

Opioid Abatement Funding Advisory Board  
Pinellas County  
January 26, 2024 Meeting Minutes

The Opioid Abatement Funding Advisory Board (OAFAB) met in regular session at 9:35 AM on this date in the Palm Room at the Pinellas County Communications Building, 333 Chestnut Street, Clearwater, Florida.

Present

Chief Ian Womack, Chair, City of St. Petersburg Fire Rescue  
Dr. Ulyee Choe, Vice-Chair, Florida Department of Health in Pinellas County Director  
Kathleen Beckman, City of Clearwater Councilmember  
Sandra Bradbury, City of Pinellas Park Mayor (late arrival)  
Kathleen Peters, County Commissioner

Others Present

Dr. Joshua Barnett, Behavioral Health Data Scientist  
Sara Gordils, Human Services Planning Section Manager  
Karen Yatchum, Human Services Director  
Cody Ward, Assistant County Attorney  
Tammy Burgess, Board Reporter, Deputy Clerk  
Other interested individuals

*All documents provided to the Clerk's Office have been filed and made a part of the record.*

**WELCOME AND CALL TO ORDER**

Chair Womack called the meeting to order at 9:35 AM and welcomed those in attendance.

**MINUTES APPROVAL**

Commissioner Peters made a motion to approve the meeting minutes of December 5, 2023. The motion was seconded by Dr. Choe and carried unanimously.

**ORAL PRESENTATION – ERNST & YOUNG LLP**

Presenters: Andy Bechtel; Paola Blanco; James Dolan, Ph.D.; Matthew Duke, Ph.D.; Steve Nichols; and Terri Timberlake-Briscoe, Ph.D.

Mr. Nichols indicated that his team intends to discuss the highlights of Ernst & Young's written proposal and introduced Dr. Duke, who provided brief comments regarding the

pervasiveness of the opioid epidemic; whereupon, Dr. Dolan introduced the remaining members of the team and discussed their professional experience.

*Mayor Bradbury arrived at 9:38 AM.*

Referring to a PowerPoint presentation, the presenters representing Ernst & Young discussed the following topics:

- Data regarding opioid-related deaths in the United States and Pinellas County
- Similar project experience
- Methodology tailored to Pinellas County, including gap assessment, identifying leading practices, and strategic priorities assessment
- Phases of the gap assessment, including inventory of services, health and community needs, and gap analysis
- Proprietary tools for gathering data
- Scope of services, including proposed timeline and key tasks and activities
- Proposed budget

In response to comments and queries by the members, Dr. Timberlake-Briscoe indicated that identities and health information of individuals would be protected; whereupon, Dr. Dolan, with input from Mr. Bechtel, provided information regarding capturing survey responses that are representative of community demographics, the availability and significance of measurable metrics for viewing impacts over time, and user-friendly interfaces for accessing survey data.

In response to comments and queries by Ms. Beckman, Ms. Gordils indicated that the County has the administrative capacity to negotiate timelines with contracted vendors; whereupon, Dr. Dolan discussed the use of peer and benchmark counties for comparison purposes, and he and Dr. Timberlake-Briscoe provided information related to community listening sessions.

In response to comments and concerns expressed by Commissioner Peters, Dr. Dolan and Mr. Bechtel provided details regarding the EY Impact and Health Market Navigator proprietary tools; whereupon, Drs. Timberlake-Briscoe and Dolan discussed Ernst & Young's work with the counties of Santa Rosa and Escambia through the Mental Health Task Force of Northwest Florida, as well as their work with behavioral health providers and addiction centers across the country.

In response to queries by Chair Womack, Mr. Bechtel discussed uses for the Health Market Navigator tool. Additionally, Dr. Dolan, with input from Dr. Timberlake-Briscoe, indicated that social determinants of health are included in the Impact tool; whereupon, Chair Womack indicated that his queries are with regard to finding opportunities for

prevention due to constantly being in a response mode. Responding to further queries by Chair Womack, Drs. Dolan and Timberlake-Briscoe discussed strategies for success within the community. Thereupon, Dr. Dolan provided information regarding the level of effort needed to complete a full analysis of the input received from community listening sessions.

*The meeting was recessed at 11:08 AM and reconvened at 1:00 PM.*

## **ORAL PRESENTATION – KPMG LLP**

Presenters: Vivian Demian; Catherine Singer (appeared virtually); Jeff Whitcomb; and William Zizic (appeared virtually)

The presenters introduced themselves and provided information related to their professional experience and qualifications. Ms. Demian indicated that the presentation would focus on areas in the written proposal that were not scored as exemplary, including KPMG's approach and methodology and the project budget; whereupon, she, Ms. Singer, and Messrs. Whitcomb and Zizic discussed the following topics:

- Qualifications and depth of knowledge regarding behavioral health and opiate care
- Approach and methodology
- Project timeline and budget overview
- Scope of services
- Affordable Care Act (ACA) cost leveraging assessment

In response to queries by Ms. Beckman, Ms. Gordils related that that the Board may consider ACA cost leveraging in combination with the proposal.

Mr. Whitcomb and Ms. Demian provided information regarding demand forecasting and scenario modeling in relation to the timeframe for data validity. Additionally, Mr. Zizic discussed the use of data tracking mechanisms to monitor capacity, noting that while data is important, stakeholder buy-in compels and sustains action. Thereupon, responding to queries by the members, Ms. Demian, with input by Messrs. Zizic and Whitcomb, discussed engagement with stakeholders, modeling and forecasting, access to County data, and communicating findings within the final deliverable.

In response to comments and queries by Mayor Bradbury, Ms. Demian provided information regarding best practice results and several projects conducted by KPMG for the County. Commissioner Peters provided input regarding the value of a roadmap, which allows program implementation to take place more quickly; whereupon, responding to queries by the members, Messrs. Whitcomb and Zizic elaborated on demand forecasting and scenario modeling.

Commissioner Peters requested information related to justification for KPMG's significantly higher budget, when compared with other proposals; whereupon, Ms. Demian indicated that the inclusion of the three-year data analysis, stakeholder engagement, and the use of senior staff could be contributors to the higher budget.

*The meeting was recessed at 2:30 PM and reconvened at 2:50 PM.*

## **DISCUSSION AND SCORING**

Ms. Gordils provided a brief overview of the scoring process; whereupon, the members engaged in lengthy discussion and scored the oral presentations for Ernst & Young LLP and KPMG LLP. Following completion of scoring, Ms. Gordils stated that Ernst & Young received the highest score, with 1,135 points; that KPMG received 1,081 points; and that Ernst & Young will be the awarded provider, with the Board's approval of the scoring.

Responding to comments by Chair Womack and Commissioner Peters, Ms. Gordils suggested that a motion be made to formalize scoring, with Ernst & Young LLP as the awarded provider; that negotiations with KPMG LLP could occur if there is a failure with negotiations with Ernst & Young LLP; and that a request be made for authority to be delegated to the County Administrator to expedite agreement signatures; whereupon, Mayor Bradbury indicated that this would be her motion. The motion was seconded by Dr. Choe and carried unanimously.

Thereupon, brief discussion ensued regarding the timeframe for preliminary negotiations and discussions. Later in the meeting and at the request of Ms. Gordils, Chair Womack provided confirmation of the Board's agreement with the application's recommended level of service total of \$478,000.00.

## **NEXT STEPS**

Ms. Gordils indicated that staff will contact the members regarding future meeting dates.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

Dr. Choe made a motion to adjourn, which was seconded by Ms. Beckman and carried unanimously; whereupon, the meeting was adjourned at 3:51 PM.