



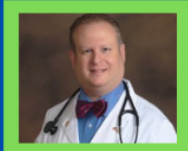
# PDMP FOUNDATION E-NEWSLETTER

Supporting the State of Florida Prescription Drug Monitoring Program

VOL VII. NO.1

SEPTEMBER

2026



**Dr. Marc Kaprow**  
DO, MHA, MACOI

**Integrated Pain Management  
in Outpatient Settings**

**Tuesday, Sept. 29, 2026**

**"Safer Prescriptions. Stronger Communities."**

**WEBINARS PROVIDED BY  
THE FLORIDA PDMP FOUNDATION AND FMA**

**1.5 hours CME credit per course**

**5:30-7:00pm EST**

[Register Now](#)



**Dr. Karen Harris**  
MD, MPH, OBGYN

**Screening & Diagnosing  
SUDS in Pregnant and  
Postpartum Patients**

**Wed, Sept. 30, 2026**



## MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

On July 1<sup>st</sup>, the Florida PDMP Foundation began its 17<sup>th</sup> year as a Direct Support Organization to the Florida Department of Health supporting the state of Florida Prescription Drug Monitoring Program (E-FORCSE®). The foundation is governed by an eight-person board of directors consisting of three physicians, an oral maxillofacial surgeon, a pharmacist, a podiatric foot and ankle surgeon, a Nurse Practitioner, and a representative of law enforcement. All board members are appointed by the Florida Surgeon General.



The foundation has been heavily involved in providing educational information to healthcare providers through its attendance at major conferences and trade shows. Over the years the foundation has been an active exhibitor at the Florida Medical Association, Florida Osteopathic Medical Association, Florida Dental Association, Florida Pharmacy Association, Florida Podiatric Medical Association, Florida Nurse Practitioner's Network, Florida College of Emergency Physicians, Florida Psychiatric Society, Florida Academy of Physician Assistants, Florida Sheriffs Association and Florida Police Chiefs Association.

In addition to its direct support to E-FORCSE® the foundation has contracted with the Department of Health to provide key educational deliverables for the Center of Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Overdose Data to Action Grant. The national grant funds Opioid educational programs for healthcare providers. The Florida PDMP Foundation's role is to develop the program topics and designate major speakers for the presentations. The foundation works with the Florida Medical Association on program

production and promotion of course webinars. The courses are approved by the state's various licensing boards for continuing education credit.

Besides its support of outreach and education activities promoting E-FORCSE® and its work on the CDC grant, beginning this fiscal year the foundation is now a major sponsor of the Bamboo Bridge pilot program. This program is a care navigation service which connects individuals with care navigation services. The program allows health care professionals to identify people who need immediate care based on non-fatal overdose with real time data and schedule them with in-network providers.

***[Dr. Lee Ann Brown, DO, FAAPMR, currently serves as Acting Chair of the Florida PDMP Foundation Board of Directors. Dr. Brown received her Doctor of Osteopathic Medicine degree from West Virginia University and completed her residency at Northwestern University. She is certified in physical medicine and pain management with a private practice in Clearwater. She is past president of the Florida Osteopathic Medical Association.]***

## EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR UPDATE

Beginning with the new fiscal year, the Florida PDMP Foundation has begun another year of outreach and education programs aimed at major health care organization members. The board of directors approved a FY 2026-2027 foundation budget of \$408,105 and an OD2A Grant budget of \$163,270 for operations.

July and August were busy months for the foundation and E-FORCSE® staffs as they attended the Florida Pharmacy Association, Florida Medical Association and Florida Nurse Practitioner Network annual conferences.

The foundation is also negotiating to attend the annual Florida Society of Interventional Pain Physicians conference.

The foundation staff is also busy working on the new fiscal year's courses and production schedule for the CDC Overdose Data to Action Grant. The foundation and Florida Medical Association collaborate on the course presentations via webinar and live programs at specific conferences. Participants receive continuing education credits for participation.

During the new fiscal year, the foundation communications staff working with its outside technology firm is revising the website. It is also involved in drafting the contents of the quarterly newsletter in conjunction with its marketing firm.

Staff has also been involved in the required production of an annual report for the Department of Health and the Governor, Senate President and Speaker of the House's review. They also worked with the foundation's CPA to complete the year-end financial report and engaged an auditor to conduct the yearly audit required by law.

***[Mr. Macdonald, MS, is a graduate of the University of Tennessee, Knoxville, and received a master's in health planning and policy from the University of Cincinnati. He served as a***



*consumer member of the Florida Board of Nursing and was a director on the staff of the Florida Dental Association.]*

## Legal Corner with General Counsel of the PDMP Foundation

**Jason D. Winn, Partner, Panzer Maurer**



### **2026 Takeaways for Florida Controlled-Substance Practitioners**

Florida's 2026 legislative session did not produce a sweeping rewrite of the state's controlled-substance laws, but it did make several changes that physicians, osteopathic physicians, dentists, podiatrists, advanced practice registered nurses (APRNs), physician assistants (PAs), and other DEA-registered health-care practitioners should know.

#### **Controlled-Substance Continuing Education**

CS/SB 844, which became **Chapter 2026-6, Laws of Florida**, amended Florida's controlled-substance continuing-education requirements, effective July 1, 2026. For practitioners subject to the general requirements of section 456.0301, Florida Statutes, the required controlled-substance course must now address, among other topics, current opioid-prescribing standards, alternatives to opioids, nonpharmacological therapies, emergency opioid antagonists, opioid-addiction risks, and **treatment of pain in patients with sickle-cell disease**.

Practitioners should confirm that the course they complete for renewal satisfies the updated statutory requirements. Some professions, including dentists, podiatrists, APRNs, and PAs, may have separate controlled-substance education requirements under their individual practice acts.

#### **Podiatrists Have a Specific CE Requirement**

CS/CS/SB 1092, enacted as **Chapter 2026-124, Laws of Florida**, amended the continuing-education requirements for podiatric physicians. Qualifying podiatrists who are DEA-registered and authorized to prescribe controlled substances are subject to a minimum of **two hours of continuing education concerning the safe and effective prescribing of controlled substances**.

Podiatrists should review both section 461.007, Florida Statutes, and the rules of the Board of Podiatric Medicine when determining their renewal requirements.

CS/SB 432, enacted as **Chapter 2026-148, Laws of Florida**, amended Florida's controlled-substance laws, including provisions addressing **xylazine and nitrous oxide**. The legislation also establishes or modifies criminal provisions involving certain conduct with these substances.

Practitioners who prescribe, administer, dispense, or possess substances affected by Chapter 893 should review the changes, particularly before the principal October 1, 2026 effective date.

### **E-FORCSE Receives Additional Funding**

The 2026-2027 General Appropriations Act, **Chapter 2026-232, Laws of Florida**, provides **\$750,000 in recurring funding from the Opioid Settlement Trust Fund for E-FORCSE**, Florida's Prescription Drug Monitoring Program.

The budget also provides funding for opioid-use-disorder treatment, overdose prevention, naloxone and other opioid antagonists, medication-assisted treatment, and substance-use-disorder services.

Although these appropriations do not create new prescribing requirements, they reinforce the importance of E-FORCSE and Florida's broader prescription-drug monitoring and opioid-response system.

### **What Did Not Become Law**

Practitioners should also be aware of significant legislation that **did not** become law. SB 374, which proposed changes involving PA and APRN prescribing authority and controlled-substance prescribing, died in committee. HB 375, which addressed autonomous practice by certified registered nurse anesthetists and autonomous advanced practice registered nurses, passed the House but did not become law. Accordingly, practitioners should not treat either bill as having changed Florida's current prescribing authority.

### **The Bottom Line**

For most DEA-registered practitioners, the most immediate 2026 change is the modification of controlled-substance continuing-education requirements. Podiatrists should separately review their profession-specific CE requirements. Practitioners who handle substances regulated under Chapter 893 should become familiar with the changes involving xylazine and other substances.

Finally, practitioners should remember that Florida's controlled-substance requirements operate alongside federal DEA requirements, applicable licensing-board rules, E-FORCSE requirements, and each profession's individual practice act. Staying current with all of these requirements remains essential to compliant controlled substance prescribing.

### **Your Voice Matters**

As we look ahead to the upcoming election season, health-care professionals should remember that their voices matter—not only in the exam room, but also at the ballot box. The laws and policies governing health care, professional practice, reimbursement, public health, and patient access are shaped by the individuals we elect to serve in Tallahassee and Washington. Take the time to learn where candidates stand on issues important to you, your profession, and your patients. Most importantly, **make your voice heard and vote.**

*[Jason Winn is a Partner and registered lobbyist at Panza Maurer practicing in the areas of administrative, civil, legislative, and governmental affairs. An accomplished speaker, Winn frequently lectures across Florida on the laws and rules impacting health care practitioners. He serves as general counsel for the Florida Prescription Drug Monitoring Program, Florida*

*Osteopathic Medical Association, Florida Podiatric Medical Association, the Sheriff's Offices in Gadsden and Wakulla, and the Florida Hearing Society of which he is also the Executive Director. Throughout his career, Jason has represented local governments, law enforcement agencies, healthcare professionals, and professional associations in complex regulatory, employment, and governmental matters. Panza Maurer is a Florida-based law firm with offices in Fort Lauderdale, Miami, and Tallahassee, representing businesses, regulated industries, institutions, and governmental entities in complex administrative, regulatory, procurement, litigation, and governmental affairs matters.]*

#### **LEGAL DISCLAIMER**

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## **REPORT FROM THE DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION**

### **PDMP Foundation CE Programs**

In response to the Overdose Data to Action in States (OD2A-S) for grant year 2026-2027, the PDMP Foundation is pleased to announce the development of two (2) new Continuing Education (CE) programs focused on the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) *Guidelines for Prescribing Opioids for Chronic Pain — United States, 2020*.



**The Integrated Pain Management: Evidence-Based Therapies** CE program has been developed to strengthen clinician knowledge and competence in the application of multimodal, evidence-based strategies for pain management while reducing reliance on opioids and minimizing risk of adverse outcomes. The program aims to emphasize contemporary clinical guidelines, non-pharmacologic and non-opioid pharmacologic therapies, patient-centered care planning, and safe prescribing principles. Overall, this CE activity aims to support improvements in clinician readiness to manage pain using comprehensive, multidisciplinary approaches that prioritize safety, effectiveness, and individualized care—aligning with national and state priorities to advance safer pain management and opioid stewardship.

**The Integrating SUD Screening and Diagnosis** CE program has been designed to enhance clinician capacity to identify, assess, and diagnose substance use disorders (SUD) using validated screening tools and evidence-based diagnostic criteria. The program focused on early identification, clinical decision-making, and appropriate referral or initiation of treatment to improve patient outcomes. Collectively, this CE activity aims to advance clinician competence in systematic SUD screening and diagnosis, supporting earlier intervention, improved care coordination, and alignment

with public health efforts to reduce morbidity and mortality associated with substance use disorders.

The CE Programs are approved for 1.5 credit hours for physicians, physician assistants, pharmacists, dentists, podiatrists, and nurse practitioners, all of whom must register to use E-FORCSE® if they have a DEA license and prescribe or dispense controlled substances. Both CE programs have been developed through continued collaboration with the Florida Medical Association and the Florida PDMP.

### **Upcoming Presentations**

Dr. Marc Kaprow, *DO, MHA, MACOI*, is an experienced internist, hospice and palliative medicine specialist, and healthcare leader will present the topic, *Integrated Pain Management: Evidence-Based Therapies*, via live webinar on Tuesday, September 29<sup>th</sup>, from 5:30 PM to 7:00 PM. Dr. Karen E. Harris, is a board-certified obstetrician-gynecologist with over 40 years of experience, serving high-risk patients in Gainesville, Florida. She will present on the topic, *Screening & Diagnosing Substance Use Disorders with a special focus on maternal-fetal medicine*, via live webinar on Wednesday, September 30<sup>th</sup>, from 5:30 PM to 7:00 PM.

### **PDMP Student and Resident Health Seminar**

#### **Professional Development Seminar Series**

Last year, the Foundation launched Florida's Prescription Drug Monitoring Program (PDMP) – A Professional Development Seminar for Medical Residents, along with a version for healthcare students in Florida's medical, nursing (ARPN), dental, podiatry, and pharmacy schools. The seminar details have been shared with residency programs and school deans across Florida. Promotional materials support outreach, and feedback is being collected to determine the best year for participant involvement. Last year's inaugural seminar was warmly received as well attended.

*[Dr. Kelli W. Ferrell currently serves as the Health Educator for the Florida Prescription Drug Monitoring Program Foundation (PDMPF). Kelli has a vast knowledge and over 20 years of experience in clinical pharmacy practice, managed care and administrative pharmacy, and health outcomes research. Dr. Ferrell earned her Bachelor of Science in Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences from Florida A&M University (FAMU). She also has a Master of Science and a Doctor of Philosophy in Pharmaceutical Sciences with concentrations in Pharmacoeconomics and Health Outcomes Research, both from FAMU.]*



## DID YOU KNOW?



NATIONAL OPIOID AWARENESS DAY IS DEDICATED TO CONFRONTING THE ONGOING OPIOID CRISIS, REDUCING STIGMA, HONORING LIVES LOST, AND SUPPORTING INDIVIDUALS IN RECOVERY.

**HELP SPREAD THE WORD  
NATIONAL OPIOID AWARENESS DAY, SEPTEMBER 21ST**

## FOUNDATION ANNUAL GIVING PROGRAM CONTINUES

The Florida PDMP Foundation Annual Giving Program seeks yearly charitable contributions from supporters to help fund upgrades and enhancements for outreach and educational programs for the state PDMP. Tax-deductible contributions can be made directly to the Foundation on its website at: [www.flpdmpfoundation.com/donations/](http://www.flpdmpfoundation.com/donations/).

Contributions can be made by credit card or by sending a check to: The Florida PDMP Foundation, Inc., 10801 Starkey Rd., #104-221, Seminole, FL 33777.

## PDMP Foundation E-NEWS Contact Information

If you have questions about any information that appears in this newsletter or the Foundation's activities in support of E-FORCSE®, please contact Maggie Thigpen, Communications Specialist, at [margaret.thigpen@flpdmpfoundation.com](mailto:margaret.thigpen@flpdmpfoundation.com).

## E-FORCSE® Contact Information

For technical assistance, please call [1-877-719-3120](tel:1-877-719-3120). If you have questions specific to state policy, you may contact E-FORCSE® at [850-245-4797](tel:850-245-4797) or by e-mail at [e-forcse@flhealth.gov](mailto:e-forcse@flhealth.gov).

To create an E-FORCSE® account, navigate to <https://florida.pmpaware.net> and click "Create an Account."

*The Florida PDMP Foundation produced this course with funding through the Cooperative Agreement Number NU17CE010222-01-01 from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Its contents are solely the responsibility of the authors and do not necessarily represent the official views of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.*

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