



OFFICE OF THE STATE ATTORNEY

FIFTEENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
IN AND FOR PALM BEACH COUNTY



DAVID ARONBERG
STATE ATTORNEY

Sober Home Task Force (Proviso) Meeting Minutes
Sober Homes Task Force Tip Line 1-844-324-5463

Meeting Date: August 8, 2016
Meeting Location: WPB Police Community Room
600 Banyan Blvd, West Palm Beach, FL 33401

Welcome/Introductions

Al Johnson opened the second Proviso Group meeting at 2:00 pm

Proviso Group

Valerie Allen
Dr. Karen Dodge
Mark Fontaine
Julie Hogan
John Lehman
Jeffrey Lynne

Neal McGarry
Commissioner Shanon Materio
Dr. Rachel Needle
Captain Houston Park
Terrill Pyburn
Michael Weiner

The State Attorney's Office

Justin Chapman
Al Johnson
Ted Padich
Henry Salinas
Mary Ann Senatore
AnnMarie Spohnholtz
Kari Williams

Sarah Liccardi-additional presenter

All attendees informed by Mr. Johnson that meeting minutes are being taken
and the meetings are audio-recorded
Public attendees made their introductions as well

“Sunshine Law” Overview:

Mr. Johnson highlighted the importance of the Sunshine Law and its implications for this Task Force. As an example, he cautioned the group not to use “reply all” in the use of email, regarding what is coming or will be coming before the Task Force.

Mr. Johnson: Opened the meeting with overdose statistics given from Delray Beach. (Handout available with these statistics and posted to the Sober Homes Task Force website)

To date, heroin overdose in Delray Beach have reached 308 for seven months through July 31. In July alone, there were 66 over doses of heroin alone in Delray Beach, including 53 Narcan deployments in Delray Beach, in the first 7 months of this year. In Boynton Beach, through July 3, 189 heroin overdoses, and 15 deaths have been reported.

Presentations

Department of Children and Families (DCF)

Valerie Alan and Sarah Liccardy represented DCF, who distributed information packets, the contents of which have been uploaded to the Sober Homes Task Force website

<http://www.myflfamilies.com/service-programs/substance-abuse>

<http://www.dcf.state.fl.us/programs/samh/substanceabuse/docs/LicensedSAProvidersByCity.pdf>

Ms Allen explained the regional assignments and staffing. DCF has two offices: West Palm Beach and Broward, covering circuits 17, 19, and 15, which is 6 counties, with 9 staff members covering entire southeast region. She then provided an overview of her office, which includes:

DCF is responsibilities

- Oversight for licensure and other regulatory pieces that has to do with treatment providers
- Work with community providers to insure they are meeting the criteria for getting a license
- Annual license application
- Licensed treatment providers may also have Joint Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations (JCAHO) accreditation or Commission on Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities (CARF) accreditation
- When monitoring done, make sure laws are followed
- When report complete, licensure decision made
- Goals are to ensure providers are meeting the criteria to get a license
- Monitor corrective action plan (CAP). A license can be obtained if 80% of the criteria are met
- Monitors complaints that the community may have as long as it pertains to the law

Sarah Liccardi presented an overview of the license, application and renewal process

<http://www.myflfamilies.com/service-programs/substance-abuse/licensure-regulation>

New License Process

- Documents submitted-date stamped upon receipt
- 30 days to review determining packet document submission
- Within 30 days provider notified if packet is complete
- If complete, provider is entered into the Substance Abuse Automated Licensure Information System (SALIS)
- If not complete, provider has 10 days to supply or correct information

Renewal Process

- Provider has 60 days to supply the necessary documentation for renewal
- Within the 60 days the provider is contacted if documentation is missing
- Provider is contacted for a site monitoring
- Identify issues for any corrective action needed
- Once inspection completed and about 80% of criteria is met, inspection report is generated
- License is then generated

Florida Certification Board (FCB)

Neal McGarry provided an overview of Florida Certification Board (FCB)

A handout was provided and has been posted on Sober Homes Task Force Website pertaining to Recovery Residence Administrator Credential

<http://flcertificationboard.org>

Florida Certification Board is a not-for-profit corporation out of Tallahassee tasked with protecting the health, safety and welfare of Florida's most vulnerable residents by certifying and regulating the professionals who serve them. The FCB has 25 staff members, 2 of which oversee ethics complaints. Their responsibilities include:

- Designing, developing and managing programs for health and human services professions, ensuring they meet education, training, experience and testing criteria. FCB certifies more than 18,000 professionals statewide, including those in the child welfare, mental health and addiction fields.
- Establishing, administering, and monitoring certification programs including those in the child welfare, mental health and addiction fields.
- Investigates and sanctions those certified professionals or those seeking certification who breach the FCB code of ethical and professional conduct

Mr. Lehman was present at this meeting

Florida Association of Recovery Residences (FARR)

FARR and NARR handout items included in agenda packets, the FARR proposed budget analysis

<http://farronline.org/>

FARR is a subsidiary of National Alliance of Recovery Residences (NARR) and has been in existence since 2012. FARR has 2.5 staff members. Mr Lehman presented the following information on his organization:

- Founded out of the need to evaluate and monitor standards based recovery support services provided in the community based residential settings throughout Florida
- Mission is to ensure the availability of housing that is safe and dignified, alcohol and drug free, peer supported environment, good neighbor and responsible citizen
- Intent is to fairly certify Recovery Residences on a voluntary basis as having demonstrated compliance with the National Alliance of Recover Residences (NARR) Standard and The FARR Code of Ethics
- Provides training for owners, managers and staff of Recovery Residences to enhance and inform their delivery of quality services

Mr. Lehman explained that Florida mandates all behavioral healthcare providers must be licensed, including Level IV Recovery Residences. As of July 1, 2015, all Level I, II & III residences are required by state statute to seek, achieve and sustain certification in order to be eligible for referral from DCF licensed treatment providers.

Mr. Lehman discussed providers that might be misleading or falsely advertising the FARR logo, when in fact they may not be FARR certified. Under statute 487, this is a misdemeanor and FARR does have a process in place where there is a tool on a monthly basis that the providers displaying the FARR logo are actually FARR certified.

The Florida Alcohol and Drug Abuse Association (FADAA)

Mark Fontaine provided an overview of his organization:

<http://www.fadaa.org/overview.php>

- Non-profit membership association since 1981
- Representing, community-based substance abuse and co-occurring treatment and prevention agencies, managing entities, community anti-drug coalitions, and individual members
- Involved in leading industry change to better serve consumers and communities
- Has been at the forefront in creating responsive systems and tools to facilitate the transfer of evidence-based practices to the field and to initiate and expand continuous quality improvement activities.
- Mission of the FADAA is to represent substance abuse prevention and treatment providers, managing entities and community anti-drug coalitions in advancing addiction and co-occurring treatment, prevention and research through communications, professional development and public policy leadership.
- Constantly monitor and address policy issues related to emerging trends that impact substance abuse

Closing Comments

- Reference made to Fair Market Rents Website: <https://www.huduser.gov/portal/datasets/fmr.html>
- Proviso Group agreed to a full meeting day in October to prepare, discuss and review legislature submission-*The all day meeting is set for October 5, 2016 from 9am-5pm.*

Public Comments

- Concern expressed that that this task force will become a self interest group as time goes on
- Concerns with on how decisions made
- Concerns and questions regarding FARR decisions
- Discussion regarding and defining that FARR is an off shoot of NARR, and understanding regarding concerns about decisions being made
- Corruption concerns expressed
- Discussion regarding decisions made and airing of grievances if unfairly treated
- Question asked about certification and DCF, FARR, FCB certifications defined
- Questions raised about transportation, room and board
- Discussion agreed, that clarification is needed for case management fees
- Meeting closed with comments that the conversations needed are just starting acknowledged that bad actors are out there
- Encouragement to report these individuals

Mr. Johnson adjourned the meeting at 5:00 pm

Next Meeting

Task Force Proviso Group

Task Force Main Group

Date

September 13, 2016

September 21, 2016

Minutes taken by: Mary Ann Senatore August 8, 2016

Approved by: Al Johnson