



**Together in Partnership
Review Subcommittee
2725 Judge Fran Jamieson Way, Brevard County
Government Center, Florida Room, Viera, FL 32940
Monday, July 29, 2024, at 1:00 p.m.- 3:00 p.m.**

Meeting Report

Members Present: Lisa Bradley, MeriBeth Misch, Rebecca Thibert, Joan Junkala, Traci Klinkbeil (via Teams), Jean Bandish, Patricia Seibert, Mimi Hanley

Guests Present: George Margoles, Cory Fisher, Patricia Seibert, Suzy Pereira, Judd Spitzer, Denise Holden, Tiana Brown, Johnette Gindling, Blaise Trettis, Stanley Brizz, Denny Kolsch

Staff Present: Juanita Jackson, Anita Black, Melissa Brandt

Call to Order/Introductions: The meeting was called to order at 1:10 p.m., and everyone present made introductions.

County Staff update:

Both Steps and Circles of Care are under contract to complete most Mobile MAT services within the county. Their January Schedules are in full swing, and they are also seeing clients within the county. The locations where they will be providing these services are on the schedules. Their contract has been extended by six months due to a slow start-up, putting them working this contract out through October 25th, 2025, for the mobile services. Currently, CTS is working on providing samples for their campaign, showing the county staff ideas, and letting us go from there. This will be done mid-February, at the end of February at the latest. The county has also approved the amendments for both Circles of Care and STEPS so they can park at county locations. They will be present at the courthouse, libraries, and the Department of Health, as well as looking at some other locations such as parks, community centers, etc. As of right now, there have been only two schedules sent out for Circles of Care, however, as updates are given, they will be forwarded out to the appropriate parties. These agencies will be allowed to come and do a presentation of the campaign they are marketing and putting out at the larger TIP meeting, which will help show how the funds they are receiving are being used and allocated.

Public Comment:

Speaker 1- Suzy Pereira, The Blue Plaid Society

Suzy, the founder of The Blue Plaid Society, explained their mission. TBPS is a 501 (c) 3 nonprofit that raises awareness and prevents fentanyl use. They were started in February of 2022, following the passing of her son the previous November. She stated that she had no prior knowledge of fentanyl and the dangers that can come from its use. Due to this incident, she set out to bring awareness and knowledge to everyone about the dangers that can come with fentanyl use. The inspiration behind the organization's name comes also from her son, who used to wear blue plaid shirts all the time. The organization goes out into the community and provides information and education as well as free Narcan and other products to anyone who would like to listen or who needs help. Suzy stated that they have been to Pride, car shows, community rotaries, as well as some schools such as private and charter schools. They have not been as successful with public schools yet. Their latest initiative is what she called a porch box initiative. They set out porch boxes that are labeled as 'not for resale' and hold naloxone inside them. Anybody can walk up at any time, 24/7 and get it. Their goal is to place three porch boxes around the county: one in the north, one in the middle, and one in the south parts of the county. They already have a commitment for one: Journey Pure, located in Melbourne. They are still looking for two more hosts, one in the south and one in the north, who would be up to hosting the other two porch boxes. The only requirement is just being able to host the box, and it is of no cost to the organization or business. Donor money has been set aside for this initiative, and if successful, they would like to expand the program. Suzy has been in touch with other nonprofit organizations all over the country, particularly Iowa. Iowa has 25 boxes spread all over the state, and they cannot seem to keep any of them full. They have yet to have any problems with theft or someone wiping them out of their stock. In 2024, The Blue Plaid Society was able to push out \$2.5 million worth of Narcan.

Speaker 2- Blaise Trettis, Public Defender

Blaise's first request is that the county seek RFPs from treatment providers to provide treatment to indigent people in the drug court that's already in existence. A lot of indigent people cannot afford drug court costs, so having money to pay for indigence in the existing drug court would help greatly. His second request is for RFPs for treatment vendors who would provide treatment in an advanced drug court, which is currently not in existence now. Advanced drug court is designed for people who have a long history of drug addiction, whilst the drug court is more for those who aren't as addicted and do not have a long history of addiction. Both drug courts run on federal grants, which is part of the reason the advanced drug court is no longer around. Blaise believes that using some of the opioid money towards this issue would be a good idea.

Determine Focus Areas for Year 2

The committee put out a dual RFP in year 1 for warm handoff services and the mobile MAT services, with no responses given to the warm handoff services portion. The education portion has been addressed and is in the works; however, Rebecca stated that she believes that we need to be sending people to services of some kind. Juanita countered with putting out another RFP for the warm handoff services. She stated that Melissa had previously sent out a draft for another RFP for the Recovery Community Organization and suggested the committee package the RFP differently than it originally was sent out. She also suggested they put the funding for evidence-based prevention in schools out as another RFP. Rebecca stated that she would like everything that Seminole County's contract includes to be put into place. It entails a certain number of hours of peer support services, a certain number of hours of peer recovery support services and outreach, peer support services with an information and referral hotline, transportation services, transitional housing to cover move-in fees with a certain number of vouchers given to the residents, a certain number of vouchers for weekly fees for

transitional housing, employability training, medication, and mat related laboratory testing. An email was received about whether we could piggyback, and the response was more of a maybe than anything. Juanita has reached out to Seminole County to see the RFP and to see what they put out to land a contract with Recovery Community and is waiting to hear back from them. She also suggested piggybacking off another contract that has already been procured through RFP, taking the pieces they like, and putting out a new RFP in Brevard County. Joan Junkala believes the county should put a word out and ask the organizations to submit to the County what they can provide and, from there, award one or more of those as long as the needs of the county and the community are met. Another chair member shared that some of the parents from the community have stated that the 28 days does not work and that we should be doing 90 days instead. Time is what is needed for these patients to get stabilized, and she stated that that is the big thing that is needed. Another thing that is needed is transitional housing, or something of the sort, to stay sober outside of treatment. The main objective is that the county wants their own RFP, and for it to include these similar types of services that others like Seminole County are offering. The requirement is that the organization offer every service listed to be considered. As far as the drug court goes, that would fall under schedule B and be its own RFP. The desire is to do G sections 8 and 9 and do an RFP for that. They also would like to get education on the matter into the schools in the community, K-12 preferably.

Meeting adjourned 2:26 p.m.

The next meeting is set for February 24th, 2025, at 9 AM.