

**Drug Policy Advisory Council Meeting**  
**Minutes**  
**February 5, 2008**  
**10 – 2 pm**  
**The Capitol, Conference Room 2103**

**Members in Attendance:**

Mark Fontaine  
Phil Diaz  
Bill Stewart  
Ana Viamonte Ros  
Melanie May  
Gail Honea  
William Janes

**Members not in attendance**

Joseph Baker  
Shirley Coletti  
Babette Hankey  
Gayle Harrell  
Peggy Sapp  
Burt Saunders  
Walter McNeil

**Others in Attendance:**

William Lutz  
Iris Wilson  
Gregg Smith  
Mary Booker  
William Lefevre  
Todd Dixon  
Gary Grimm  
Nancy Hamilton  
Pam Denmark  
Robin Peters  
Andy Benard  
Gilbert Barnes  
Jeff Beasley

**Welcome and Opening remarks by William Janes, Director, Office of Drug Control**

- Review of Appointments of Council Members
- Copy of DPAC Annual Report for 2007 provided to members. Requested feedback by this Friday, February 8, 2008
- Approval of minutes from last meeting approved by Council.

**Note\*: Numbered items correspond to agenda outline.**

**1) Presentation by Randy Ball, Office of Policy and Budget – Investing in Public Safety**

- a. To the Legislature, substance abuse treatment is not a money saver, it costs money. That is the mind-set we have to change.
- b. Documented Success Rates; 35,796 drug-involved offenders treated – Inmate recommitment to prison decreased 11% and probationer revocation to prison decreased 29%.
- c. This the first time we have translated this to a cost savings.
- d. Two years ago it cost \$75 million to build prisons. Today it costs \$164 million. We will need to spend \$650 million in 2008 in order to meet the need of our inmate population so that we do not release inmates early.
- e. Can success be replicated? If so, in the next five years, we would save \$281 million in prison costs and operations.
- f. In the first year, we could treat 21,100 inmates and save \$28,776,935 million. The cost avoidance would be \$336,410,000.

- g. We build prisons 3-4 years in advance of needing them. Following this method, we won't have to build 3-4 prisons this year.
- h. Can we treat 201,000 inmates in 5 years? Yes. Can we treat inmates with a year-and-a-day sentence? No. With that information, we backed off 20% and say we can treat 750,000 over five years. The cost savings during this year would be \$277,613,065.
- i. Our request to the Legislature as they look to cut \$1.5 billion is to give the Department of Corrections \$28 million and we can save you \$306 million.
- j. The consequences for failure are that we end up building new prisons.
- k. The Governor's budget also contains a \$16 million increase in mental health expenditures to expand community mental health services. \$1.4 million federal grant to enhance mental health information technology for behavioral management, evidence-based practices for children.
- l. \$4.3 million from Tobacco Settlement Trust Fund for additional contractual services for sexual violent predators.

**Discussion: Bill Stewart – Joint Inter Agency Task Force South (JIATF)**

- a. Key function is to interdict drugs coming from target countries in South America that flow into the Caribbean, Americas, Africa and Europe.
- b. The task force uses a high level of technology. The drug flow is so great that they can only interdict about 20-25% of the drugs. That leaves the other 80% untouched.
- c. They share technology and share information with us on a secondary level.
- d. There is a collaborative effort by the state, state HIDTA's and the Atlantic and Gulf Coast HIDTA's.
- e. The task fore will also help Florida define its drug threat.
- f. Because of the high price of cocaine in England and Africa, British and French fidgets are patrolling Caribbean waters in an attempt to cut off this drug flow coming to them. They are trying to stop the same epidemic that has affected us.
- g. There are approximately 1400 metric tons of drugs being shipped each year around the world. 900 metric tons going to the western Caribbean – West of Mexico; 240 metric tons to the Caribbean up toward Florida; 220 metric tons to Europe.

**h. Bill Stewart will provide JIATF presentation during next DPAC meeting.**

**2) Presentation by Inspector Jeff Beasley – Florida Department of Law Enforcement - Statewide Intelligence Briefing**

- a. In 2007, 45 of the 67 Florida counties reported: 944 marijuana grow houses were discovered, led to the arrest of 971 suspects and eradicated 74,698 marijuana plants.
- b. The 75,000 plants eradicated are low. We think the number is low as we would add 200-300 houses to the final numbers if the other counties had reported their data.

- c. Growing Trend: In-door Marijuana grow-houses continue to increase as is their level of sophistication. They occur most often in urban and metropolitan areas.
- d. Safety Concerns: There are just as many concerns as come with meth labs. Electrical and fire hazards because of non-approved wiring techniques. The threat of fire threatens other homes and the community as a whole
- e. There are common connections between a lot of these grow-houses, which are tied to illegal immigration as these immigrants are being used to man the grow houses.
- f. There were 194 meth lab seizures during 2007. Down from 219 in 2006.
- g. Trends – Decrease in lab sizes, Continue to see mixture of anhydrous ammonia and Red P (Iodine lab) around the state. Meth cooks are forced to use multiple individuals to maintain supply of ephedrine, concentration of meth labs in certain geographic portions of the state.
- h. The Pan Handle and Brevard County area accounted for 143 of the 194 meth labs found in the state. The meth labs in these areas are a mixture of local labs and Mexican Ice.
- i. Pilot Program will include Pensacola, Jacksonville and Gainesville. Will maintain electronic logs of ephedrine products. Purchasers will have their drivers licenses swiped and the data base will capture data. Will not be used by law enforcement to gather personal information, but it flags the vendor who has system that will notify law enforcement of unusual purchases.
- j. The 2007 Medical Examiners Report indicated 3,980 of the deaths were deemed drug-related.
- k. Alcohol, benzodiazepines and cocaine were most commonly found in decedents.
- l. Cocaine (398) and methadone (392) caused the most deaths.
- m. Deaths caused by Oxycodone and Hydrocodone increased by 9.5% & 8.1% respectively in the first half of 2007.
- n. Cocaine occurrences declined by 2.9% and deaths caused by Cocaine decreased by 10.4%.
- o. Amphetamine arrest decreased for 2006-07 by 22.49% compared to 2005-06 data. Barbiturate arrest increased by 20.24% for the same time frame.
- p. As a whole, statewide drug arrest charges decreased for 2006-07.
- q. Florida Fusion Center – The goal of the Fusion center is to create an annual report with drug trend data from law enforcement agencies throughout the state that do not already report to one of the three Florida HIDTA annual reports. They are currently developing Memorandums of Understanding and Standard Operating Procedures with partners.
- r. Assessment topics for 2008 include Statewide Domestic Terrorism Vulnerability & Threat Assessment, Biological and Radiological Vulnerability & Threat Assessment and Identity Theft, Check Cashing, Money Laundering & Material Support.

- 3) **Presentation by Nancy Hamilton, Operation PAR – Barriers to Treatment**
- a. Funding – A need for competitive salaries, benefits and a reasonably secure future. A teacher with a BA can earn 34k-40k; a Correctional Officer can earn 30k-36k; but a licensed counselor can earn only 20k-26k.
  - b. Decreased ability to hire recovery staff.
  - c. Funding has stayed at the same level for the last 13 years from the State except for grants.
  - d. Decreasing and almost non-existent ability to obtain the meds needed for those clients with co-occurring diagnoses.
  - e. Lack of agreement on valid and reliable instruments and assessment procedures. Each agency has their own assessment instruments and requires a “new” assessment when clients are referred.
  - f. Funding for drug screens – often not available.
  - g. Lack of Transportation throughout the treatment continuum.
  - h. Front line interventionists – COPS, DOCS, TEACHERS and PREACHERS: Lack of education and knowledge. Often they do not recognize the symptoms of abuse and addiction.
  - i. Expectations by system that one treatment modality is best for everyone and “one shot” will do it.
  - j. Rules & Regulations that prevent smooth access to treatment, reentry and movement from one modality or agency to another
  - k. Agencies that require specific time period for clients to be in treatment.
  - l. Unfunded mandates decrease access by adding cost to already overburdened system.
  - m. No clear method of technical information sharing exists, thus delaying client access and care.
  - n. Recommendations: There may be value in outsourcing management of services with provider networks. Managing Entities can reduce burgeoning state employee rates, increase business & management skills & allow the state to play a proper role in developing oversight & new, more efficient models for treatment & prevention services.
- 4) **Presentation by Gary Grimm, South Florida High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area (SFLHIDTA):**
- a. We are one of 32 HIDTA’s across the U.S. Comprised of local, state and federal agencies.
  - b. CY 2008 Program – total of 34 funded initiatives.
  - c. South Florida HIDTA area is a center of national level interest for international money laundering activities.
  - d. Primary illicit drug threats are cocaine, heroin, marijuana, MDMA and diverted pharmaceuticals.
  - e. Illicit Drug Market Trends: Cocaine availability is still high, domestic hydroponics marijuana production has increased, MDMA seizures remain high, South Florida continues as major transit zone, Criminal gangs with drug nexus and violence, and Money laundering associated with all illicit drugs

- f. Grow house were dismantled in every county in South Florida in 2007.
- g. Florida is second only to California in hydroponic marijuana grows: 579 indoor grows, 44,941 plants at a wholesale potential of \$12 billion for 2007.
- h. Prices: \$4,000-\$8,000 per pound wholesale. One house operation with 100 plants yield: Min \$1,600,000 per year (100x4x\$4,000), Max \$3,200,000 per year (100x4x\$8,000)
- i. SFLHIDTA Response: Multijurisdictional Marijuana Task Force – formed as part of a SFLHIDTA initiative; Task force operations – local, state and federal agencies; identify, target and dismantle hydroponics marijuana grow houses; asset seizures; assist other regions and share information with all law enforcement agencies.

5) **Presentation by LTC William Lefevre – Counterdrug Program:**

- a. The Florida National Guard Counterdrug Program is a vital interagency partner with local, state, and federal law enforcement agencies, local community based anti drug organizations, and Department of Defense interdiction counterparts unified in a multi-front battle against the manufacture and distribution of illegal narcotics and intrinsically related narco-terrorism activity.
- b. Mission: The Florida National Guard Counterdrug Program will assist and strengthen Law Enforcement Agencies and Community Based Organizations to reduce the availability of and demand for illegal drugs within the state and nation.
- c. Tactical Supply Reduction includes aerial reconnaissance and surface/subsurface reconnaissance.
- d. Demand Reduction includes youth awareness, Community Anti-Drug Coalition Training & Support, LEADER Training Program, “Stay on Track” Curriculum, Youth Leader Training and Youth Camps.
- e. 2007 Program Summary of confiscated drugs and weapons: Cocaine: \$3,872,673,285.66; Marijuana: \$20,205,228.46; Methamphetamine: \$370,874.40; Prescription Drugs: \$90,665.00; Other Drugs: \$191,399.17; Weapons: 75; Currency: \$5,503,967.79; Property: \$1,289,700.00.

6) **Presentation by Gregg Smith, Department of Health – Statewide Tobacco Education and Prevention:**

- a. The program has awarded contracts for a statewide marketing/advertising campaign focusing on components to increase the message of prevention through TV, radio, billboard, newspapers, text messaging and blogging.
- b. Media advertising: Media advertising includes counter marketing to counter the messages of tobacco companies. Media campaigns include advertising to promote cessation; use of the telephone toll free cessation quit line, public education campaigns on the dangers of exposure to secondhand tobacco smoke, and tobacco use prevention and education.

- c. Media research: Market research needed to test and refine the content of media messages and their delivery. Much of this work consists of focus group analysis of different age and ethnic groups.
- d. The Area Health Education Centers (AHEC) serves rural and urban underserved populations. Tobacco cessation efforts are focused on underserved populations through the Quit Now program and promotion of the quit line.
- e. Toll free telephone counseling and referral quit lines are a Best Practice recommendation of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.
- f. Callers will be offered free nicotine replacement therapy such as patches, gum, or lozenges to help stop the addiction.
- g. Community Programs (youth and chronic disease prevention programs) - CDC recommends that a strong community program focus is needed for success in comprehensive tobacco prevention and control. The goal is to have a program in all 67 counties.
- h. Surveillance and Evaluation - Requires that DOH contract for epidemiological surveillance surveys as well as an annual independent evaluation of the entire program. Evaluations will measure the effectiveness of the program.
- i. Surveillance and evaluation component will assist the program with monitoring and documenting both long and short term intervention outcomes.
- j. The program office completed the first annual report due on January 31, 2008.

7) **Presentation by Amity Chandler , Drug Free Charlotte County – Florida Youth Delegation:**

- a. This is a statewide project on underage drinking in conjunction with the Office of Drug Control.
- b. If the state is going to score a win on its fight against drugs, then it needs to score a win with underage drinking as alcohol is the gateway drug for our youth.
- c. The challenge is how do we get our youth to reject the use of a substance that is enjoyable to some adults, is in abundance and is legal?
- d. The answer lies in the teens – For them to form Coalitions to address the issue of underage drinking.
- e. Florida Youth Delegation – 3 Goals: 1) Brand – Develop the youth so they can say, “I don’t drink”! Most teens do not drink. They have to drive the conversation as they do not have a platform or stage like the Monster Nation energy drink that is distributed by Anheuser Busch. 2) Create a core of peer educators that are capable with quality and integrity to go across the state and tell other teens that most teens do not drink. Use the brand to spread the word through peer to peer education. 3) Get into local communities to work with them and train their youth base so that when you hit the domino, it continues to fall.
- f. Perceptions are poor indicators of the problem/issue.

- g. We have worked in silos in the past. We have to be able to work with other agencies and shift gears effectively to address issues with tobacco, alcohol and other drugs.
- h. We need to counter market the alcohol, tobacco and other negative acts our youth see and hear. The “Wild World Web” will help us bridge that gap through blogging and other interactive platforms.
- i. Will use a mass newspaper release that will go to every middle school student in the state at a cost of .27 cents per student or \$230,000.

8) **Legislation:**

- a. Office of Drug Control
  - i. Prescription Monitoring Program
  - ii. Drug Court Funding
  - iii. Grow House Bill
- b. Department of Health
  - i. Health Access Services
  - ii. Proposed language that will make changes regarding its subpoena powers.
  - iii. High School Health Education
- c. Department of Corrections
  - i. Substance Abuse Funding
  - ii. Substance Abuse screening for every probationer and inmate
  - iii. Health Care cost for inmates
- d. Florida Alcohol and Drug Abuse Association
  - i. No cuts to Department of Children and Families substance abuse programs
  - ii. Fund Governors’ proposal for \$28.9 million for Corrections substance abuse programs
  - iii. Reduce child welfare cases and fund substance abuse pilot
  - iv. Fund Department of Children and Families co-occurring initiative
  - v. Support Community based Networks

**Council Discussion**

1) Drug Summit – Still waiting on date

2) **Request a Regional Briefing from Inspector Jeff Beasley of Florida Department of Law Enforcement**

**a. Quarterly trends as it related to gangs**