

# STATE OF FLORIDA

## OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR EXECUTIVE ORDER NUMBER 19-97

(Establishing the Office of Drug Control and the Statewide Task Force on Opioid Abuse to Combat Florida's Substance Abuse Crisis)

WHEREAS, limiting substance abuse and combating the opioid epidemic in Florida is a critical public health issue that requires immediate attention;

WHEREAS, pursuant to Article IV, Section 1 of the Constitution, the Governor is the chief administrative officer of the state responsible for the planning and budgeting for the state;

WHEREAS, I, as the Governor of Florida, recognize the urgency and importance of continuing to lead our statewide efforts against substance abuse in Florida;

WHEREAS, the number of opioid-caused deaths in Florida continues to increase;

WHEREAS, I, the Governor of Florida, signed Executive Order 19-36 extending Florida's state of emergency for the opioid epidemic;

WHEREAS, I, as the Governor of Florida, and my executive branch agencies are leading the statewide substance abuse prevention programs and services, including the Statewide Drug Policy Advisory Council under the Florida Department of Health and the Office of Substance Abuse and Mental Health under the Florida Department of Children and Families;

WHEREAS, a coordinated and comprehensive statewide drug control and substance abuse prevention strategy is imperative for education, prevention, treatment, recovery and law enforcement efforts; and

WHEREAS, establishing an Office of Drug Control within the Executive Office of the Governor provides the best opportunity to coordinate efforts among federal, state and local partners in the prevention of substance abuse statewide.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, RON DESANTIS, as Governor of Florida, by virtue of the authority vested in me by Article IV, Section (1)(a) of the Florida Constitution, and all other applicable laws, do hereby issue the following Executive Order, to take immediate effect:

Section 1: I hereby create the Office of Drug Control within the Executive Office of the Governor for the purpose of coordinating and centralizing efforts to treat and prevent substance abuse in the State of Florida by gathering information, developing a statewide prevention strategy and identifying funding to limit substance abuse, including grants and recoveries received through or on behalf of executive branch agencies.

Section 2: I hereby create the Statewide Task Force on Opioid Abuse (henceforth “Task Force”) to research and assess the nature of opioid drug abuse in Florida and develop a statewide strategy to identify best practices to combat the opioid epidemic through education, treatment, prevention, recovery and law enforcement. This strategy should include recommendations for how the state can best use resources and funding to combat the opioid epidemic. The Task Force shall gather information as required and present recommendations to the Governor, the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the Florida House of Representatives. The Director of the Office of Drug Control within the Executive Office of the Governor shall serve as the Executive Director of the Task Force. The Task Force shall be composed of the following twenty-one members:

- A. The Governor shall designate the Attorney General of Florida as Chairman of the Task Force. A Vice Chairman shall be designated from the membership of the Task Force.
- B. The Governor shall appoint fifteen members of the Task Force:
- a. The Commissioner of the Florida Department Education, or his or her designee;
  - b. The Secretary of the Florida Department of Children and Families, or his or her designee;
  - c. The Surgeon General of the Florida Department of Health, or his or her designee;
  - d. The Secretary of the Florida Department of Corrections, or his or her designee;
  - e. The Secretary of the Florida Department of Juvenile Justice, or his or her designee;
  - f. The Commissioner of the Florida Department of Law Enforcement, or his or her designee;
  - g. One current or former Sheriff;
  - h. One current or former Police Chief;
  - i. One current or former State Attorney;
  - j. One current or former Public Defender;
  - k. Three Mental Health, Substance Abuse or Addiction Recovery Experts;
  - l. Two At-Large Members.

C. The Legislature shall have the appointment of two members to the Task Force as provided below:

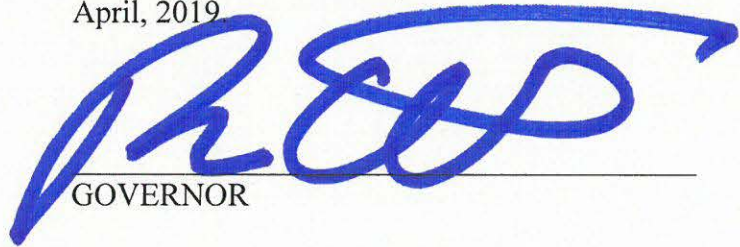
- a. The President of the Senate, or his or her designee;
- b. The Speaker of the House of Representatives, or his or her designee;

D. The Attorney General of Florida shall appoint three at-large members to the Task Force.

These actions will ensure that Florida is equipped to continue fighting the opioid epidemic and move Florida forward in the development of a coordinated statewide substance abuse prevention strategy.



IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Florida to be affixed, at Tallahassee, this 1st day of April, 2019.

  
GOVERNOR

ATTEST:

  
SECRETARY OF STATE

**FILED**  
2019 APR - 1 PM 4:46  
DEPARTMENT OF STATE  
TALLAHASSEE, FLORIDA