



CITY OF DELRAY BEACH

100 NW 1st Avenue
Delray Beach, FL 33444

ADVISORY BOARD MINUTES OPIOID SETTLEMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE **DRAFT**

Monday, September 2, 2025

6:00 p.m.

City Hall, 1st Floor Conference Room

1. **CALL TO ORDER:**

The meeting was called to order by Lawonda Warren, Legal Advisor, at 11:02 am.

2. **ROLL CALL:**

Present:

Ariana Ciano, Police Department
Charles Ridley
Joseph Mazzeo, Fire Department
Stephen Posovsky

Absent:

Jeffrey Lefton

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 Charles Ridley to approve the agenda, seconded by Joseph Mazzeo. All in favor, no opposed. Motion **PASSED** unanimously (4-0).

4. **ELECTION OF OFFICERS:**

A. Chair

A Motion was made by Charles Ridley to nominate Joseph Mazzeo as Chair, seconded by Ariana Ciano. All in favor, no opposed. Motion **PASSED** unanimously (4-0).

B. Vice Chair

A Motion was made by Ariana Ciano to nominate Charles Ridley as Vice Chair, seconded by Joseph Mazzeo. All in favor, no opposed. Motion **PASSED** unanimously (4-0).

5. MINUTES

A Motion was made by Charles Ridley to approve August 4, 2025, minutes, seconded by Ariana Ciancio. All in favor, no opposed. Motion **PASSED** unanimously **(4-0)**.

6. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Dr. Suzanne Spencer, CEO of Living Skills in the Schools, 1700 Lake Ida Road, announced the passing of George “Tony” Allerton, the founder of Living Skills. She stated she is a part of the Overdose Fatality Review Committee whose purpose is to review deaths from overdose, explore what happened and how to prevent them in the future. Each person has a unique story, trauma and family issues but the one thing in common is schools. School base prevention is an opportunity to make a difference. It is important to understand the difference between awareness and education. Awareness is the idea that the problem exists. Education provides the tools and skills to act differently. This can make a difference.

Dr. Ashley Ridley, Drug Abuse Foundation, 400 S. Swinton Avenue, extended an invitation to the Drug Abuse Foundation Recovery Summit on September 26 and 27 from 9:00 am to 2:30 pm at 400 S. Swinton Avenue.

7. OLD BUSINESS:**A. Discussion Regarding Board Membership**

Assistant City Manager Oris spoke about the roles of the board and the two open positions. He requested assistance in seeking candidates that meet the qualifications for the positions. Discussion ensued regarding the open positions and the qualifications. Assistant City Manager Oris explained if the committee decides to provide grants, a member of the committee may have a conflict.

8. NEW BUSINESS:**A. Review And Discussion Of Other City's Opioid Expenditure Plans**

Assistant City Manager discussed how other cities have allocated their opioid settlement funds for in-house programs. He stated the Commission expressed the desire to utilize the funds on programs outside of the city, but this committee can make any recommendations on the funds.

Charles Ridley questioned the fiscal year. Assistant City Manager stated it would be the City's fiscal year October 1 – September 30 for budgeting purpose.

B. Formulation Of A Recommended Opioid Settlement Expenditure Plan for FY 2025-26

Charles Ridley questioned how much funds are available for allocations. Assistant City Manager stated approximately \$158,000. He further elaborated that it's an estimate on how much funds have been available for the last two years. Additionally, there may be a one-time funding from another settlement. Currently, the city does not have the amount.

Joseph Mazzeo discussed the expenditures for some of the funding and questioned when the funds would be available. Assistant City Manager stated a budget transfer is on the August 5, 2025 Commission Agenda. Once approved the executive assistant will provide each of the departments with the opioid account number for their department. Police and Fire can move forward with the approved list of projects.

Charles Ridley stated he had reviewed other cities' recommendations and asked what the city is asking of this committee. Assistant City Manager Oris stated the committee will make recommendations for programs for the available funds. Discussion ensued on the prevention, treatment, training and recovery support. Does the committee want to focus on one area or spread it around.

Ariana Ciancio commented that prevention is limited because of funds. If funds were available, then prevention in our school is always a good recommendation. The City needs to educate families.

Charles Ridley stated he could support prevention, treatment and recovery support. He asked under treatment and recovery support, what is happening in Delray? Is there any data that the committee can review. He can see what is happening across the county but what about the people who do not show up on anyone's list. What is happening to them? Having information on what is happening in Delray Beach will assist with the Committee with making sound decisions.

Joseph Mazzeo stated the struggle is how to take what we want to do and get it implemented. How do we reach the people and how do people reach the services needed without interaction with Police or Fire.

Charles Ridley stated churches are armed with information. They can pass the information on to family members, but people are private.

Ariana Ciancio commented that Miramar has launched a public awareness campaign. She stated Delray has enough local recourses that could join forces. We have programs that are already up and running that are very helpful.

Charles Ridley stated what about a focus group to get their opinions on the needs.

Ariana Cancio stated Pembroke Pines is also launching a public awareness campaign. Charles Ridley commented Pembroke Pines utilized the county's blueprint on initiatives.

Assistant City Manager Jeff Oris stated if there is something another city is doing, we can always reach out to them and research the information.

Joseph Mazzeo stated he likes the prevention campaign idea.

Charles Ridley commented that school base is one form of prevention and recommended a partnership with the county to do an assessment. He asked Ariana Ciansio if the city is still losing people to overdose. She stated yes. Last month it doubled from the previous month. Discussion ensued on what substances are currently being used on the streets of Delray.

Discussion ensued on treatment beds. Ariana Ciansio explained housing is not an issue, it is maintaining the housing. She further explained how someone moves from treatment to recovery house by getting a scholarship to cover the house for the first few months. The issue is they are unable to find a job or the person is not equipped to work. The person is set up to fail as they are unable to work then they are put back on the streets.

Discussion ensued regarding the county's reentry program and recovery support.

Charles Ridley discussed getting a needs assessment of Delray to distribute funding where it is needed and most impactful.

Charles Ridley recommended with the current funding available be used for prevention, treatment and recovery support.

Discussion ensued regarding utilizing the programs available throughout the city.

Discussion ensued regarding utilizing the Drug Task Force for the purpose of obtaining input of the needs of the city.

There was a consensus to meet with the Drug Task Force.

A Motion was made by Charles Ridley to appoint Ariana Ciansio as the Committee's liaison to the Drug Task Force, seconded by Stephen Posovsky. All in favor, no opposed. Motion **PASSED** unanimously (4-0).

Charles Ridley left the meeting at 12:07 pm. There was still a quadrium.

9. **COMMENTS:**

A. Staff

Assistant City Manager Oris stated if any member finds things that could be advantageous to the group to let him know and he would work on getting the information.

B. Committee Members

None

10. **ADJOURNMENT:**

The meeting was adjourned at 12:11 pm.

Board Liaison

Date

Board Chair

Date