



Palm Beach County  
Board of County Commissioners



# PBC BEHAVIORAL HEALTH, SUBSTANCE USE AND CO-OCCURRING DISORDERS - MEETING MINUTES

Date: 11/20/2024 | Time: 1:00pm

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## Prevention and Education

### Members/Staff Present

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Jill Singer, Lissa Franklin, Mark Hopin, Rebecca Pavao (Caridad) Elaine Rotenberg, Jibby Ciric, Lauren Zuchman, Marc Hopin, Patty (community member), Katherine Murphy

Please send any edits/additions to: [jsinger@pbc.gov](mailto:jsinger@pbc.gov)

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### Objective of the Meeting

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Provide update on 2024 Master Plan approval and NOFO.

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### Overview

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Jill Singer provided update that the 2024 Master Plan Update, including the language around supplanting, were approved by the BCC on 10/22/24. Next Plan Update will be more focused on evaluation of implemented programs and less of a whole rewrite. Noted for Gibby and Dr. Gerlock and team that we appreciated their input on the crosswalk and are incorporating most of their suggestions. Also advised that we are shifting some of the youth focused FAA funded programs to Youth Services Department (along with the funds). Update on NOFO- we are planning to issue a consolidated NOFO of both FAA and Opioid Settlement Funds in one NOFO. Shared that the two (2) categories in the NOFO on the Opioid Settlement side will be (1) Community Engagement and Training and (2) Deep end. Deep end will prioritize women, pregnant women and women with children. Under the category of Community Engagement and Training, there will be four (4) service categories: family supports; Community Engagement/ Recovery Ready Communities; Screening, Brief Intervention, Refer to Treatment (SBIRT); and Community Drug Disposal.

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## Proposed standards, outcomes and measures

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Discussions centered on Mental Health First Aid and whether it was included in the NOFO. Jill clarified that we are looking to expand, start new programs with the Opioid settlement funds – not looking to supplant funds that are already being spent with other dollars with opioid settlement funds. Suggested that MHA is not excluded and might fit under Community Engagement or Family Supports. Explained we are seeking to establish parameters for proposals for the settlement funds. Focus is resiliency and building recovery ready communities.

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# PBC BEHAVIORAL HEALTH, SUBSTANCE USE AND CO-OCCURRING DISORDERS - MEETING MINUTES

Date: 11/20/2024 | Time: 2:00pm

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## Treatment and Recovery

### Members/Staff Present

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Jill Singer, Lissa Franklin, Tatiana MacGuffie, Jon Van Arnam, Tabitha Kalkstein (PBSO), Patti, Daniel Oria  
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## Discussion

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Discussions centered on Well Path filing bankruptcy and JFK no longer accepting children 12 and under effective Dec. 1. At BCC meeting on 11/19, staff were asked to explore if this date could be pushed out. Well Path is going through a change of ownership process related to the Bankruptcy filing. Questions raised – who is the buyer and will they remain open during this process. Unknown. The only options as of now are for children to go to Ft. Pierce or Broward County.

Jon shared that HCD has been shoring up its children's psychiatric services and could get at least a psychiatrist to evaluate within 24-48 hours. Also working on a long term solution. HCD has a proposal for a crisis center that would offer in-patient for adults and children, as well as outpatient and crisis services. The proposal uses ARPA funding (\$10M) but it will also provide recovery centric care, care coordination; serve as a central receiving center. Prior work- in Dec 2023- did a feasibility study, engaged architects, involved in site search. Has had negotiations/discussions with County and Anne Berner about HCD's intentions. Wants to be able to make connections that include SDoH, recovery supports and increases access.

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# PBC BEHAVIORAL HEALTH, SUBSTANCE USE AND CO-OCCURRING DISORDERS - MEETING MINUTES

Date: 11/20/2024 | Time: 3:00pm

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## Public Policy

## Members/Staff Present

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Jill Singer, Lissa Franklin, Max Sonnenschein, Tatiana MacGuffie

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## Discussion

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No questions, comments or suggestions were made by any of the attendees. Adjourned meeting early.

Next Regular Meeting: January 2025 | Time: 3:00pm



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# PBC BEHAVIORAL HEALTH, SUBSTANCE USE AND CO-OCCURRING DISORDERS - MEETING MINUTES

Date: 11/20/2024 | Time: 4:00pm

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## Justice System and Public Safety

### Members/Staff Present

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Jill Singer, Max Sonnenschein, Lissa Franklin, Tatiana MacGuffie

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### Objective of the Meeting

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### Overview

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### Discussion

No discussion from attendees on Essential Services.

Next Regular Meeting: January , 2025 | Time: 4:00pm



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# PBC BEHAVIORAL HEALTH, SUBSTANCE USE AND CO-OCCURRING DISORDERS - MEETING MINUTES

Date: 11/21/2024 | Time: 2:00pm

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## Evaluation and Monitoring

### Members/

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Jill Singer, Jon Van Arnam, Patty (Casa Oracio – Recovery Church), Suzanne Spencer, Ariana Ciancio, Daniel Oria

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## Objective of the Meeting

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## Discussion

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Jon Van Arnam moved to approve the minutes from the September 19, 2024 meeting and Ariana Ciancio seconded it. No one else in the November meeting was in attendance for the September meeting, so the motion passed.

Dr. Spencer asked for more detail on the categories and subcategories. It was explained that no additional information could be given since the same information provided at the beginning of the meeting related to updates and the NOFO was provided to the other groups and it would not be fair to give one group more information than the others. Question was also asked if we are looking at what performance and monitoring measures other states, counties, etc., are using. Jill stated that it was a great idea and that she would do the research.

Dr. Spencer noted that we might be precluding innovative practices by focusing on evidence-based practices, thus excluding promising practices or evidence-informed practices. Jill clarified that we are including evidence-informed along with evidence-based practices.

Next Regular Meeting: January , 2025 | Time: 1:00pm



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# PBC BEHAVIORAL HEALTH, SUBSTANCE USE AND CO-OCCURRING DISORDERS - MEETING MINUTES

Date: 11/21/2024 | Time: 2:00pm

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## Essential Services

### Members/

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Jill Singer, Jon Van Arnam, Patty (Casa Oracio – Recovery Church)

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## Objective of the Meeting

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## Discussion

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No discussion from attendees on Essential Services.

Next Regular Meeting: January , 2025 | Time: 2:00pm



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# PBC BEHAVIORAL HEALTH, SUBSTANCE USE AND CO-OCCURRING DISORDERS - MEETING MINUTES

Date: 11/21/2024 | Time: 3:00pm

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## Faith-Based

### Members/

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Jill Singer, Max Sonnenschein

Please send any edits/additions to: [jsinger@pbc.gov](mailto:jsinger@pbc.gov)

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### Objective of the Meeting

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Provide update on 2024 Master Plan approval and NOFO.

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### Overview

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### Discussion

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Max had to leave due to emergent situation from earlier today involving deaths and critical injury of law enforcement officers. Ended meeting as no one else attended.

Next Regular Meeting: January , 2025 | Time: 3:00pm



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# PBC BEHAVIORAL HEALTH, SUBSTANCE USE AND CO-OCCURRING DISORDERS - MEETING MINUTES

Date: 11/21/2024 | Time: 4:00pm

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## ASU

### Members/

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Jill Singer, Casey Messer, Ariana Ciancio, Lissa Franklin, Maureen Kielian, Melissa McKinlay, Max Sonnenshein, Patty

Please send any edits/additions to: [jsinger@pbc.gov](mailto:jsinger@pbc.gov)

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### Objective of the Meeting

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Provide update on 2024 Master Plan approval and NOFO.

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### Overview

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Jill Singer provided update that the 2024 Master Plan Update, including the language around supplanting, was approved by the BCC on 10/22/24. Next Plan Update will be more focused on evaluation of implemented programs and less of a whole rewrite. Update on NOFO- we are planning to issue a consolidated NOFO of both FAA and Opioid Settlement Funds in one NOFO. Shared that the two (2) categories in the NOFO on the Opioid Settlement side will be (1) Community Engagement and Training and (2) Deep end. Deep end will prioritize women, pregnant women and women with children. Under the category of Community Engagement and Training, there will be four (4) service subcategories: family supports; Community Engagement/ Recovery Ready Communities; Screening, Brief Intervention, Refer to Treatment (SBIRT); and Community Drug Disposal.

Also shared James Green's message that he has met with 1 of the 3 parties involved with the After Action Report and plans to meet with the other 2 involved parties. His plan is to bring the full report to this subcommittee in mid-December. We will likely call a special meeting for the ASU subcommittee for that purpose. Additionally, the plan is to bring the full report to the Advisory Committee in February 2025.

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## Discussion

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### **ASU After-Action Report Concerns:**

Delay in report presentation causing frustration

Questions about community input and transparency in the report's development

Concerns about potential revisions and multiple versions circulating

James Green plans to meet with all parties and present the full report in mid-December

Concerns regarding requests to change data

### **JFK Service Changes and ASU Issues:**

JFK not accepting children 12 and under, creating significant gaps in care

Lack of public communication about service changes

\$900,000 awarded for "ASU anywhere" concept (to SEFBHN), but implementation unclear

Concerns about NOFO effectiveness without clear ASU locations and services, because the NOFO is going to focus on the supports needed following a stay in an ASU

Question also raised about whether residents of PBC will or can be denied admission in Martin and Broward Counties? It was also raised how devastating this would be for families to have their children in a different county.

Representative from the Health Care District (HCD) stated that shortly after JFK announced its plan, the county put together a subcommittee that included the HCD, SEFBHN, Children's Services Council and various other providers to come up with a short term plan. HCD has offered to provide psychiatric services within 24-48 hours. Mayor Marino said at the BCC meeting earlier this week that she will be sending a letter to JFK and ask them to delay. Also, James Green has been in constant contact with the HCD and has been trying to get in touch with Fire Rescue and JFK. It was also noted that Darcy, CEO at HCD, has been involved in the calls, as has Ann Berner.

### **Participation and Accountability:**

JFK and other key stakeholders not attending ASU subcommittee meetings

Discussion on reviewing bylaws for attendance requirements

Suggestion to notify County Commissioners about lack of participation and address issues at the next BCC meeting on December

Concern also expressed about JFK- N no longer taking youth aged 12 and under.

Attendees articulated next steps and action steps, including the following:

### **Next Steps:**

Reach out to James Green for a firm date to review the ASU after-action report

Contact County Commissioners to notify them of participation issues in ASU subcommittee

Consider addressing concerns at the December 3rd County Commission meeting

Explore media outreach regarding JFK's service changes for children under 12

Review NOFO plans in light of uncertain ASU locations and services

Schedule next subcommittee meeting for January 2025

### **Action Items:**

Reach out to media contacts re JFK's plan for children's services changes -

Draft letter to county commissioners re JFK non-participation, ASU report delay impact on NOFO  
Attend Dec 3 county commission meeting 2pm, speak during public matters re JFK non-participation in ASU subcommittee  
Contact James Green for ASU plan review date/time ASAP

Next Regular Meeting: January , 2025 |Time: 4:00pm



# PBC BEHAVIORAL HEALTH, SUBSTANCE USE AND CO-OCCURRING DISORDERS ADVISORY COMMITTEE MINUTES FROM THE SPECIAL MEETING OF THE ASU SUBCOMMITTEE

Date: 12/19/2024 | Time: 1:00 pm

## I. Call to Order 1:10

### A. Roll Call

Members Present:

Lissa Franklin, Jon Van Arnam, Patrick McNamara, Daniel Oria, Ariana Ciancio, Natalie Kenton

Staff and PBC Representatives:

Dr James Green, John Hulick, Jill Singer, Tammy Fields, Dr. Precious Osei-Skinner (FAU), Dr. Rebecca Booth (FAU), Dr. Joanna Reid-Enoise, Dr. Casey Messer

In-person : Barbara Gerlock, Jessica Schottke, Alita Faber, Darcy Hamilton, Anita Cocoves, Dr. Courtney Phillips, Weesam Khoury

Online: Maureen Kielian, A. Barajas (OD2A), Dawn Caveness-Davenport, Diane Jehle, LaToya Newby, Melissa McKinlay, Lauren Zuchman, Joel Engelhardt (STET News), Max Sonnenschein

## II. Regular Business

### A. Review and Discussion Addiction Stabilization Unit After Action Report

James walked through presentation with information pulled from the After Action Report (AAR), Healthcare District's data dashboard and other resources to provide a balanced data-based perspective.

## III. Other Business

### A. Public Comment

Key Takeaways

- The ASU initiative saved lives and provided treatment to over 2,500 unique patients, despite challenges.
- There's a need to transition to a public-led model with the Health Care District taking a central role.
- Recommendations include improving coordination, addressing social determinants of health, and establishing a centralized receiving facility.
- Stakeholders emphasized building on successes while acknowledging areas for improvement

ASU Background and Evolution

- Initially established in 2019 as partnership between JFK North, Health Care District, and County



- Started with 11 beds, reduced over time due to COVID and other factors
- Transitioned from dedicated unit to integrated ER services for addiction in 2023
- County provided revenue guarantee, decreasing from ~\$1M to \$500K annually

#### Key Achievements

- Over 2,500 unique patients served since inception
- 4,200+ total patient visits
- Expanded access to medication-assisted treatment and recovery supports
- Reduced overdose deaths in Palm Beach County compared to state trends
- Model replicated in 11 other Florida counties

#### Challenges Identified

- Communication gaps between stakeholders
- Inconsistent operating hours/staffing impacted first responder utilization
- Location in North County created access issues for some patients
- Lack of stable housing and employment options for patients post-treatment
- Leadership changes and COVID impacts disrupted operations

#### Recommendations from Report

- Hold collaborative review meetings with all stakeholders
- Implement mandatory training on model/principles for all involved
- Establish clear communication channels and feedback loops
- Clarify roles/responsibilities of all partner organizations
- Improve financial transparency and resource planning
- Enhance outcome monitoring and community engagement
- Address capacity constraints to ensure timely access
- Strengthen aftercare support and long-term recovery resources
- Launch educational campaigns to raise awareness and reduce stigma

#### Health Care District's Role

- Taking lead on developing centralized receiving facility
- Continuing to provide addiction services and warm handoffs
- Exploring distributed service model beyond single location
- Leveraging lessons learned to improve future initiatives

## Funding and Resource Allocation

- ~\$1.5M in county funds allocated but unspent over past 2 years
- One suggestion was to use the unexpended funds as seed funding for a centralized facility
- Need public-private partnership model to make this sustainable
- Explore state/federal funding opportunities

## Next Steps

- Present synthesized findings and recommendations to BCC
- Develop proposal for centralized receiving facility led by Health Care District
- Explore options for satellite locations to improve geographic access across all areas of the County (once a Central Facility is up and running effectively)
- Strengthen partnerships across health, social services, law enforcement
- Conduct site visit to Miami-Dade's centralized facility as a potential model for PBC
- Identify judicial champion to help support the initiative (similar to Judge Leifman)
- Integrate advocates and people with lived experience in planning process
- Analyze funding needs and explore legislative/grant opportunities

## What are we doing now?

- James noted that SEFBHN is trying to find ways to help individuals experiencing an overdose, exploring using urgent care facilities (former MDNow locations) as a place to triage, medically stabilize and start induction of appropriate medication assisted treatment (MAT).
- The right people are talking to each other and that they are more transparent about sharing information.
- We need to listen to the advocates!
- The ASU subcommittee should strongly recommend to the Advisory Board and the Advisory Board to the BCC to fund what the Health Care District has been proposing. Need one large scale central facility up and running before branching out to other locations across the county.
- When presenting FR numbers to the BCC, it should be made clear why the numbers were so low, Fire Rescue stopped using the ASU when specialized expertise was no longer available (post-COVID, the ASU was covered by doctors without specialized addiction knowledge or expertise).
- Numbers at the ASU declined in 2020 about the same time as the beds were needed for isolation for COVID and never really picked back up due to several factors, including staff and leadership changes, drift from the original model and lack of clarity amongst new staff who were not committed to the concept.
- A healthy balance of public-private partnering is needed.

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## IV. Adjournment

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The meeting adjourned at approximately 1:30 pm