



Buncombe County Board of Commissioners

Request for Board Action

Meeting Date: 3/17/2020

New Business

Department: Strategic Partnerships
Budget

Presenter(s): Rachael Nygaard
Jennifer Barnette

Contact(s): Stoney Blevins, Health and Human Services

Subject: Community Based Disposal

Brief Summary:

North Carolina has been significantly impacted by the opioid epidemic. In 2017, North Carolina had a rate of 19.8 opioid overdose deaths per 100,000 persons. This is 5.2 deaths per 100,000 persons higher than the national average. Buncombe County has an opioid overdose death rate almost twice that of North Carolina. The County is receiving multiple complaints by residents and businesses of needle litter in county buildings and on county and city property, resulting from IV drug use. The Dogwood Trust will provide funding of \$24,364 with a goal of expanded installation and maintenance of disposal units and kiosks for needle litter in hot spot locations of County buildings and other areas. The Foundation and the County will collaborate to monitor the pilot program and jointly develop a plan for ongoing sustainability of the disposal services.

An Interlocal agreement between the County and the City of Asheville is needed to define parameters around responsibility of these devices.

Dogwood Health Trust is the foundation created with the proceeds of the sale of nonprofit Mission Health System, and it is dedicated to dramatically improving the health and well-being of all people and communities in Western North Carolina.

Recommended Motion & Requested Action:

1. Accept the grant
2. Authorize the Interlocal agreement
3. Approve budget amendment

County Manager's comments and Recommendation:

County Manager recommends as presented