

**Statewide Prescription Drug Abuse & Newborns Task Force
Meeting Minutes
April 24, 2012**

Present

Florida Attorney General Pam Bondi
Secretary David Wilkins (Department of Children & Families)
Jim Madden (representing Florida Department of Law Enforcement)
Justin Senior (representing Agency for Health Care Administration)
Lucy Gee (representing Department of Health)
Senator Joe Negron
Representative Dana Young
Dr. Stephanie Haridopolos (Attorney General Appointment)
Keith Nash (March of Dimes)
Dr. Robert Yelverton (Florida Medical Association)
Dr. Kenneth Solomon (Florida Hospital Association)
Willa Fuller (Florida Nurses Association)
Dr. David Dixon (Florida Osteopathic Medical Association)
Doug Leonardo (Substance Abuse Treatment)
Jane Murphy (Healthy Start)

Absent

State Surgeon General Dr. Steven L. Harris
Florida Department of Law Enforcement Commissioner Gerald M. Bailey
Agency for Health Care Administration Secretary Elizabeth Dudak

Attorney General Pam Bondi called the meeting to order at 2:05 P.M and welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Opening Remarks

Attorney General Pam Bondi thanked Director Gil Kerlikowske of the White House Office of National Drug Control Policy for being the task force's special guest at its first meeting.

Attorney General Bondi stated that she would like to make Florida the prototype state for addressing the problem of neonatal withdrawal syndrome from prescription drug abuse.

Attorney General Bondi introduced Mindy Young, Nurse Manager at St. Joseph's Women's Hospital NICU.

Mindy Young told the task force the story of Baby Michael, a boy who was born at St. Joseph's Hospital who was withdrawing from prescription opiates.

Introduction of Task Force Members

Attorney General Bondi asked each task force member to introduce themselves and explain what they hoped the task force would accomplish.

Florida Sunshine Law

Pat Gleason, Office of the Attorney General

Pat Gleason provided the task force with a short overview of Florida's Sunshine Laws. The task force is subject to the sunshine law.

There are three basic requirements:

1. Meetings of public boards or commissions must be open to the public
2. Reasonable notice of such meetings must be given
3. Minutes of the meetings must be taken, promptly recorded and open to public inspection

Attorney General Bondi asked if the task force broke into sub-committees and it included other task force members then the sub-committees would be subject to the sunshine law. Pat Gleason confirmed that was correct.

Attorney General Bondi asked if members had questions then they would be able to contact staff in her office in order to have those questions answered, but they could not contact other members to discuss work that may come before the task force. Pat Gleason confirmed that was also correct.

National Briefing

Gil Kerlikowske, Director White House Office of National Drug Control Policy

Director Kerlikowske thanked General Bondi and the task force members for their commit to solving Florida's prescription drug abuse epidemic.

Director Kerlikowske provided a national overview of the prescription drug abuse epidemic:

- When Director Kerlikowske first become the Drug Czar in 2008, prescription drug overdose deaths were greater than gun shots wound deaths
- Today, prescription drug overdose deaths are now greater than car crash deaths
- 7,000,000 Americans abuse prescription drugs
- Center for Disease Control has declared this an epidemic
- Addiction is a treatable disease
- The challenge is getting help to women and their children
- Family-based treatment is the best environment for mothers to end their addiction
- Florida's efforts are not just important to Florida, but for the nation

Attorney General Bondi asked what other states have begun addressing prescription drug abuse and newborns? Director Kerlikowske stated that West Virginia, Tennessee, Washington and Kentucky have also begun this task and they are working to find effective, evidence-based solutions.

Florida Briefings

Florida Agency for Healthcare Administration

Justin Senior, Deputy Secretary for Medicaid

The Agency for Health Care Administration (or AHCA)

- Administers the state's \$20.3 billion Medicaid program.
- Licenses and regulates more than 41,000 health care facilities and 44 managed care organizations, issues Certificates of Need for licensed health care services and publishes health care data and reports.
- Administers programs for health care transparency and promotes the exchange of secure, privacy-protected health care information, the adoption of electronic health records among providers, and the use of personal health records by all consumers

Under Medicaid health plans, primary care providers are required to screen enrollees for signs of substance abuse in the following instances:

- Initial contact with a new enrollee
- Initial prenatal contact
- Routine physical examinations
- When the enrollee evidences serious over-utilization of medical, surgical, trauma or emergency services; and
- When documentation of emergency room visits suggests the need.

Florida Center for Health Information and Policy Analysis

- The Florida Center for Health Information and Policy Analysis collects hospital inpatient discharge data.
- Data is submitted quarterly describing every patient visit, based on the date of the patient's discharge.
- Data is based on ICD-9 diagnosis and procedure codes (International Classification of Diseases, Ninth Revision)
- The Hospital discharge data has some limitations:
 - Data is reported by hospitals and certified by the CEO; contains total charges, not total reimbursed.
 - Coding differences between hospitals. Some hospitals code more extensively than others.
 - It is sometimes difficult to classify diseases accurately. The codes contained in the patient record may not be specific enough to adequately characterize a patient's condition.
 - The data is limited to only what occurred during that encounter. It will not reflect any events that occur before the admittance or after the patient was discharged.
- Examples of possible utility of Hospital Discharge Data:
 - Based on ICD-9-CM diagnosis code (both principal and secondary codes) – 779.5 – Drug withdrawal syndrome in infant of dependent mother (excludes fetal alcohol syndrome):
 - Hospital discharge data reflects:
 - In calendar year 2010, there were 2,589,230 hospital discharges
 - 215,400 discharges were for newborns
 - 1,374 discharges included the IDC-9 code 779.5
 - 1,192 of these discharged were coded by the hospital as being reimbursable by the Medicaid program.

Florida Department of Health Brief

Kris-Tena Albers, Infant, Maternal and Reproductive Health Unit Director

Kris-Tena Albers provided the task force with a high level overview of Florida's maternal child health infrastructure and also illustrated what DOH is doing to combat the problem of babies being born with prescription drug addiction.

Components of the MCH Infrastructure

- DOH Central Office
- County Health Departments
- Healthy Start Coalitions
- Federally Qualified Health Centers
- Private Health Care Providers
- Federal and State Legislature

Healthy Start Legislation F.S. 383.216

- Established a statewide voluntary program to promote optimal health and developmental outcomes for all pregnant women and babies
- Provides universal risk screening for all of Florida's pregnant women and newborn infants.
- Organized into 32 Coalitions – local community groups formed into not for profit corporations
- Coalition partnerships consist of local public and private medical professionals, individuals, hospitals, schools, charities, and social service agencies such as United Way and March of Dimes.
- System is designed to meet locally identified needs of mothers and infants and maximize available local resources to address those needs.

Prevention of Substance Exposed Newborns: Initiatives

- Hillsborough Zero Exposure Project
 - community collaboration, increased education, targeted outreach, and screening, assessment and treatment for substance using pregnant women
- Florida Collaborative Substance Exposed Newborn Task Force
 - Florida Association of Healthy Start Coalitions and the Florida Chapter of the March of Dimes
 - Workgroups: Pregnancy, Opioid Use, Policy, Neonatal, Preconception, Child Welfare and Infant Development
- Pinellas CityMatch "Practice Collaborative on the Prevention of Pregnancies Exposed to Alcohol and Other Substances"
 - address the increase in pregnancies exposed to alcohol and other substances through education, implementation of screening protocols and policy changes
 - increase public awareness and knowledge about the risks of alcohol and other substance use during pregnancy (providers and consumers)

Targeted Outreach for Pregnant Women Act (TOPWA)

- Purpose of the program is to lower the number of babies born with prenatal drug exposure and HIV infection
- Women encountered by a TOPWA outreach worker can receive:
 - HIV testing
 - Pregnancy testing
 - Referrals for substance abuse testing and treatment
 - HIV prevention education and condoms
- Pregnant women enrolled in TOPWA can receive:
 - Assistance getting Medicaid coverage
 - Assistance getting prenatal care
 - HIV testing
 - Referrals for substance abuse testing and treatment
 - HIV prevention education and condoms
 - Referrals for family planning services
 - Referrals for other services in the community

Task Force Goals & Objectives

Attorney General Bondi submitted a proposed mission statement and objectives for the task force.

Mission Statement:

The *Prescription Drug Abuse & Newborn Task Force* examines and analyzes prescription drug-driven neonatal withdrawal syndrome, evaluating effective prevention and treatment strategies, and submits its findings and proposals to the Florida legislature.

Attorney General Bondi asked if there were any issues with the mission statement. Task force members had no changes to the mission statement.

Attorney General Bondi submitted the following objectives for the task force to review.

Task Force Objectives:

1. Collect and organize data concerning the nature and extent of neonatal withdrawal syndrome from prescription drugs in Florida.
 - a. Attorney General assigned Jane Murphy.
2. Collect and organize data concerning the costs associated with treating expectant mothers and newborns suffering from withdrawal from prescription drugs.
 - a. Attorney General assigned Keith Nash.
3. Identify available federal, state, and local programs that provide services to mothers who abuse prescription drugs and newborns with neonatal withdrawal syndrome.
 - a. Attorney General assigned Representative Dana Young.
4. Evaluate methods to increase public awareness of the dangers associated with prescription drug abuse, particularly to women, expectant mothers, and newborns.
 - a. Attorney General assigned Dr. Stephanie Haridopolos.
5. Examine barriers to reporting neonatal withdrawal syndrome by medical practitioners while balancing a mother's privacy interests.
 - a. Attorney General assigned Senator Joe Negron.
6. Assess evidence-based methods for caring for a newborn withdrawing from prescription drugs and how nurses can assist the mother in caring for their child.
 - a. Attorney General assigned Willa Fuller.
7. Develop a compendium of best practices for treating both prescription drug addicted mothers and infants withdrawing, both prenatal and postnatal.
 - a. Attorney General assigned Dr. Robert Yelverton.
8. Collection of data in the Tampa Bay area.
 - a. Attorney General assigned Dr. Kenneth Solomon.
9. Assess the current state of substance abuse treatment for expectant mothers and determine what best practices should be used to treat drug addicted mothers.
 - a. Attorney General assigned Doug Leonardo.

Attorney General Bondi then turned the meeting over to Andy Benard

- Andy Benard, from the Office of the Attorney general, addressed the task force and explained how the work groups would be organized.
- Due to the restrictions of the Sunshine Law the task force would be organized in a work group format that would be broken into subgroups.

- Each member of the task force can develop their own subgroup by appointing their own people or by working with several people who have come forward wanting to be a part of this endeavor.
- Mr. Benard then identified that the Attorney General's Office would be the focal point for each subgroup to collaborate through.
- He used the analogy of the Attorney General's Office has the "hub" and each objective and task force member as a "spoke." Each objective would be supported by the staff and resources of the Attorney General's Office and task force members would report back to the "hub." Each objective would be supported by the staff and resources of the Attorney General's Office and task force members would report back to the "hub."
- It will then be the responsibility of the Attorney General's Office to dispense information to all task force members. This set-up will ensure that each task force meeting is productive and that the work of the task force continues to move forward.
- General Bondi noted that public support will be vital and that each task force member would accept public input into achieving each objective.

Closing Remarks

Attorney General Bondi thanked Gil Kerlikowske for being the task force's special guest and also thanked each member for being at the first meeting.

Next task force meeting will be in mid-July.

Attorney General Bondi then called the meeting to adjournment at 3:25 P.M.