



CITY OF DELRAY BEACH
ADVISORY BOARD MINUTES
OPIOID SETTLEMENT ADVISORY
COMMITTEE
DRAFT

100 NW 1st Avenue
Delray Beach, FL 33444

Monday, December 22, 2025

11:00 a.m.

City Hall, 1st Floor Conference Room

1. **CALL TO ORDER:**

The meeting was called to order by Chair Joseph Mazzeo at 11:08 am.

2. **ROLL CALL:**

Present:

Ariana Ciano, Police Department
Charles Ridley, Vice Chair
Jeffrey Lefton
Joseph Mazzeo, Fire Department, Chair

Absent:

Adelle Azam
Lisa McWhorter

Staff present:

Jeff Oris, Assistant City Manager / Board Liaison
Lawonda Warren, Legal Advisor
Jeane St. Luce, Executive Assistant

Roll was called and quorum was present.

3. **APPROVAL OF AGENDA:**

A Motion was made by Jeffrey Lefton to approve the agenda, seconded by Ariana Ciano. All in favor, no opposed. Motion **PASSED** unanimously **(4-0)**.

4. **MINUTES**

A Motion was made by Charles Ridley to approve November 3, 2025 minutes, seconded by Jeffrey Lefton. All in favor, no opposed. Motion **PASSED** unanimously **(4-0)**.

5. PUBLIC COMMENTS

None

6. OLD BUSINESS:**A. Discussion With Drug Task Force**

None

B. Discussion Regarding Presentation Of Initial Recommendation To The City Commission

Assistant City Manager Oris stated the Committee previously indicated bringing recommendations to the Commission; therefore, he suggested discussing the direction before any recommendations are finalized. He provided handouts of the Drug Task Force Recommendation Plan and 18-year opioid settlement funding chart. He stated that the Committee indicated utilizing the Drug Task Force Recommendation Plan as a base for the Committee's recommendation. If a presentation is to be placed on the January 20th agenda, the Committee needs to discuss the content of the presentation and who will create and present the presentation.

Jeffrey Lefton questioned out of the 18 years the city is to receive opioid funds, what is the current fund year and are all the funding available. Assistant City Manager Oris advised this is year three and approximately \$158,000 has already been allocated. The remaining funds are available, which totals approximately \$170,000.

Charles Ridley, Vice Chair, asked when does the city receive the funds. Assistant City Manager Oris responded he believes in December.

Assistant City Manager Oris reminded the Committee that the annual plan is due each July. The Committee should complete the recommendations in May and bring the item to the Commission in June for the following year. Once the framework is in place, the Committee will designate funding and decide how the funds will be disbursed such as dissemination through a grant or allocation to a specific group or purpose.

Joseph Mazzeo, Chair, asked if the Committee could recommend to the Commission creating four different grants with guidelines, representing the four identified Priorities and funding the grants with the \$170,000. Assistant City Manager Oris stated yes, but the Commission could choose to do something different.

Charles Ridley, Vice Chair, requested clarification on how the grant process should work if accepted by the Commission. Assistant City Manager Oris stated if the Commission wishes to proceed in that direction, the Commission may designate the Committee or someone else as the grant selection committee. The designated grant selection committee may be requested to review and rank the applications by the requirements of the grants program. After the selection process has been completed, it will have to go to the Commission for approval.

Assistant City Manager Oris stated at the last meeting the Committee discussed bring forward the paramedicine program. It is anticipated that the Commission will not approve the paramedicine program. The Committee should provide an explanation as to why the paramedicine program is ranked as the top priority. The Committee should also provide additional priorities to the Commission so they can give a clear direction on how to proceed.

Charles Ridley, Vice Chair, stated he does not believe the Commission will approve staff for the paramedicine program. Assistant City Manager Oris stated as a Committee, you have made it clear that the paramedicine program is a priority to the Committee, and it should be presented whether it is believed the Commission may pass it or not.

Joseph Mazzeo, Chair, stated the number one priority will be to employ a clinical social worker for the paramedicine program. If the Commission says no, the Committee will provide additional priorities such as \$50,000 for Housing Affordability and Stability, \$40,000 for Prevention, \$40,000 for Employment Related Issues and \$40,000 for Youth Education.

Discussion ensued on another option for the paramedicine program that is not a full-time employee such as a contract service.

Dr. Ashley Ridley will provide contact information for someone that could be contracted to provide the service.

Assistant City Manager Oris stated the Committee can provide different options for the paramedicine program.

Discussion ensued on the grant process.

Joseph Mazzeo, Chair, stated there could be two options to the Commission for the paramedicine program; option one - hire full-time, in-house staff and option two - contract the service for a designated amount. If the Commission does not choose to proceed with either of the two paramedicine program options, then the Committee will present grant funds for the other four priorities: Employment, Housing Affordability and Stability, Prevention and Youth Education. The Commission can provide directions on how the Committee should proceed.

Joseph Mazzeo, Chair, stated if the Commission wants to proceed with grants for the four priorities, does the Committee create the framework for the grant and would the grants go back to the Commission for approval. Assistant City Manager Oris stated yes.

Joseph Mazzeo, Chair, asked can individuals on the Committee meet and work on this together. Lawonda Warren, Legal Advisor, stated no. It would have to be worked on during a meeting. The Committee can designate staff to prepare a presentation and send the presentation to the Committee for individual feedback. The modified presentation can be finalized at the next meeting, then move forward to the Commission.

Assistant City Manager Oris stated he will work on the presentation or an outline of the presentation. He asked what the Committee wanted in the presentation.

Discussion ensued on the different options in the presentation.

Ariana Ciano questioned if the Commission agrees to option one – a full-time, in-house person is that person only going to be dedicated to opioid related issues and if not, how can the opioid funds be used to fund the person. The opioid funds should only subsidize a percentage of the salary that is opioid related.

Discussion ensued on the mobile integrated health pilot program that was eliminated.

Discussion continued on the different options in the presentation to the Commission.

Discussion ensued on which Committee member would give the presentation to the Commission.

Charles Ridley, Vice Chair, asked Jeffrey Lefton if he would be comfortable to discuss the different top priority options and he would discuss the grant options with the Commission. Jeffrey Lefton stated yes.

Assistant City Manager Oris commented he would introduce and start the presentation, then Jeffrey Lefton would discuss the top priority options followed by Charles Ridley discussing the grant options.

Assistant City Manager Oris agreed to put together a base presentation for the January 5, 2026 meeting.

Ariana Ciano asked when the Committee submits the recommendations does it have to be verbatim to the Drug Task Force's recommendations or can the Committee use different wording. She questioned if the Committee was going to use the wording "evidence based" or change the wording to "evidence informed".

Lawonda Warren, Legal Advisor, stated the Committee can adopt the Drug Task Force's recommendation or change the wording.

Jeffrey Lefton stated at the last meeting, they discussed the possibility of the health care district being a partner and assisting with funding. He questioned if this is something the Committee wants to discuss during the presentation. Assistant City Manager Oris stated during the presentation, it can be discussed and the Commission will advise if they want to proceed in that direction.

7. **NEW BUSINESS:**

None

8. COMMENTS:

A. Staff

None

B. Committee Members

None

9. ADJOURNMENT:

The meeting was adjourned at 11:54 am.

Board Liaison

Date

Board Chair

Date