



**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: Naloxone distribution
  - 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 7

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
2024-219	06/25/2024	TK	BH	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	U

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- d. Amount authorized for this strategy: \$65,197.00
- e. Period of time during which expenditure may take place:  
Start date July 1, 2024 through End date June 30, 2025
- f. Description of the program, project, or activity: Gaston County EMS Naloxone Expansion

In 2024, Gaston County has been noticing a downward trend in reported opioid overdoses compared to 2023, largely attributed to the high saturation of Naloxone in the community. Gaston County EMS will use Naloxone to create community kits which will be distributed to any patient of theirs who suffered an overdose and is being transported to the ED, patients who refused transport to the ED, family members of patients, and any community member who wishes to have Naloxone on hand. Allotments of Naloxone will be given to Gaston County Public Schools, Gaston County Public Health Department, and to Gaston County first responders as part of their efforts to reduce fatal overdoses in the community.

- g. Provider: Gaston County EMS

The total dollar amount of Opioid Settlement Funds appropriated across the above named and authorized strategies is \$65,197.00.

Adopted this the 25th day of June, 2024.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Chad Brown, Chairman  
Gaston County Board of Commissioners

ATTEST:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Donna S. Buff, Clerk to the Board

SEAL

## GASTON COUNTY BUDGET CHANGE REQUEST (BCR)

**TO:** Dr. Kim S. Eagle, County Manager

**FROM:** EMS  
Dept. Code GEMS  
Department Name

Mark Lamphiear  
Department Director 6/6/2024  
Date

- REQUEST TYPE:**
- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Line-Item Transfer Within Department & Fund | <input type="checkbox"/> Line-Item Transfer Between Funds*             |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Project Transfer Within Department & Fund   | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Additional Appropriation of Funds* |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Line-Item Transfer Between Departments      | *Requires resolution by the Board of Commissioners                     |

ACCOUNT DESCRIPTION <small>As it appears in Munis Ex. Employee Training</small>	ACCOUNT NUMBER <small>Fund-Dept-Div-SubDiv-Prog-SubProg-Future-Obj-Proj XXXX-XXX-XXX-XXXXX-XXXXXX-XXXXXX-XXXX-XX-XXXXXX-XXXXX Ex. 1000-BGT-000-00000-000000-0000000-0000-01-520011-</small>	AMOUNT** <small>Whole dollars only Ex. (\$5,000) Ex. \$5,000</small>
Opioid Settlement	2055-000-000-00000-000000-0000000-0000-05-410211-	\$ (65,197.00)
Other Medical Supplies	2055-EMS-000-00000-NalKit-Stratg7-0000-02-520004-	\$ 65,197.00

Check cell- Amounts must sum to \$0 \$

\*\* Decreases in expenditures and increases in revenue accounts require brackets. Increases in expenditures and decreases in revenue do not require brackets. Please note that transfers between funds require inter-fund transfer accounts.

**JUSTIFICATION FOR REQUEST:**

This Board Action appropriates \$65,197.00 in Opioid Settlement funds for the purchase of Naloxone by GEMS. In 2024, Gaston County has been noticing a downward trend in reported opioid overdoses compared to 2023, largely attributed to the high saturation of Naloxone in the community. Gaston County EMS will use Naloxone to create community kits which will be distributed to any patient of theirs who suffered an overdose and is being transported to the ED, patients who refused transport to the ED, family members of patients, and any community member who wishes to have Naloxone on hand. Allotments of Naloxone will be given to Gaston County Public Schools, Gaston County Public Health Department, and to Gaston County first responders as part of their efforts to reduce fatal overdoses in the community.



# Gaston County

Gaston County  
Board of Commissioners  
www.gastongov.com

## DHHS - Community Support Services Division Board Action

File #: 24-286

Commissioner Hovis - DHHS - Community Support Services - To Approve a Resolution to Direct the Expenditure of Opioid Settlement Funds for the purchase of Naloxone by Gaston County Emergency Medical Services (**Year 1 - FY25: \$65,197 / Total Program: \$65,197**)

### STAFF CONTACT

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

### BUDGET IMPACT

Increase revenue and expenses in the Opioid Settlement Funds by the following:

Year 1 (July 1, 2024 - June 30, 2025): \$65,197.00  
Total opioid settlement funds: \$65,197.00. 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 \$40,000,000 in settlement funds to be received over a period of 18 years. To date, the County has received \$9,065,809 in settlement funds. To date, \$3,858,518 has been allocated by the Board of Commissioners.

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### **DISTRIBUTION:**

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Commissioner Hovis - DHHS - Community Support Services - To Approve a Resolution to Direct the Expenditure of Opioid Settlement Funds for the purchase of Naloxone by Gaston County Emergency Medical Services (Year 1 - FY25: \$65,197 / Total Program: \$65,197)

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This Board Action, if approved, appropriates \$65,197.00 in Opioid Settlement funds for the purchase of Naloxone by Gaston County Emergency Medical Services. Naloxone is a life-saving medication that works to quickly reverse the effects of an opioid overdose. GEMS is projected to distribute 2,646 community naloxone kits in 2024, this is a 99% increase compared to 2023. There has been a total of 329 opioid overdoses in Gaston County in 2024, at the current rate, GEMS is projected to respond to an estimated 785 opioid overdoses this year. This will be a 36% decrease compared to the 1,235 opioid overdose responses in 2023. The decrease in reported opioid overdoses can be largely attributed to the high saturation of Naloxone in the community, preventing fatal overdoses and keeping Gaston County residents alive.

To ensure that the doses of Naloxone reach the most vulnerable populations, GEMS will distribute the medication in several ways. First will be through giving Naloxone kits to all patients they respond to for opioid overdoses, any family member of a patient who overdoses, and any community member who wishes to have Naloxone on hand. An allotment will also be given to Gaston County Public Schools, they recently passed a policy that allows a dose of Naloxone to be kept in every school building, on all school buses, and with coaches for athletic events. Another allotment will be given to the Gaston County Public Health Department where they will be able to give Naloxone and discuss substance use within clinic spaces, WIC, during community engagement events and programs. First responders will also be given an allotment of Naloxone to use if they encounter an overdose and are the first on the scene.

**POLICY IMPACT**

N/A

**ATTACHMENTS**

Spending Authorization Resolution; Budget Change Request (BCR)