



MAYOR TERESA JACOBS PRESCRIPTION DRUG TASK FORCE

Purpose: Our state has become a focal point for a national epidemic of prescription drug abuse, especially addictive pain medications such as oxycodone. The U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration reported that Florida leads the nation in prescription drug misuse. DEA records show that Florida practitioners purchased 41.2 million oxycodone pills during the first six months of 2010, compared to a total of 4.8 million purchased by practitioners in the other 49 states.

The proliferation of pain management clinics and access to home medicine cabinets has increased availability and diversion of dangerous narcotics in our community. In Florida, an average of seven people die every day because of lethal overdoses from the illegal, non-medical misuse of one or more prescription drugs. In 2009, Orange County had approximately 100 deaths involving the misuse of prescription drugs with the youngest at age 15.

The Orange County Prescription Drug Task Force is a collaborative, multi-jurisdictional effort to address the non-medical misuse of prescription drugs and the proliferation of pain management clinics through enforcement, healthcare and pharmacies, education, prevention and public policy.

Meeting: The Orange County Prescription Drug Task Force will meet approximately three times producing a report on the extent of the prescription drug problem, recommendations on regulation of pain management clinics and an action plan to Orange County Mayor Teresa Jacobs and the Board of County Commissioners at the conclusion of the task force.

Function of the Task Force: Under the leadership of Richard T. Crotty, former Orange County Mayor and Dr. George Ralls, Orange County Medical Director and Health Services Director who will serve as co-chair, the task force will meet three times at the Orange County Administration Building, First Floor Chambers. The three meetings (informational, review of local and state regulations and recommendations) will set the framework for the

task force's work and the goals and deliverables for the established subcommittees.

Subcommittee(s): The function of the subcommittee is to address the deliverables set by the task force by gathering and analyzing information through local, state and national resources. This information will produce the work product for the task force. Each subcommittee will be staffed with Orange County personnel as well as subject matter experts. The subcommittees will meet on a frequent basis and report to the full task force.

Law Enforcement Subcommittee – Sheriff Jerry Demings, Orange County Sheriff's Office and Joe Cocchiarella, State Attorney's Office

- The Law Enforcement Pain Management Clinic Committee was formed after the passage of the County pain management clinic moratorium and ordinance and began meeting in March. The committee includes federal, state and local law enforcement, U.S., state and county attorney's office, County zoning, code enforcement and planning personnel and staff from other cities and counties in the area.
- The purpose of the workgroup is to review various county and city ordinances relating to permitting, land use and zoning regulations, as well as to research options for additional regulations such as requiring clinics to use tamper-proof prescription pads (or pad storage policies), immediately report controlled substances prescribed and/or dispensed, and engage in additional daily reporting relating to staff and activity in the clinic as it relates to controlled substances. In addition to reviewing local substantive and zoning regulations, the workgroup closely monitored this year's legislative activity, specifically, the comprehensive prescription drug legislation that took effect on July 1, 2011.

Healthcare & Pharmacy Subcommittee - Marlin Hutchens, Walgreens and Dr. Charles Chase, Winnie Palmer Hospital

- Mayor Jacobs formed the Prescription Drug Abuse Healthcare and Pharmacy committee in April to bring healthcare and pharmacies, law enforcement, prevention and treatment together to develop strategies on information sharing, training and education. With access to patients, physicians and other medical providers, hospitals and pharmacies play a vital role to address this problem.
- The purpose of the committee is to develop strategies that include information sharing, training, education and community awareness to keep prescription drug misuse from growing. In May of this year, the committee members signed a resolution to advocate for the Prescription Drug Monitoring Program that was forwarded to the Orange County Legislative Delegation.