



**RESOLUTION TITLE: A RESOLUTION BY THE COUNTY OF GASTON TO DIRECT THE EXPENDITURE OF OPIOID SETTLEMENT FUNDS**

WHEREAS, Gaston County has joined national settlement agreements with companies engaged in the manufacturing, distribution, and dispensing of opioids, including settlements with drug distributors Cardinal, McKesson, and AmerisourceBergen, and the drug maker Johnson & Johnson and its subsidiary Janssen Pharmaceuticals; and,

WHEREAS, the allocation, use, and reporting of funds stemming from these national settlement agreements and certain bankruptcy resolutions ("Opioid Settlement Funds") are governed by the Memorandum of Agreement Between the State of North Carolina and Local Governments on Proceeds Relating to the Settlement of Opioid Litigation ("MOA"); and,

WHEREAS, Gaston County has received Opioid Settlement Funds pursuant to these national settlement agreements and deposited the Opioid Settlement Funds in a separate special revenue fund as required by section D of the MOA; and,

WHEREAS, section E.6 of the MOA states:

E.6. Process for drawing from special revenue funds.

- a. Budget item or resolution required. Opioid Settlement Funds can be used for a purpose when the Governing Body includes in its budget or passes a separate resolution authorizing the expenditure of a stated amount of Opioid Settlement Funds for that purpose or those purposes during a specified period of time.
- b. Budget item or resolution details. The budget or resolution should (i) indicate that it is an authorization for expenditure of opioid settlement funds; (ii) state the specific strategy or strategies the county or municipality intends to fund pursuant to Option A or Option B, using the item letter and/or number in Exhibit A or Exhibit B to identify each funded strategy, and (iii) state the amount dedicated to each strategy for a stated period of time.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, in alignment with the NC MOA, Gaston County authorizes the expenditure of opioid settlement funds as follows:

- 1. First strategy authorized
  - a. Name of strategy: Recovery Support Services
  - b. Strategy is included in Exhibit A
  - c. Item letter and/or number in Exhibit A or Exhibit B to the MOA: Exhibit A, Strategy 3

DO NOT TYPE BELOW THIS LINE

I, Donna S. Buff, Clerk to the County Commission, do hereby certify that the above is a true and correct copy of action taken by the Board of Commissioners as follows:

NO.	DATE	M1	M2	CBrown	CCloninger	AFrale	BHovis	KJohnson	TKeigher	RWorley	Vote
2024-011	01/23/2024	AF	BH	A	A	A	A	AB	A	A	U

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- d. Amounted authorized for this strategy: \$52,328.64
- e. Period of time during which expenditure may take place:  
Start date January 1, 2024 through End date December 31, 2025
- f. Description of the program, project, or activity: Gaston Emergency Medical Services' Community Paramedicine Program: Expanded hours for the certified peer support specialist services currently embedded in Gaston Emergency Medical Services (GEMS).  
Currently, GEMS deploys peer support specialists twenty-four hours a week. They respond to opioid-related calls with the community paramedic and offer support to individuals in real-time. They also provide ongoing support to individuals who are enrolled in the medication-assisted treatment bridge program and follow up with individuals who refuse treatment and care following an overdose. Additional funds will allow peer support specialists to be deployed thirty-six hours a week. Expanding the hours will increase effectiveness of existing initiatives and contribute to the overall well-being of individuals affected by opioid use disorders.
- g. Provider: Gaston Emergency Medical Services

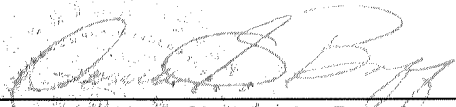
The total dollar amount of Opioid Settlement Funds appropriated across the above named and authorized strategies is \$ 52,328.64.

Adopted this the 23<sup>rd</sup> day of January, 2024.



Chad Brown, Chairman  
Gaston County Board of Commissioners

ATTEST:



Donna S. Buff, Clerk to the Board

SEAL







# Gaston County

Gaston County  
Board of Commissioners  
www.gastongov.com

## DHHS - Community Support Services Division

### Board Action

File #: 24-002

Commissioner Brown - DHHS - Community Support Services - To Appropriate and Approve a Resolution to Direct the Expenditure of Opioid Settlement Funds and Appropriate to Expand Certified Peer Support Specialists Embedded in the Gaston Emergency Medical Services' Community Paramedicine Program for Post Overdose Response, Follow-up, and Treatment Support (Year 1: \$6,396.00/Total Grant \$52,328.64)

#### STAFF CONTACT

Gregory Grier - Community Support Services - 704-862-6735

#### BUDGET IMPACT

Year 1 (January 1, 2024 - June 30, 2024): \$6,396.00

Year 2 (July 1, 2024 - June 30, 2025): \$26,164.32

Year 3 (July 1, 2025 - December 31, 2025): \$19,768.32

No additional County funds.

#### BUDGET ORDINANCE IMPACT

Minimal impact to the budget ordinance.

#### BACKGROUND

The State of NC joined in the national litigation against pharmaceutical supply chain participants who engaged in the manufacture, marketing, promotion, distribution, or dispensing of opioid medications that has harmed the public. On June 8, 2021, the Board of Commissioners approved the Memorandum of Agreement Between the State of North Carolina and Local Governments on Proceeds Relating to the Settlement of Opioid Litigation (Res 2021-172) joining in the national litigation. Gaston County will receive a projected \$43,000,000 in settlement funds to be received over a period of 18 years. To date, the County has received \$4,250,134 in settlement funds. To date, \$2,758,204.70 has been allocated by the Board of Commissioners.

(Continued on Page 2)

DO NOT TYPE BELOW THIS LINE

I, Donna S. Buff, Clerk to the County Commission, do hereby certify that the above is a true and correct copy of action taken by the Board of Commissioners as follows:

NO.	DATE	M1	M2	CBrown	CCloninger	AFraleay	BHovis	KJohnson	TKeigher	RWorley	Vote
2024-011	01/23/2024	AF	BH	A	A	A	A	AB	A	A	U

#### **DISTRIBUTION:**

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Commissioner Brown - DHHS - Community Support Services - To Appropriate and Approve a Resolution to Direct the Expenditure of Opioid Settlement Funds and Appropriate to Expand Certified Peer Support Specialists Embedded in the Gaston Emergency Medical Services' Community Paramedicine Program for Post Overdose Response, Follow-up, and Treatment Support (**Year 1: \$6,396.00/Total Grant \$52,328.64**)

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Gaston County joined the State in the National Opioid Settlement. This Board Action and BCR appropriates \$52,328.64 of our allotment for Recovery Support Services, specifically expanded hours for the certified peer support specialist services in Gaston Emergency Medical Services (GEMS), who has a contract with Olive Branch Ministry. Currently, GEMS deploys peer support specialists twenty-four hours a week. They respond to opioid-related calls with the on-duty community paramedic and can offer support to individuals in real-time. Additionally, they provide ongoing support to individuals who are enrolled in the medication-assisted treatment bridge program and follow up with individuals who refuse treatment and care following an overdose. Additional funds will allow peer support specialists to be deployed thirty-six hours a week. Increasing the hours will expand a program that's proven effective and allow Gaston County to leverage other funds to provide the program. Expanded hours will increase effectiveness of existing initiatives and contribute to the overall well-being of individuals affected by opioid use disorders.

This Board Action, if approved, appropriates \$52,328.64 in Opioid Settlement funds to GEMS for the purpose of expanding their current contract with Olive Branch Ministry to embed certified peer support specialists in their Community Paramedicine program.

**Year 1 (January 1, 2024 - June 30, 2024): \$6,396.00**

**Year 2 (July 1, 2024 - June 30, 2025): \$26,164.32**

**Year 3 (July 1, 2025 - December 31, 2025): \$19,768.32**

### **POLICY IMPACT**

N/A

### **ATTACHMENTS**

Spending Authorization Resolution and Budget Change Request (BCR)