

Memorandum of Understanding

Between

SMA Healthcare

and

Ocala Police Department

This Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) sets the terms and understanding between SMA Healthcare and the Ocala Police Department to collaborate in the Marion County Amnesty Program.

Background

The number of opioid overdose deaths increased by more than 350% from 2015 to 2020 in Marion County, according to statistics from the Florida Department of Law Enforcement. The overall number of drug overdose deaths increased by more than 570%. Opioids were involved with 83% of all drug overdose deaths in Marion County in 2020.

Overdoses began to jump to high levels locally in 2016; synthetic opioids (primarily fentanyl) are considered the primary cause. Fentanyl is up to 50 times stronger than heroin and 100 times stronger than morphine, according to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

Purpose

Established in 2018, the Amnesty Program encourages opioid involved individuals to contact the Ocala Police Department at any time that they are ready to seek treatment. Individuals may go to any Police Station or reach out to any Ocala law enforcement officer for assistance. When requested, law enforcement will even go to an individual's home and transport them to treatment at SMA Healthcare or Beacon Point. Individuals must surrender any drugs in their possession and agree to enroll in substance use treatment.

The above goals will be accomplished by the following **Roles and Responsibilities**:

Ocala Police Department

1. Identify opioid involved individuals seeking treatment;
2. Distribute Amnesty information;
3. Transport appropriate individuals to SMA Healthcare or Beacon Point for assessment;
4. Provide a monthly report identifying the individuals served in the Amnesty Program.

No Exchange of Funds

This MOU contains no exchange of funds, commitment of funds, or exchange of services for consideration.

Indemnification

Each party will be liable for any damages resulting from the negligence of its employees or agents acting within the scope of their employment or agency, in accordance with section 768.28, Fla. Stat. Nothing herein is intended to waive sovereign immunity by any party to whom sovereign immunity is applicable. Nothing herein shall be construed as consent by any party to be sued by a third party in any matter arising out of any contract.

SMA HEALTHCARE, INC.

**CITY OF OCALA
OCALA POLICE DEPARTMENT**

DocuSigned by:

Ivan Cosimi

Signature of Authorized Representative

Ivan Cosimi

Printed Name of Authorized Representative

Date: 3/1/2023

DocuSigned by:

Michael Balken

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Mike Balken, Chief of Police
(pursuant to Resolution 2011-41)

Date: 2/28/2023

Approved as to form and legality:

DocuSigned by:

William E. Sexton

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William E. Sexton, City Attorney