

COUNTY OF MILWAUKEE
Inter-Office Communication

Date: February 17, 2023

To: Marcelia Nicholson, Chairwoman, Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors

From: Shakita LaGrant-McClain, Director, Department of Health and Human Services

Subject: A report from the Director, Department of Health and Human Services, regarding projects funded by the Opioid Settlement and linkage to recommendations from the Wisconsin Policy Forum

File Type: Informational Report

POLICY

The County Board authorized the Office of Corporation Counsel (OCC) to retain outside counsel under a contingency fee arrangement and to file suit against opioid manufacturers and distributors as the OCC deemed appropriate in File 17-722.

2021 State Act 57 created Section 165.12, Wisconsin State Statutes (State Statutes), relating to the settlement of all or part of the Litigation. Section 165.12(4)(b)2, State Statutes, provides the proceeds from the Settlement Agreement must be deposited in a segregated account (the Opioid Abatement Account), and may be expended only for approved uses for opioid abatement, as provided in the Settlement Agreements.

On December 15, 2021, the Milwaukee County Board approved Resolution [21-1127](#) which authorized Milwaukee County Office of Corporation Counsel (OCC) to enter into Settlement Agreements to receive funds from three Opioid Settlement distributors.

On February 2, 2023, the Milwaukee County Board approved Resolution [23-114](#) which authorized the use of \$11,456,094 in Opioid Settlement fund allocations for 15 proposals aimed at addressing the opioid crisis in Milwaukee County for fiscal years 2023, 2024, and 2025.

BACKGROUND

This informational report provides context on Opioid Settlement funding, current Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) programs aimed at Substance Abuse Disorder (SUD), related recommendations from various advising bodies including the recent Wisconsin Policy Forum report, as well as details on Opioid Settlement-funded projects that DHHS was awarded.

Milwaukee County has among the highest rates of overdose deaths in Wisconsin, and record numbers of emergency calls related to overdoses have been seen in the last two years. From 2014-2020, the opioid overdose fatality rate in Milwaukee County was 30.9 per 100,000 persons, more than twice the Wisconsin rate of 14.8 per 100,000. Wisconsin will receive \$420 million which will be divided between 87 local governments. Milwaukee County’s portion of those funds total approximately \$71 million. After attorney fees, Milwaukee County will receive \$56.6 million over 18 years.

The Comptroller’s Office projects that Milwaukee County will receive approximately \$19.1M in Opioid Settlement funding through 2025 based on a disbursement schedule provided by advisors. The office continues to monitor <https://nationalopioidsettlement.com> to track progress of payments on a national basis.

Table A: Anticipated Disbursement by Fiscal Year

FY22	FY23	FY24	FY25	TOTAL
\$9,690,043	\$2,068,598	\$2,589,143	\$4,816,028	\$19,163,814

File 21-1127 called for the establishment of a segregated Opioid Abatement Account that is not part of the general fund. Any unused funds that remain at the end of the year will be carried over to the new year.

Opioid Settlement-Funded Projects’ Alignment with Wisconsin Policy Forum Report Recommendations

Behavioral Health Services (BHS) leaders approached the Wisconsin Policy Forum (WPF) in late 2021 for assistance in enhancing understanding of the SUD provider landscape in the county – both for itself and for other stakeholders and the general public. The goal was to provide greater clarity on Substance Use Disorder (SUD) service provision in the county with an eye toward identifying service gaps and opportunities for new investment. Methods used include interviews with officials and staff from BHS, community-based providers, and data analysis.

The Wisconsin Policy Forum released its [“Road to Recovery” report](#) in November 2022, with the below as key recommendations:

- Invest in Residential Treatment and Housing
- Address Funding Flaws
- Invest in BHS’ role as Coordinator and Gatekeeper
- Address Other Pressing Service Gaps

- Bolster Prevention and Harm Reduction

These recommendations were taken as an input in the development of DHHS’ opioid-funded projects. Below is a listing of the variety of projects the County funded (Table B), as well as a mapping of DHHS projects to the WPF report recommendations (Table C).

Table B: Opioid-Settlement Funded Projects across the County

Prevention / Promotion	Harm Reduction	Treatment	Other Strategies
1 Coordination of Opioid Prevention Services (\$1.4M)	4 Harm Reduction Supplies (\$392K)	7 Medication Assisted Treatment - Behind the Walls (\$2.5M)	11 Homeless Outreach Project (\$482K)
2 Aging and Disabilities Services Prevention Project (\$843K)	5 Harm Reduction Kits (\$98K)	8 Residential Substance Abuse Treatment Capacity (\$1.1M)	12 Medical Examiner Staffing Needs (\$1.9M)
3 Opioid Educator – EMS (\$408K)	6 Narcan Deployment and Education (\$67K)	9 Strengthening Opioid and Substance Use Education and Treatment for Justice Involved Youth (\$800K)	13 Harm Reduction Data Analytics (\$720K)
		10 Opioid Treatment in the Prehospital Environment (\$537K)	14 Portable Body Cooler (\$192K)
			15 Autopsy Carts (\$20K)

The table above outlines the 15 projects approved for funding via Opioid Settlement funds, with projects spanning the Department of Health and Human Services, Office of Emergency Management (OEM), Medical Examiner, as well as the Sheriff. The projects are mapped to the framework utilized by the scoring committee.

Table C: Mapping Policy Forum Recommendations to DHHS Opioid Projects

Invest in Residential Treatment and Housing	8 Residential Substance Abuse Treatment Capacity (\$1.1M)
Address Funding Flaws	7 Medication Assisted Treatment - Behind the Walls (\$2.5M)
Invest in Behavioral Health Services’ role as Coordinator and Gatekeeper	<i>Recommendation under consideration by the team</i>
Address Other Pressing Service Gaps	9 Strengthening Opioid and Substance Use Education and Treatment for Justice Involved Youth (\$800K) 11 Homeless Outreach Project (\$482K)
Bolster Prevention and Harm Reduction	1 Coordination of Opioid Prevention Services (\$1.4M) 4 Harm Reduction Supplies (\$392K) 2 Aging and Disabilities Services Prevention Project (\$843K)

The above table maps the major Wisconsin Policy Forum report recommendations to the seven

projects funded for DHHS. Note that the recommendation of “Invest in Behavioral Health Services’ role as Coordinator and Gatekeeper” is under consideration by staff and does not currently have a corresponding project.

ALIGNMENT TO STRATEGIC PLAN

This item is directly related the County’s strategic goals 2A: Determine what, where, and how we deliver services to advance health equity and 3A: Invest “upstream” to address root causes of health disparities. The County seeks proposals that aim to address the opioid crisis utilizing multiple, innovative strategies including treatment, harm reduction, prevention and other strategies. Further, proposals must address one of the funding objectives derived from statewide listening sessions and recommendations from the City/County Opioid Heroin Task Force.

FISCAL EFFECT

The report is informational only and there is no fiscal impact.

VIRTUAL MEETING INVITES

Steve Gorodetskiy, Strategic Initiatives Director, DHHS
Melissa McGaughey, Enterprise Project Manager, DHHS
Heather Wolfram, Strategy and Performance Project Manager
Jennifer Wittwer, Director of Community Access to Recovery Services, DHHS
Michael Lappen, Administrator of Behavioral Health Services, DHHS

PREPARED BY:

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APPROVED BY:

Shakita LaGrant-McClain
Shakita LaGrant-McClain, Director, Department of Health and Human Services

ATTACHMENTS:

Opioid Presentation to Boards: Attachment 1
Wisconsin Policy Forum “Road to Recovery” Report: Attachment 2 [website link](#)

cc: County Executive David Crowley
Sup. Shawn Rolland, Chair, Health Equity, Human Needs and Strategic Planning Committee
Mary Jo Meyers, Chief of Staff, County Executive's Office
Kelly Bablitch, Chief of Staff, Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors
Janelle M. Jensen, Legislative Services Division Manager, Office of the County
Steve Cady, Research Director, Comptroller's Office
Lottie Maxwell-Mitchell, Sr Budget and Management Analyst, Office of Strategy, Budget & Performance