



Council Members

Attorney General James Uthmeier
Chair

Sheriff Dennis M. Lemma
Delegate Chair

Secretary Taylor Hatch
Vice Chair

Amy Ronshausen
Governor's Appointee

Dr. Guy Wheeler
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

Mayor Keith James
Florida League of Cities Appointee

Council Member Josh Fuller
Florida League of Cities Appointee

Vice Mayor Jolien Caraballo
Florida League of Cities Appointee

Statewide Council on Opioid Abatement

In-Person Meeting Minutes

June 22, 2026

1:00 P.M. – 3:00 P.M. EST

Welcome/Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 1:00 PM by Delegate Chair, Sheriff M. Lemma. Roll call was taken by Aaron Platt.

Attendance Summary

Sheriff Dennis Lemma, Delegate Chair

Amanda VanLaningham for Secretary Taylor Hatch, Vice Chair

Amy Ronshausen, Governor's Appointee

Sheriff Robert Hardwick, Office of the Speaker's Appointee

Commissioner Lee Constantine, Florida Association of Counties Appointee

Mayor Keith James, Florida League of Cities Appointee

Opening Remarks

Delegate Chair Lemma opened the meeting by welcoming Council members and providing opening remarks.

Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes

A motion passed to approve minutes from the March 31, 2026, meeting.

Motion: Council Member Keith James

Second: Council Member Amy Ronshausen

Peer Prescriber Mentor Program

Dr. Mark Stavros provided a presentation to the Council on the Peer Prescriber Mentor Program. The program is funded by the Florida State Opioid Response (SOR) grant awarded to the Florida Department of Children and Families through the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration.

Florida Billion Pill Pledge Program

Joshua Barnett, PhD, Director of Provider Success with Goldfinch Health, provided an overview of the Florida Billion Pill Pledge Program. The program tracks dispensing rates across the state to target communities with high opioid dispensing rates to engage prescribers, surgeons and hospital systems on opportunities to implement evidence-based protocols for managing post-operative pain with fewer opioids. The Billion Pill Pledge Program started with funding from the Central Florida Behavioral Health Network and allowed partnerships with hospitals in Hillsborough, Manatee, Sarasota and DeSoto counties.

Hospital Bridge Program

Claudia Vicencio, Director of Outpatient Behavioral Health Services, and Gretchen Haddad, Behavioral Health Transition Clinic Manager with the Memorial Healthcare System Hospital Bridge Program educated the Council on the Memorial Medication Assisted Treatment/Zero OD Program. This is an emergency department-initiated medication assisted treatment program that provides a warm hand-off to coordinated outpatient care and recovery support.



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Public Comment

Dana McCool, advocate representing the recovery residence Foundations to Freedom: Ms. McCool recently attended a National Opioid Task Force meeting in Denver, Colorado, and made a request to present to the Council on the “National Roadmap” for opioid funding.

Council Member Constantine supports Ms. McCool presenting to the Council.

Delegate Chair Lemma voiced support for State councils similar to the Statewide Council on Opioid Abatement to convene a meeting to share best practices across the United States.

Maureen Kielian, President of Southeast Florida Recovery Advocates: Ms. Kielian advocated for the increased participation of the Recovery Community on the Statewide Council on Opioid Abatement, and for the increased utilization of medication assisted treatment in jails.

Closing Remarks

Sheriff Lemma provided closing remarks and thanked Council members. The meeting adjourned at approximately 2:08 PM.