

Brevard County Opioid Settlement Implementation Plan

(SFY2023 – 2024)

Process

On October 26, 2021, the Brevard County Board of County Commissioners adopted the Brevard County Opioid Misuse Abatement Plan (Plan) and directed staff to follow a specific process for use of opioid settlement funds. An existing community advisory board called Together in Partnership (TIP) had its membership expanded to add representatives from the two largest municipalities in the County (Palm Bay and Melbourne) and a representative for the remaining municipalities elected from the Space Coast League of Cities. Additionally, two sub-committees were added to TIP:

- A nine-member Review Committee to prioritize elements of the Plan consistent with current trends and needs within the county in order to conduct a Request for Proposal (RFP) process for the top two or three priorities each year (as funding allows). Members include:
 - A representative from the City of Melbourne
 - A representative from the City of Palm Bay
 - A representative from the Space Coast League of Cities
 - A representative from Brevard County Government
 - A representative from Central Florida Health Cares Health System
 - A representative from the Florida Department of Health in Brevard County
 - A representative from the Department of Children and Families
 - A representative from Eckerd Connects
 - A representative from the judicial circuit court for Brevard County
- A nine-member Recommendations Committee to oversee the RFP process and make recommendations for funding to the Brevard County Board of County Commissioners. Members include:
 - A representative from the City of Melbourne
 - A representative from the City of Palm Bay
 - A representative from the Space Coast League of Cities
 - A representative from County Government
 - Five additional TIP members, without conflict, as chosen by a majority vote at a regularly scheduled meeting

Priorities

The Review Committee initially met on June 20, 2023. At the meeting, the members reviewed numerous items including government in the sunshine, the opioid settlement, Core Strategies and Approved Uses of funds, and the Brevard County Opioid Misuse Abatement Plan (Plan). Following discussion, the committee directed staff to conduct three Request for Proposals:

1. Enhancing/ Expanding Medication Assisted Treatment Services and/or Expansion of Warm Hand Off Programs and Services to the residents of Brevard County consistent with the approved Plan. Funds must be used to expand or enhance existing programs without supplanting existing funding/resources.
2. A multi-year, Media/Marketing Campaign to develop marketing and education strategies to address opioid drug use disorders with Brevard County targeted populations such as multiple generations, cultures and language differences, and at-risk groups in relation to opioid use prevention. Expectations include alignment with other campaigns also focused upon risk reduction messaging and opioid use awareness (for example, the Florida Department of Health's Coordinated Opioid Recovery (CORE) and the Brevard Prevention Coalition). This may include translating existing campaigns into additional languages.
3. Medication Assisted Treatment (MAT) Education/Training for agencies or professionals to obtain individual certifications which enhance both the employee's ability and/or the providers ability to offer Brevard County additional enhanced services related to MAT.

Recommendations

Following publication and review of Request for Proposal responses (no responses were received for Expansion of Warm Hand Off Programs and Services or Medication Assisted Treatment (MAT) Education/Training), the Recommendations Committee met on October 31, 2023, to rank respondents for Enhancing/Expanding Medication Assisted Treatment Services and the Media/Marketing Campaign.

The Recommendations Committee selected two agencies to provide Mobile Medication Assisted Treatment Services within Brevard County (Circles of Care, Inc. and Specialized Treatment Education and Prevention Services, Inc. (STEPS)) and one agency (CT Social LLC d.b.a. CTS Agency) to define/create/design Opioid Misuse Abatement strategies/campaign elements.

The Brevard County Board of County Commissioners approved the funding recommendation on November 21, 2023 and directed staff to enter into negotiations with the three selected agencies. Upon conclusion of negotiations, contracts were entered into in April of 2024.