# Gaston County Opioid Settlement Strategic Plan

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August 12, 2025



### Overview

- Opioid Settlement Overview
- Data Overview
- Program Overviews
- Collaborative Strategic Plan
- Community Input
- Recommendations
- Next Steps



### Gaston County Opioid Settlement Funds

- \$1.5 billion awarded to North Carolina from agreements between distributors, manufacturers and pharmacies
- Gaston County will receive \$41 million over 18 years
- \$12.88m received to date
  - Allocated \$8.3m to 9 programs
- Gaston County currently funding Option A strategies
  - Prevention, harm reduction, treatment, recovery



# **Background Data**

Opioid Overdose Rates in Gaston County, NC			
Year	Opioid Overdoses	Percentage Change	
2021	583		
2022	966	+66%	
2023	1,235	+28%	
2024	742	-40%	
2025 (projected)	641	-14%	

**2024:** 410 Opioid Overdoses (Jan. 1 – July 21, 2024)

**2025:** 355 Opioid Overdoses (Jan. 1 – July 21, 2025)



# Community Paramedicine Program – Medication Assisted Treatment Bridge Program (MAT)

- Post-Overdose follow-up care by paramedics
- Immediate access to MAT

Community Paramedic Program (7/1/24-6/30/25)		
Unique Patients	517	
Referred to Addiction Treatment	151	
Naloxone Kits Distributed	1,862	



### **GEMS** Recovery Transportation Program

- Provides safe, reliable transportation to:
  - Medication Assisted Treatment Appointments (MAT)
  - Primary Care
  - Court
  - Residential Treatment Programs

Recovery Transportation Ride Data (7/1/24 – 6/30/25)		
Unique Individuals Served	315	
Number of Trips Completed	3,696	
Miles Driven with Passenger	22,400	



#### Kintegra Health: Medicated Assisted Treatment (MAT)

- Expands MAT access for uninsured and underinsured patients in Gaston County
  - Primary care
  - OBGYN clinics
  - Health departments
  - Gaston Paramedicine
  - Jail settings

Kintegra Health: MAT (7/1/2024 – 6/30/25)		
Unique Participants with OUD Served	190	
Unique Clients Connected to Treatment	79	



### McLeod Centers for Wellbeing: MAT Program

 Expands medication assisted treatment for uninsured and underinsured residents

McLeod Centers for Wellbeing: MAT (7/1/24 – 6/30/25)	
Unique Clients Connected to Treatment	95
Clients Connected and Adhered to Treatment for 6 Months	77



### Olive Branch Ministry: Peer Support – Child Welfare

- Supports families impacted by substance use
- Bridges communication gaps and clarifies case plans

Olive Branch Ministry: Peer Support – Child
Welfare (7/1/24 – 6/30/25)

Unique Clients
Connected to
Treatment



### Jail Medicated Assisted Treatment (MAT)

- MAT for incarcerated persons with OUD
  - Buprenorphine
- Harm reduction efforts

<b>Jail MAT</b> (7/1/24 – 6/30/25)		
Unique Individuals Receiving Treatment	222	
Unique Referrals to Treatment	288	



# Kintegra: Early Intervention Program

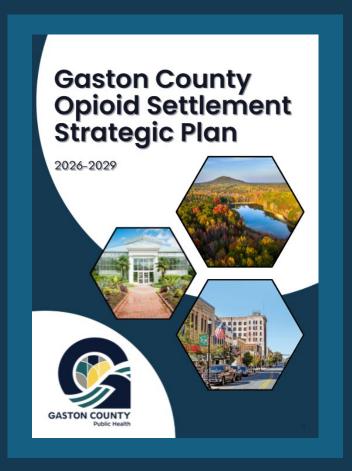
- Youth Mental Health First Aid Training
- Peer-Based Training Programs

Early Intervention Program (7/1/24 -6/30/25)		
Unique Participants Trained	36	
Early Intervention Trainings Held	26	



### Collaborative Strategic Plan

- The strategic plan was created to address opioid misuse, addiction, overdose, or related issues.
- Once approved, expands to Option
   B a longer list of strategies





### Community Involvement

- Community Input Survey
- Youth Overdose Prevention Workgroup
- Focus Groups
  - Gaston County Child Welfare
  - Gaston County Adult and Aging Services
  - Olive Branch Ministry Participants
- Annual Public Meetings
- Law Enforcement Recommendations







# Exhibit B Strategies: Recommendations

- A: Treat opioid use disorder
- **B**: Support people in treatment and recovery
- D: Address the needs of criminal-justice-involved persons
- E: Address the needs of pregnant or parenting women and their families, including babies with neonatal abstinence syndrome
- **G**: Prevent misuse of Opioids
- H: Prevent overdose deaths and other harms (harm reduction)
- J: Leadership, planning, and coordination
- **K**: Training



# Next Steps: Request for Proposals

#### Naloxone Distribution

- 400k available, min. request: 20k
- Eligible Programs: community organizations, EMS, ERs, jails, distributing naloxone

#### Prevent the Misuse of Opioids

- 400k available, min. request: 20k
- Eligible activities: media campaigns, school-based programs, drug disposal, community coalitions

Funding period: January 1, 2026 – June 30, 2027



# **Annual Meeting**

#### **GASTON COUNTY'S ANNUAL**

#### OPIOID SETTLEMENT MEETING

Please join Gaston County Public Health for an annual update on the opioid settlement funds.



#### Tuesday

September 16, 2025



#### Time

11:00am - 1:00pm



#### Citizens Resource Center 1303 Dallas Cherryville Hwy.

Dallas, NC 28034

#### FREE LUNCH

Enjoy a meal while learning about the opioid settlement work underway in Gaston County.

#### ANNUAL UPDATE

An overview will be provided of what Gaston County has accomplished with the opioid settlement funds over the past year, along with a brief summary of plans for the year ahead.

#### RECOMMENDATIONS

Attendees will have the opportunity to share their perspectives and suggestions with Gaston County Public Health, which will help inform decision-making for the upcoming year.

#### **SCAN TO REGISTER**

Or visit: https://forms.gle/oOtCu1CZZaJ1Xy5G9

Questions: Stephanie.Jamoulis@gastongov.com





