
Sponsor: Public Health

Meeting Date: 9/27/2022

Title: Minnesota Opioid Overdose Prevention Settlement Funds and Personnel Complement Increase in Public Health

File Number: 2022-498

Background and Rationale:

On December 14, 2021, the Ramsey County Board of Commissioners agreed to the Minnesota Opioids State-Subdivision Memorandum of Agreement and opted into the multistate settlements with pharmaceutical distributors McKesson, Cardinal Health, Amerisource Bergen, and opioid manufacturer Johnson & Johnson. On February 25, 2022, the settlement agreements were approved by the companies listed above. Minnesota's share of the settlements is more than \$300,000,000.

On June 15, 2022, Governor Tim Walz held a ceremonial bill signing with Lieutenant Governor Peggy Flanagan, Attorney General Keith Ellison, legislators, and advocates for a bipartisan \$300 million opioid response bill. Of the \$300 million, 75% has been allocated to all Minnesota counties and 33 cities that signed on to the lawsuit and 25% has been allocated to the state. Ramsey County's share of this settlement is \$15,780,977, which is approximately 7% of the total amount allocated to Minnesota counties and cities.

Payments from the settlement will be distributed over the course of an 18-year period. Ramsey County expects to receive five payments this year: three from the settlement with Johnson & Johnson and two from the distributor settlement. The Memorandum of Agreement requires counties to use their public health department as chief strategists in deciding how to expend the funds and consult with municipalities on plans. The funding will be used for opioid response, education, treatment, prevention and recovery. Public Health will have flexibility to modify their opioid abatement approach as needed and as new uses are discovered. The settlement distributions do not have spending deadlines and should not be commingled with any other money or funds. Because of this, a project budget needs to be created to accurately account for these funds.

Public Health also seeks to increase the personnel complement by 6.0 Full Time Equivalent positions to support the opioid overdose prevention program. These positions would work across the Health and Wellness Service Team or supporting departments to best meet the needs of clients and residents. The anticipated classifications and explanation of each position's duties are as follows:

- Planning Specialist 1 or 2: oversee the coordination and planning of community engagement and partnerships with county municipalities to determine funding allocation of the settlement dollars, implementation and evaluation of activities.
- Health Educator and Health Education Program Assistant: help facilitate education and prevention activities.
- Contract Manager: manage contract and procurement process to secure agreements with community agencies and manage financial reporting.
- Planning & Evaluation Analyst: oversee program evaluation and assist with the compilation of data and development of narrative reports.
- Communications Associate: create and develop promotional content and reports for both

electronic media and print.

Recommendation:

The Ramsey County Board of Commissioners resolved to:

1. Accept Ramsey County's share of the Minnesota opioid overdose prevention settlement funds in the amount of \$15,780,977, payable in installments over the course of an 18-year period.
2. Authorize the County Manager to establish a project budget for the Minnesota opioid overdose prevention settlement funds in the Public Health department.
3. Approve an increase in the personnel complement of Public Health or supporting departments by 6.0 Full Time Equivalent positions.

A motion to approve was made by Commissioner McGuire, seconded by Commissioner McDonough. Motion passed.

Aye: - 7: Carter, Frethem, MatasCastillo, McDonough, McGuire, Ortega, and Reinhardt

By: 

Mee Cheng, Chief Clerk - County Board