



Buncombe County Board of Commissioners

Request for Board Action

Meeting Date: October 4, 2022

New Business

Department: Behavioral Health

Presenter(s): John Hudson, Budget

Contact(s): Victoria Reichard & Kathleen Blackney

Subject: FY23 Opioid Settlement Funds Financial Plan

Brief Summary: According to the "Memorandum Of Agreement Between The State Of North Carolina And Local Governments On Proceeds Relating To The Settlement Of Opioid Litigation", specific strategies are outlined that can be supported with opioid settlement funds. Based on proximate community feedback, the following strategies were identified as priority for funding: collaborative strategic planning, evidence-based addiction treatment, recovery support services, recovery housing support, early intervention, and reentry programs. The community acknowledged the need for immediate action for life saving services and at the same time a need to gather additional community input and evaluation of current needs to operationalize effective funding for these strategies. This resulted in recommendations to fund collaborative strategic planning that provides opportunities for compensating community members for participation, using trusted community partners to outreach historically marginalized groups, and to do deeper analysis on current needs for recovery housing in our community. Based on Commissioner feedback there was interest in expanding access to Medications for Opioid Use Disorder and the need was confirmed by community members to continue access to high risk for overdose individuals. Support for recovery support services resulted in continuing funding for Peer Support Specialists within the Post Overdose Response Team. Based on emerging information from the community there is additional need for additional access to naloxone due to increased demand and limited funds. Support for reentry programs is to continue Justice Service's Jail and Prison Community Re-Entry program due to lose of funding during this fiscal year.

Recommended Motion & Requested Action: Approve budget amendment authorizing the expenditure of Opioid Settlement Funds

County Manager's Comments & Recommendation: County Manager recommends as presented