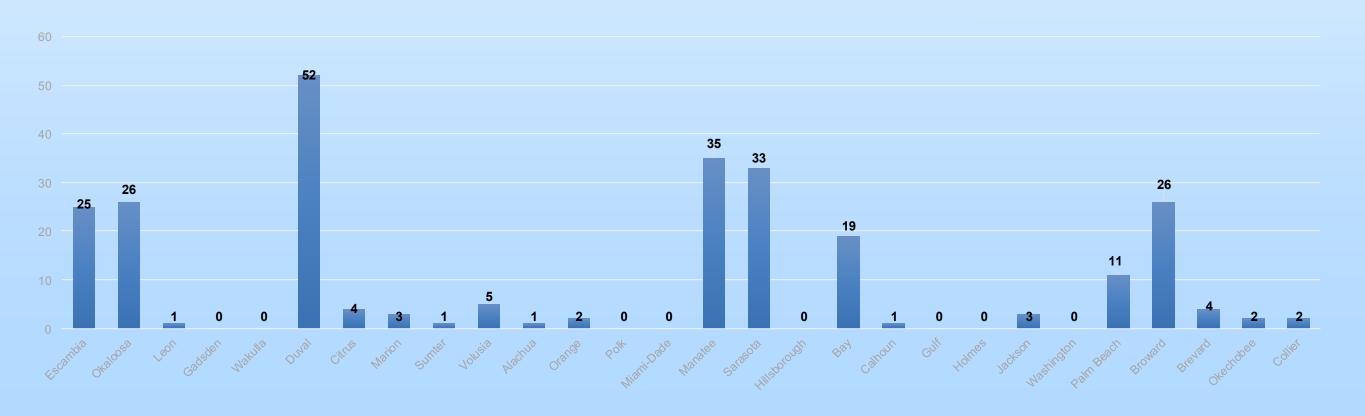
Florida's Early Childhood Courts

24.28% of children in ECC had opioids as removal drug

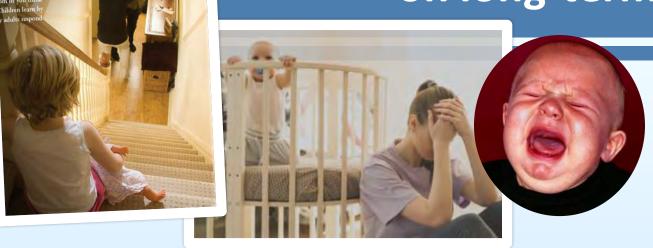
(256 out of 1137 during 1/1/2018-4/4/2023)

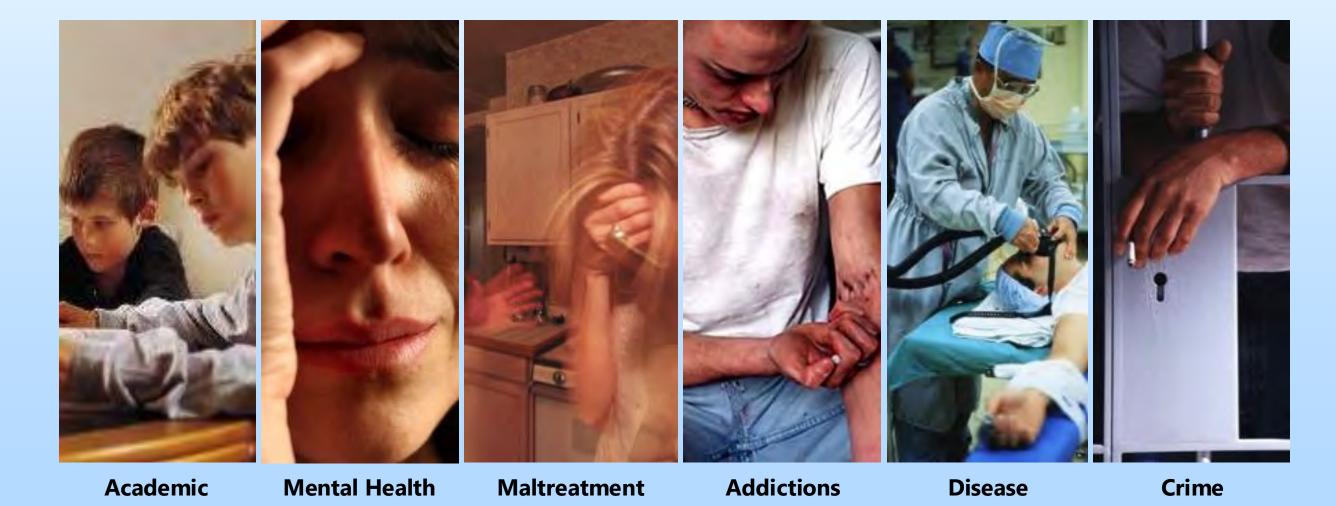
ECC Children with Opioids as a Removal Drug

Data from 1/1/2018 - 4/4/2023 Compiled by Florida's Office of State Courts Administrator



Decades of research show that Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) can have devastating effects on long-term health and well-being.

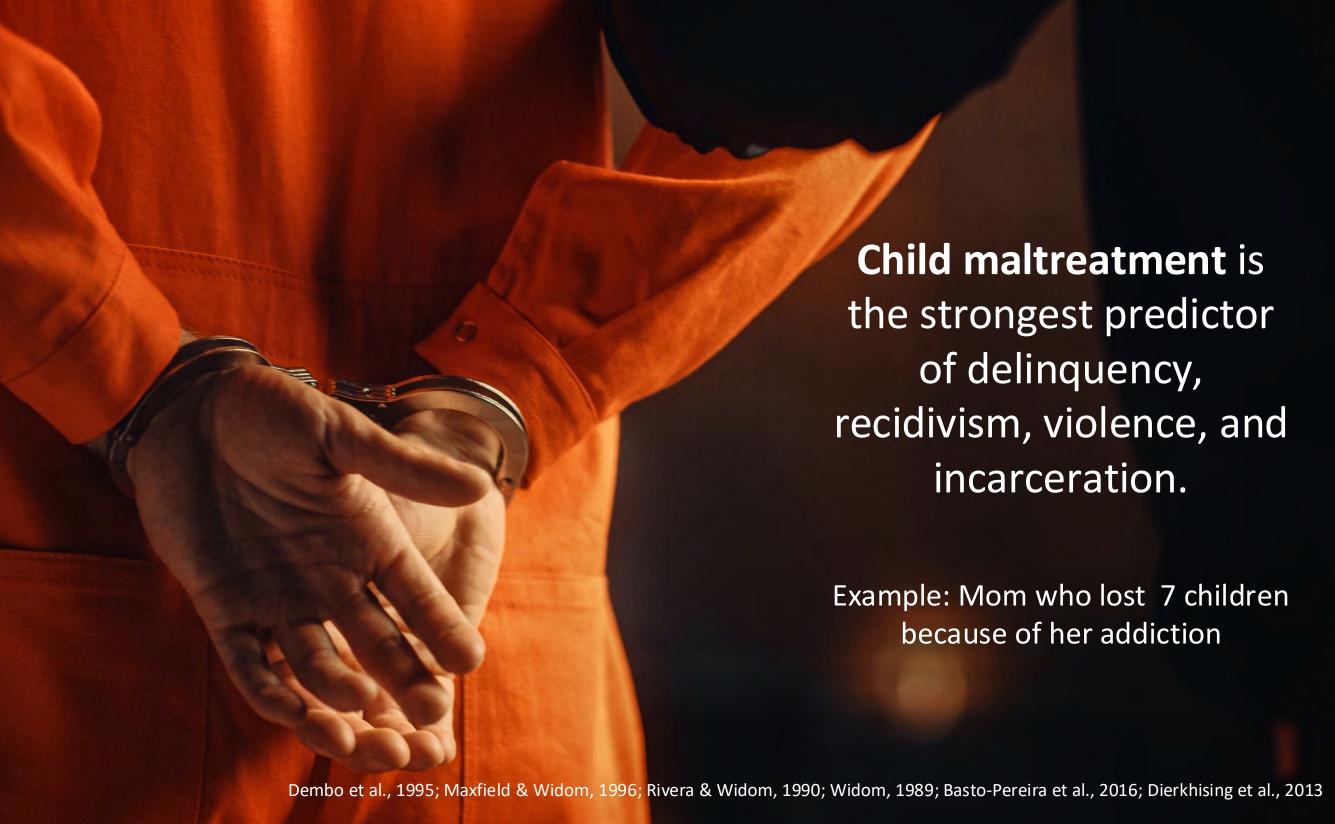




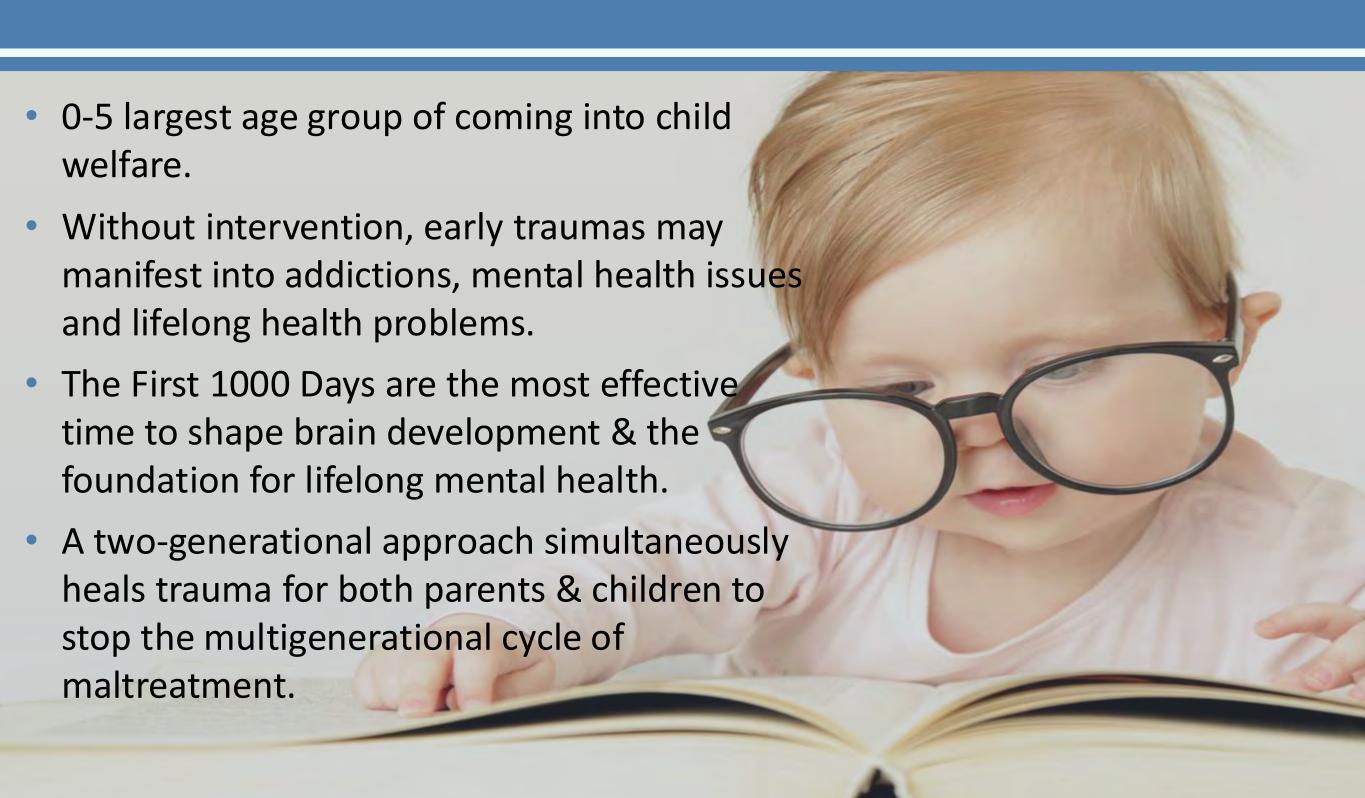
Trauma to Prison Pipeline:

Yesterday's Trauma Victims Become Today's

Defendants



Why Early Childhood Court?





Early Childhood Court Family





What is Early Childhood Court?

1. Trauma Informed Judges

2. Community
Coordinator &
Collaborative Court
Team

3. Child-Parent Psychotherapy









1. Trauma- Educated Judges Create Trauma-Informed ECC Courts



- Hosts monthly court dockets
- Creates a trauma-informed court team with therapeutic services
- Informed by the science & multidisciplinary team to guide decisions



2. Court Coordinator & Collaborative Court Team







Serves as liaison with judge, team, and family to expedite permanency

Learns family needs & integrates with clinical and team input to fast track services

Coordinates monthly team meetings to ensure on track



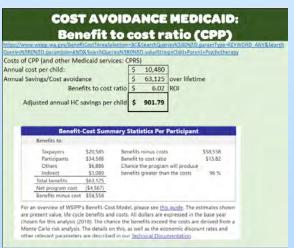
3. Child-Parent Psychotherapy (CPP)

CPP: Evidence-based intervention for children 0-5 with trauma

- Licensed clinicians
- Rigorous 18-month skill building training with bi-weekly case consultation and fidelity measures
- Addresses both parent & child trauma.







For every \$1 invested, there is an expected \$6.02 savings and a projected \$900 annual savings per child on the CPP clinical services funded by Medicaid.



What are the outcomes?

1. Trauma Informed Judges

2. Community
Coordinator &
Collaborative Court
Team

3. Child-Parent Psychotherapy



Accelerates Permanency



Reduces Re-Abuse



Enhances Well-Being



How Does Early Childhood Court Differ From Current Practice?

Area	Current FL Statutory Requirement	Trauma-Informed Baby Court Process
Case Reviews/Hearings	Status reviews every 6 months.	Monthly case reviews
Visitation	1x per month required	Daily contact recommended 3x week visitation minimal
Judges	No trauma training required	Training in science of attachment, brain development, trauma & resiliency
Mental Health/Focus	Not required	Predominant role of IMH & CPP
Wellbeing	СВНА	Early Identification & treatment



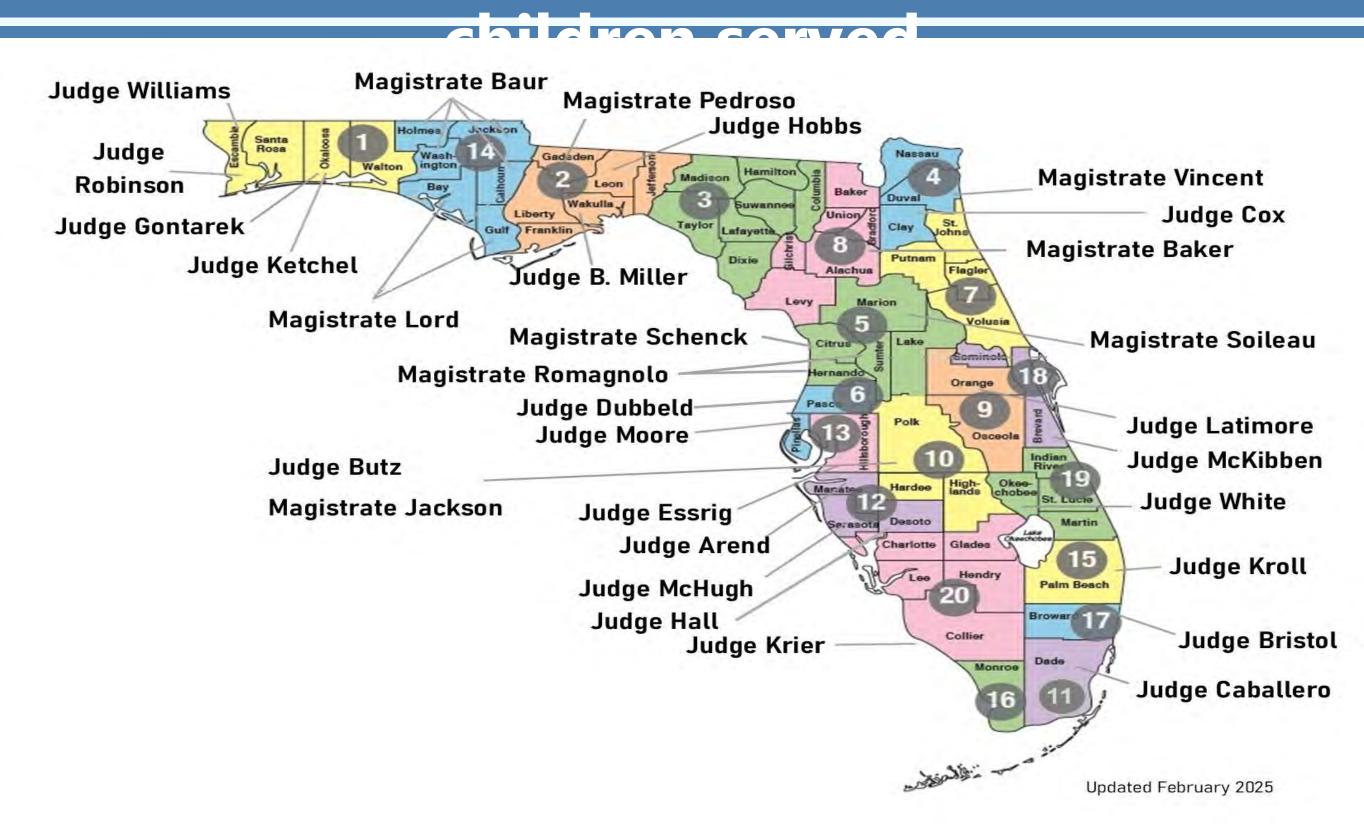
Hope & Healing



Documentaries of Florida's Early Childhood Courts

Hope & Healing Documentary (4 minutes)
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yZX7_Ad_WQo&t=113s
Hope & Healing Documentary (20 minutes)
https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCngRSdoTP5mul63TIP_eL7w

In 2025, 34 ECC sites yet, only 304 of the 3804 eligible 0-3



WHY aren't ALL 0-3 Babies in ECC2

- No dedicated funding for ECC
- Widespread vacancies & high turnover due to noncompetitive salaries
- Shortage of trained CPP therapists
- Inadequate Medicaid compensation



Floriecc Expansion Plan





Rational for Expansion 1. ECC is an Evidence-based Intervention



Florida's Early Childhood Courts (ECC) are based on multiple multisite evaluation studies showing the evidence-based **Safe Babies Court Team** sites "reached permanency faster and had lower rates of recurrence when compared with national averages" as summarized in the most recent permanency study (2024).

Safe Babies: The Evidence Base: https://www.zerotothree.org/resource/safe-babies-evidence/





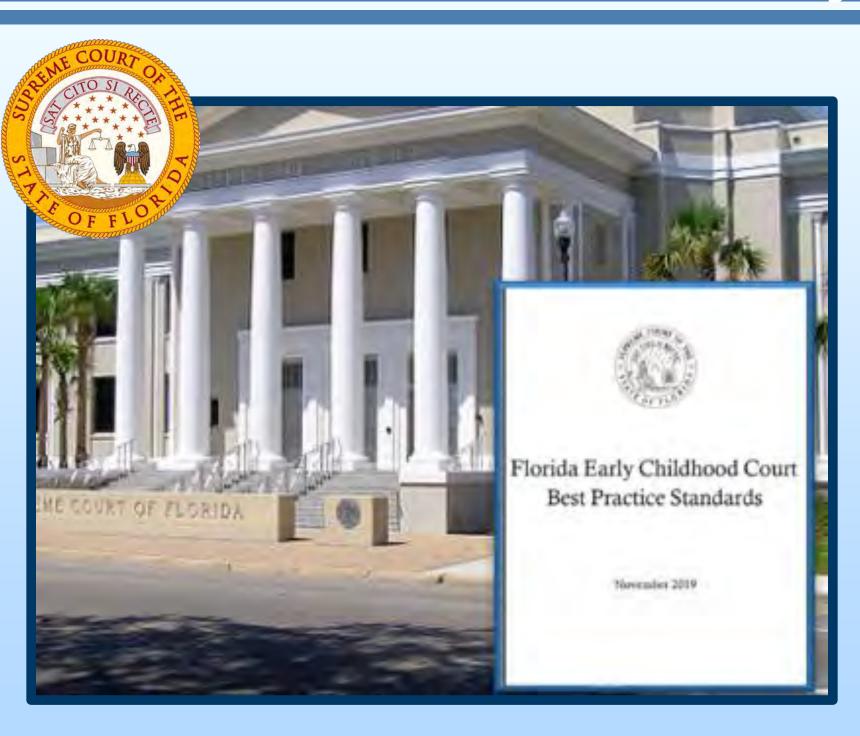








Rational for Expansion 3. Best Practices Standards **Promote Quality Statewide**







The target population is abused and/or neglected children ages 0-36 months who are removed from their homes and placed in out-of-home care (relative, non-



Individuals from groups who have experienced discrimination or reduced opportunities receive the same opportunities as others to participate and succeed in Early Childhood Court.



and best practices, interacts frequently and respectfully with participants and child caregivers, and gives due consideration to the input of team members



based on an assessment of the parent, the child, and the attachment relationship. The therapist informs the case plan and



and social services necessary to address co-occurring disorders and other needs of the family to ensure case plan compliance and successful permanency



Early Childhood Court ensures individualized, frequent, and meaningful contact between parents and children to enhance the child-parent relationship, as



A mutidisciplinary team participates in the operation of the Early Childhood Court, reviews participants' progress, provides observations, and makes



The Early Childhood Court serves as many eligible individuals as practicable white maintaining continuous fidelity to the best



The Early Childhood Court routinely standards and employs scientifically valid and reliable procedures to evaluate its



Rational for Expansion 4. Data-Supported Outcomes2022-2024

- Higher reunification rates for ECC than non-ECC (62% vs 50%)
- Faster reunification for ECC than non-ECC by 49 days
- Faster adoptions in ECC than non-ECC (by almost 6 months)
- Lower re-removals rates (7.8%) for ECC than non-ECC (8.8%) in 2020 and even lower ECC reremovals (6%) in 2024.



Expanding

Early Childhood
Courts in Florida

Rational for Expansion 5. Taxpayer Cost Savings

"The ECC approach yields significant benefits to taxpayers and society. We recommend statewide expansion with permanent dedicated funding."

Florida TaxWatch, 2020



Florida TaxWatch Projects Millions in Saving from Early Childhood Court (2020)

	Total Labor Costs	Total Out-of- Home Costs	Total Recidivism Costs	Total Cost
Traditional Courts	\$297.2 million	\$140.1 million	\$55.9 million	\$493.4 million
Early Childhood Courts (ECC)	\$242.7 million	\$111.9 million	\$25.1 million	\$379.8 million
Total Savings	\$54.5 million	\$28.3 million	\$30.8 million	\$113.6 million

Summary

Early Childhood Court is a proven, evidence-based trauma treatment approach that can improve child well-being, strengthen families to stop the multigenerational cycle of maltreatment AND save taxpayer dollars.







Cost Projections for

Expansion

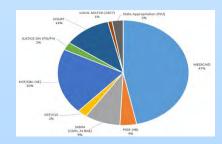
Cost to deliver the ECC model is estimated at \$500,000 per team serving

20 families/30 children.



Blending and Braiding Funds would optimize funding streams for ECC including:

- Medicaid Community Behavioral Health Services
- DCF Promoting Safe and Stable Families Act (Title 4B funds)
- DCF Substance Abuse and Mental Health Funding
- DCF Children's Legal Services
- DCF Title 4E Case Management Funds
- Local match (city, county and local funding as match to Title 4B)
- Court administration
- University funding (Florida Institute for Child Welfare)







Join Us!







Florida's 2025 First 1000 Days Policy Priorities

MATERNAL AND CHILD HEALTH

- MATERNIA AND CHILD NEALTH

 Expand access to maternal mental health services.

 Address provider shortages and maternity "deserts" to increase prenatal and postpartum care.

 Advocates: Florida Policy Institute, Florida Department of Health, Florida Hospital Association, Managed Care Plans, Florida Impact

INFANT AND TODOL FR CARE

- Expand quality infant/toddler care and education to promote school readiness.
- Address early childhood workforce shortages.
- Advocates: Association of Early Learning Coalitions, Children's Forum
 The Children's Movement of Florida, Head Start Associati
 FSU Center for Prevention & Early Intervention Policy

- EARLY INTERVENTION

 Increase community based screening.

 Increase workforce for early detection and intervention for autism
- and other developmental issues.

 Advocates: The Children's Movement of Florida, Children's Home Society of Florida, FSU Center for Prevention & Early Intervention Policy, Children's Forum

ACEs, RESILIENCE, & TRAUMA

- Increase access and providers in early childhood and family mental health services.
- nearth services.

 Ill Expand therapeutic "baby courts" to break multigenerational trauma.

 Advocates: FSU Center for Prevention & Early Intervention Policy.

 Children's Home Society of Florida, Office of the State Courts

 Administrator, Florida Department of Children and Families,

 Community Based Care, Florida Association for Infant Mental

 Health

ECONOMIC & FAMILY SUPPORTS

- Expand health coverage eligibility and paid maternal and family leave.

 Support working families with childcare subsidies.

 Advocates: Florida Policy Institute, The Children's Movement of Florida,
 Florida Impact, Florida Chamber of Commerce





















MEDICAL SCREENING UPON INTAKE

• Maintenance:

Medication started and then the inmate is seen by the provider within 2 to 3 days. The provider will order additional bloodwork, an EKG, and an additional UDS.

• Medically Assisted Withdrawal Protocol:

Treatment for peripheral symptoms alone and/or the use of Subutex or Librium.

• MAT screenings:

Individuals request MAT services through the kiosk. They must attend an education group and be screened for eligibility.

MAT SCREENING

- Medical screening
- EFORSCE check
- Clinical Institute Withdrawal Assessment for Alcohol (CIWA)
- Clinical Opiate Withdrawal Scale (COWS)
- UDS
- Medical screening generates:
 - Maintenance
 - Medically Assisted Withdrawal Protocol
 - MAT screening

MEDICATION ASSISTED PROGRAM

- Components:
 - Medications (Suboxone, Subutex, Vivitrol, Sublocade, Naltrexone, Brixadi)
 - Counseling
 - Medical Supervision

MAT COMMITTEE

• Weekly multidisciplinary meetings are held consisting of Medical, Programs & Security Staff

- Review inmate progress
- Discuss challenges and solutions
- Discuss diversion
- Ensure program adherence and safety
- Ensure Grant requirements and documentation are completed
- Share updates and insights
- Discuss and identify eligible inmates



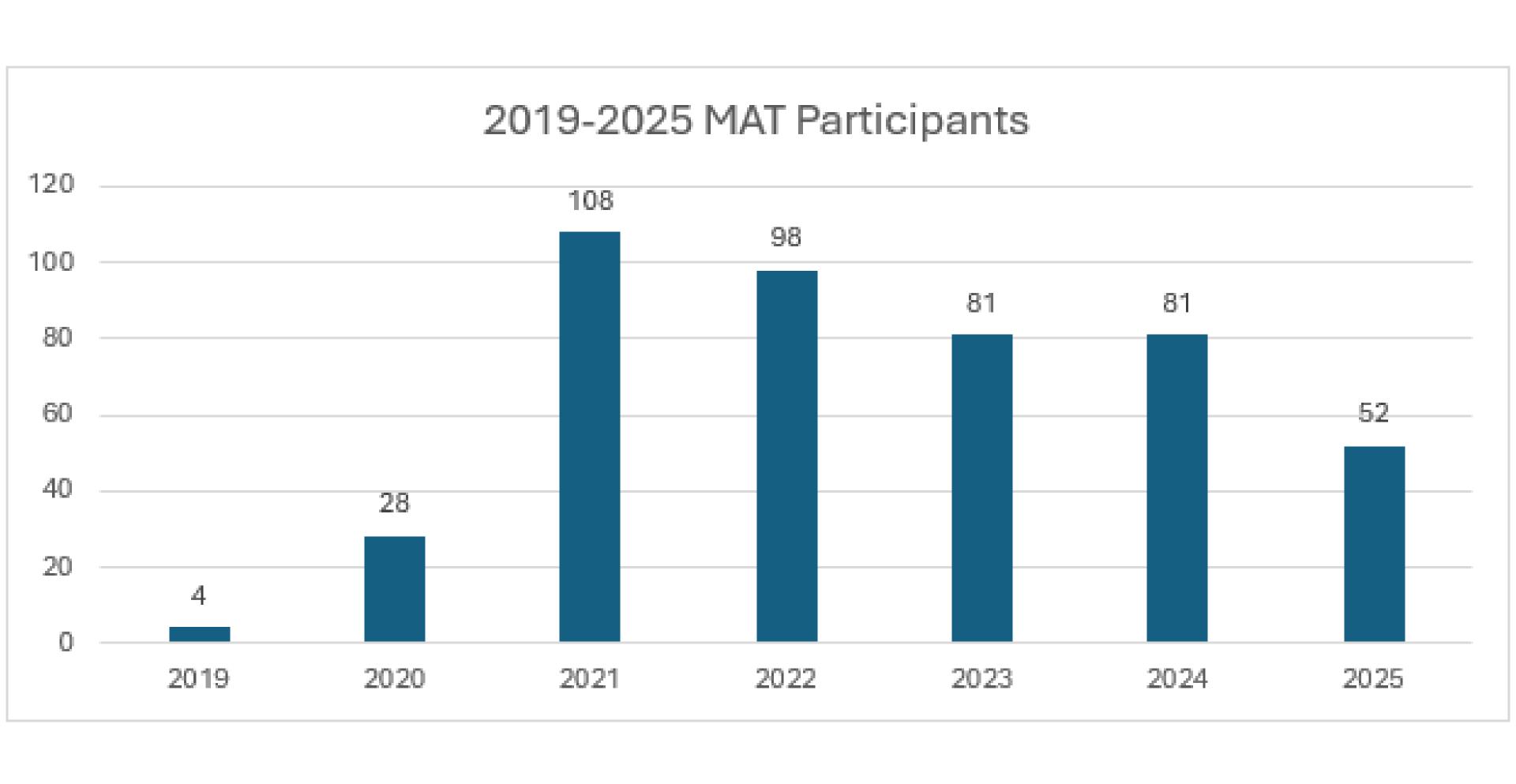
IN RESPONSE TO THE OPIOID EPIDEMIC THE SEMINOLE COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE CREATED THE ACTT PROGRAM

- The ACTT Program is focused on 3 levels of intervention:
- Prevention Providing information about resources and services in the community. Communicating the dangers of prescribed medications.
- Education Teach the inmate population about substance abuse and key factors that contribute to addition.
- Treatment Improve the mental, physical and emotional well-being through MAT, counseling, yoga and mindful mediation.

ACCEPTING CHANGE THROUGH TREATMENT

PROGRAM ELEMENTS

- Medication Assisted Treatment (MAT) for those who qualify (Vivitrol, Suboxone)
- Health and wellness activities (yoga and mindful meditation)
- Education surrounding drug addiction (evidence based programming)
- Cognitive behavioral intervention for criminal and addictive thinking patterns (T4C)
- Peer support NA, AA and self lead groups
- Trauma focused therapy
- Release planning and re-entry support aftercare services,
 SCORE team follow-up Outpatient treatment (Aspire,
 Recovery House etc.)



MEETING INMATES WHERE THEY ARE

- We treat approximately 20 inmates at a time.
- Maintenance inmates
- Inmates returning to the community within the next 90 days.
- All inmates complete the education group, the screening, a psychosocial, and a treatment plan.
- They are required to attend weekly outpatient services or enter one of our substance use disorder dorms.

TREATMENT & DISCHARGE

- Treatment and discharge planning are required.
- Individuals are seen by the provider as well as a counselor on a weekly basis.
- Partnership with Clear Futures and health department
- Individuals are either case-managed into transitional housing that will allow MAT services or return home, and we help coordinate them entering the provider of their choice upon release.



CONTACT INFORMATION: Chief Laura Bedard, Ph.D.

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