

## **2023-2024 Seminole County Opioid Settlement Implementation Plan - Amended**

### **Opioid Settlement Overview**

In 2021-2022, Attorney General Ashley Moody announced a series of historic settlements between the State of Florida and the manufacturers, distributors, and dispensers of opioids. Over the next eighteen years, Florida is expected to receive more than \$3 billion to combat the opioid epidemic.

Seminole County, along with other Florida cities and counties, agreed to the Florida Opioid Allocation and Statewide Response Agreement with the State of Florida Department of Legal Affairs, Office of the Attorney General, (the "Opioid Agreement") The Opioid Agreement governs the allocation and use of opioid litigation settlement proceeds and is attached hereto for reference as Attachment 1.

Pursuant to the Opioid Agreement, the State has established funds to distribute funding directly to municipalities and counties.

1. The City/County Funds represent 15 percent of the total settlement amount. Funds are disbursed directly to 247 cities and counties, and do not flow through the Department. Cities and counties determine how funds are expended in accordance with the permissible uses outlined in the Statewide Response Agreement provided by the Office of the Attorney General. The funds are paid out to subdivisions annually in September by the Opioid Administrator.
2. The Regional Fund is subdivided into two separate streams: one for qualified counties and one for non-qualified counties. Qualified counties are defined as having a population of at least 300,000 individuals, an opioid task force (or similar entity), and an opioid abatement plan. There are 20 qualified counties. Seminole County is one of them. Regional Funds for qualified counties are disbursed from the Department of Financial Services annually in September. The Regional Funds for the qualified counties do not flow through the Department or the Managing Entities.

Florida Statutes dictates that two annual reports are required from any agency receiving settlement funds. By June 30th of each year recipients will submit spending and data collection plans. By August 31st of each year recipients will submit progress reports to include review of expenditures and results from said expenditures.

In 2023, the Department of Children and Families launched the State Opioid Dashboard – Florida Statistics featuring state and county-level statistics related to the opioid epidemic. The dashboard is intended to inform the selection of strategies to combat opioid misuse and overdoses, as well as for public viewing.

## **Seminole County Partnerships**

Numerous collaborative partnerships exist in Seminole County and partnerships related to opioid abatement strategies pre-date the opioid litigation. One such partnership is the Seminole County Opioid Council which is comprised of a wide variety of community partners who meet regularly. In addition to SCOC meetings, the SCOC Medical Subcommittee, led by the Florida Department of Health in Seminole County (DOH-Seminole)'s Health Officer, meets to discuss opioid mitigation strategies. Other collaborative partnerships include the Healthy Seminole Collaborative and the Behavioral Health and Substance Use Disorder Taskforce. Seminole County also regularly meets with regional including Central Florida Cares Health System, Inc. (CFCHS) and partners from Orange, Osceola and Brevard Counties.

Recent community inventories and assessments, including the 2022-2025 Central Florida Collaborative Community Health Needs Assessment and the 2024 Seminole County Sequential Intercept Mapping Report identified the need for streamlined behavioral health and substance use disorder services.

Seminole County is committed to real time data collection and information sharing. On a monthly basis, the Seminole County Sheriff's Office Drug Enforcement and Behavioral Services Division produces a report which analyzes drug poisoning and overdose incidents in the preceding month. Information contained in the report includes the number of incidents, deaths, location of the incidents, type of substance involved, Narcan deployment and demographic information regarding the individuals involved in the incidents (sex, age, race, history of behavioral health and number of unhoused individuals).

In partnership with CFCHS, a meeting was held with all Seminole County municipalities to discuss opioid settlement funding, reporting requirements and the opportunity to pool dollars to reduce duplication of services. Should municipalities choose to pool their opioid dollars with Seminole County, the executed interlocal agreement will be sent to the State. Seminole County will work with all municipalities to promote collaboration, planning, service delivery and information sharing.

## **Seminole County**

In recent years, Seminole County has deployed several initiatives to combat the opioid epidemic in our community. In partnership with CFCHS, Seminole Prevention Coalition, Seminole County law enforcement agencies, the Health Council of East Central Florida and DOH-Seminole, multiple vehicles were wrapped with the DEA's One Pill Can Kill messaging to increase community awareness of the dangers of illegal drug use.



Additionally, messaging was placed on numerous Lynx community transit vehicles including ten buses, 25 paratransit vehicles and ten bus shelters. Total weekly impressions of this Lynx campaign were over 2 million. The campaign ran for approximately nine months.

In 2022, a Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA) was released for services for individuals with substance use and co-occurring disorders. Seminole County entered into a contract with a local certified Recovery Community Organization (CRCO) to deliver collaborative wrap around services to address the most common barriers to recovery – housing, transportation, medication assisted treatment, peer support services, employability training, transitional supportive housing, inpatient mental health services and intensive outpatient services.

The Seminole County Sheriff's Office is actively involved in opioid mitigations efforts. The Seminole County Opioid Response Effort (SCORE) Team responds to overdose incidents in Seminole County to offer services and help navigate individuals seeking treatment through the system of care. Additionally, detectives forensically investigate fatal overdoses to identify and prosecute individuals who are responsible for delivering lethal doses of illegal substances into the community.

### **Opioid Settlement Funding Recommendations**

The County shall comply with all reporting requirements and use funds for Approved Purposes and Core Strategies as outlined in the Opioid Agreement. This plan will be revised as needed to adapt to changes based on community needs and the availability of resources. This plan is intended to provide options and aspirations for opioid abatement within Seminole County and its municipalities and is not to be construed as binding authority that any specific provision(s) will be implemented.

The Seminole County Opioid Council Medical Subcommittee met several times to produce recommendations to be presented to the Board of County Commissioners. County's opioid settlement funds will be disbursed annually to critical opioid mitigation partners including. In December 2023 initial recommendations were presented to the Seminole BOCC who requested additional information. In June 2024 final recommendations were made to the Seminole BOCC who approved moving forward with spending recommendations which are outlined in the 2424 Seminole County Implementation Plan.

The initiatives proposed align with the following core abatement strategies outlined in Schedule A of the Florida Opioid Allocation and Statewide Response Agreement:

- B.1: Medication-Assisted Treatment (MAT) Distribution and other opioid-related treatment - Increase distribution of MAT to non-Medicaid eligible or uninsured individuals
- B.4: Treatment and Recovery Support Services such as residential and inpatient treatment, intensive outpatient treatment, outpatient therapy or counseling, and recovery housing that allow or integrate medication with other support services
- E.2: Expansion of Warm Hand-off Programs and Recovery Services - Expand warm hand-off services to transition to recovery services
- E.3: Expansion of Warm Hand-off Programs and Recovery Services - Broaden scope of recovery services to include co-occurring Substance Use Disorder (SUD) or mental health conditions
- E.4: Expansion of Warm Hand-off Programs and Recovery Services - Provide comprehensive wrap-around services to individuals in recovery including housing, transportation and job placement/training
- F.1: Treatment for Incarcerated Population - Provide evidence-based treatment and recovery support including MAT for persons with Opioid Use Disorder (OUD) and co-occurring SUD/Mental Health disorders within and transitioning out of the criminal justice system
- F.2: Treatment for Incarcerated Population - Increase funding for jails to provide treatment to inmates with OUD

Further, these initiatives align with several Approved Uses outlined in Schedule B of the Florida Opioid Allocation and Statewide Response Agreement, including:

- Treat OUD
- Support people in treatment and recovery
- Connect people who need help to the help they need (Connections to Care)
- Address the needs of criminal-justice involved persons
- Prevent over-prescribing and ensure appropriate prescribing and dispensing of opioids

- Prevent misuse of opioids
- Prevent overdose deaths and other harms (Harm Reduction)

The activities, scope and funding outlined in this Seminole County Opioid Settlement Implementation Plan are subject to change depending on funding availability and subcontractor performance.

[END OF PLAN]

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