

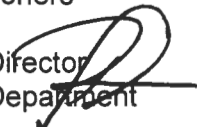


Interoffice Memorandum

AGENDA ITEM

January 11, 2023

TO: Mayor Jerry L. Demings
-AND-
County Commissioners

THRU: Raul Pino, M.D., Director
Health Services Department 

FROM: Thomas Hall, Ph.D., Director
Drug Free Office
Contact: (407) 836-7319

SUBJECT: Expansion of Fentanyl Overdose Prevention Initiatives
Consent Agenda Item – January 24, 2023

Accidental fentanyl overdose deaths nationally have become the number one killer of 18-to 45-year-old people, surpassing deaths from car accidents, gun violence, heart disease, and COVID-19, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Anne Milgram, the Administrator of the U.S. Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA), recently stated, "Fentanyl is the single deadliest drug threat our nation has ever encountered. Fentanyl is everywhere. From large metropolitan areas to rural America, no community is safe from this poison. We must take every opportunity to spread the word to prevent fentanyl-related overdose death and poisonings from claiming scores of American lives every day." Orange County has received additional funding to expand the county's fentanyl overdose prevention initiative—Orange County Responds. The additional funding increases the Orange County Health Services Department manning table by three positions. The new positions are needed to expand existing programs and services that address the fentanyl epidemic.

The U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Justice Programs awarded Orange County, as governing body, the FY22 Comprehensive Opioid, Stimulant, and Substance Abuse Program. In addition, the county recently received additional funding through the Florida Statewide Opioid Settlement Fund. These additional funds will increase access to evidence-based treatment and recovery support for residents with a substance use disorder (OUD). Board approval is requested to increase the Health Services Department manning table by three positions. Additional staff positions are needed to increase the capacity for Orange County's Drug Free Office overdose prevention priority areas (expand access to naloxone; expand warm hand-off programs; expand harm reduction programs; and systematic data collection.)

The additional staff will facilitate overdose prevention education, expand naloxone distribution, work with people at a higher risk of suffering a fentanyl overdose, and

expand our Public Health and Safety Team (PHAST). The Centers for Disease Control recommends communities develop a systemic approach to understanding the root causes of overdose deaths. Our goal is to improve the detection of overdose clusters to allow for timely response to overdose outbreaks. The expanded Orange County "Think PHAST" initiative is designed to engage additional multi-sector partners through a data-driven process known as "SOS," which stands for 1) creating a shared understanding, 2) optimized capacity, and 3) shared accountability –SOS represents essential data sharing and collaboration activities. Additional grant and Florida Opioid Settlement funding has been allocated to increase the Health Services Department manning table

ACTION REQUESTED: Approval to increase the Health Services Department manning table by three positions to increase capacity for Orange County's Drug Free Office fentanyl overdose prevention initiative. **(Health Services Department)**

C: Danny Banks, Deputy County Administrator, County Administrator's Office