Statewide Council on Opioid Abatement

Council Members

Attorney General James Uthmeier
Chair

Sheriff Dennis M. Lemma
Delegate Chair

Secretary for the Department of Children and Families
Vice Chair

Amy Ronshausen
Governor's Appointee

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

Virtual Meeting Minutes
August 25, 2026
9:00 A.M. – 12:00 P.M. EST

Welcome/Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 9:00 AM by Delegate Chair, Sheriff M. Lemma.
Roll call was taken by Aaron Platt.

Attendance Summary

Sheriff Dennis Lemma, Delegate Chair
Interim Secretary Kate Williams, Vice Chair
Amy Ronshausen, Governor's Appointee
Guy Wheeler, Senate Presidents Appointee
Sheriff Robert Hardwick, Office of the Speaker's Appointee
Commissioner Chris Dougherty, Florida Association of Counties Appointee
Commissioner Lee Constantine, Florida Association of Counties Appointee
Mayor Keith James, Florida League of Cities Appointee
Council Member Josh Fuller, 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 June 22, 2026, meeting.
Motion: Council Member Chris Dougherty
Second: Council Member Amy Ronshausen

Legislative Update

Amanda VanLaningham, Assistant Secretary for Substance Abuse and Mental Health-Florida Department of Children and Families

Assistant Secretary VanLaningham provided an overview of FY 2026-2027 legislatively approved allocations for the Opioid Settlement Trust Fund. Assistant Secretary VanLaningham discussed the role of the Department of Children and Families, the three different funds under the Opioid settlement, approved budget highlights and the FY 26-27 opioid settlement budget allocation categories.

DrugTRAC, Tracking, Reporting, Advocacy, Coordination

Kendall Cortelyou, PhD, School of Global Health Management & Informatics-College of Health Professions & Sciences at the University of Central Florida

Dr. Cortelyou presented on DrugTRAC, a tool that helps identify and monitor changes in the drug supply by analyzing laboratory testing data and emerging patterns. The tool provides insight into trends at the local level, including new substances and substance combinations, and supports the development of timely alerts and information to help inform response efforts.

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Seminole County Coordinated Opioid Recovery Network and the Seminole Collaborative Opioid Response Efforts Team
James Witherspoon, Seminole County Community Health Program Manager
Chantel Reed, Seminole County Community Health Case Manager
Civilian Investigator Tammy Lipkins, Seminole County Sheriff's Office
Mr. Witherspoon and Ms. Reed presented on the Seminole County Coordinated Opioid Recovery Network (CORE). The CORE program connects individuals with substance use disorders to treatment, recovery services and ongoing support services.

Tammy Lipkins presented on the Seminole Collaborative Response Efforts (SCORE) Team. Ms. Lipkins shared information on the Fatal and Non-Fatal Overdose Response Units and how law enforcement officers function as key partners within Seminole County's coordinated opioid response.

Mobile Medication Assisted Treatment, A Mobile Integrated Health-Community Paramedicine Approach
John Mikula, Senior Director with the Crisis Center of Tampa Bay
Mr. Mikula provided history of how the community paramedicine program evolved to provide mobile medication assistance treatment services to Hillsborough County. The Mobile Medication Assisted Treatment model meets patients where they are from the initial referral or call for services, through assessment, daily follow-up, peer recovery support through long term recovery.

Public Comment
There were no public comments.

Closing Remarks
Sheriff Lemma provided closing remarks and thanked Council members. The meeting adjourned at approximately 10:20 AM.