

## **Opioid Settlement Project Plan**

### **Background Information**

In December 2021, the Illinois Opioid Allocation Agreement (IOAA) was approved by the Attorney General and by all Illinois Counties with a population over 250,000 for the opioid settlement distributions. In January 2022, national settlements were reached with the Janssen group (J&J) of companies and distributors. Additional settlement agreements and litigation is currently pending in the federal court system that will add to the distributions.

Lake County Government is the recipient of Opioid Settlement funds. The funding from the settlements will be received in payments over 18 years with the first payment received in October 2022. These funds must be used in accordance with the Opioid Settlement agreement to address the opioid epidemic through opioid remediation. "Opioid Remediation" means care, treatment, and other programs and expenditures (including reimbursement for past such programs or expenditures except where this Agreement restricts the use of funds solely to future Opioid Remediation) designed to:

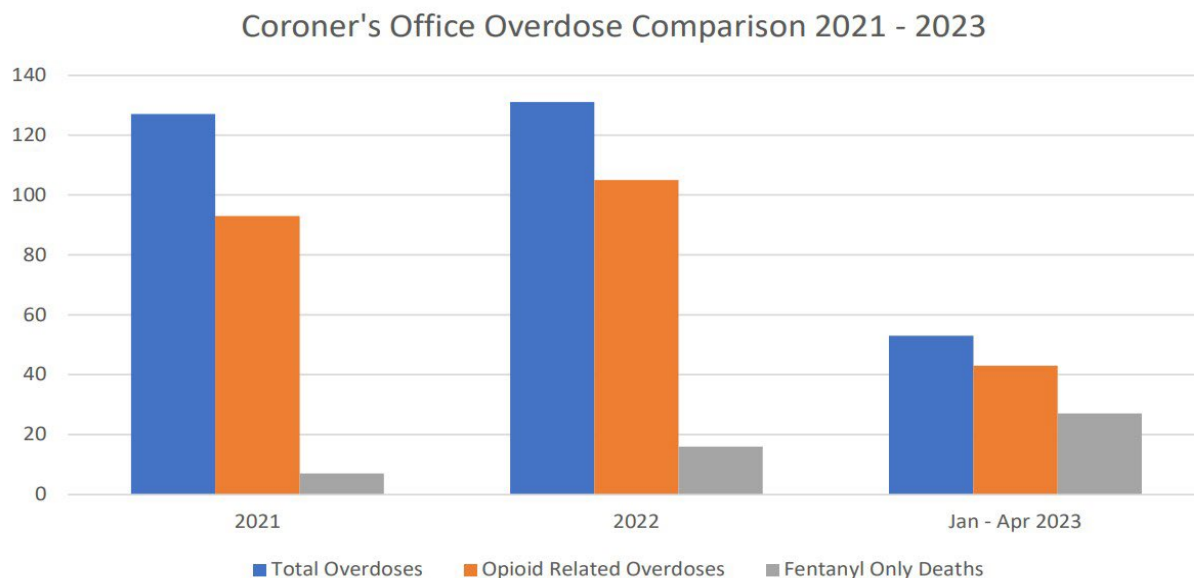
1. address the misuse and abuse of opioid products,
2. treat or mitigate opioid use or related disorders, or
3. mitigate other alleged effects of the opioid abuse crisis, including on those injured as a result of the opioid abuse crisis.

If funds are not used for remediation, the amounts and uses would need to be reported to the Settlement Fund Administrator.

Additional information can be found in the Illinois Settlement Agreement. Exhibit B, Pages 31-45 of the Illinois Agreement contains a suggested sampling of uses.

Pending settlement agreements and litigation will add to this total as they are received, including settlement of the Purdue Pharma litigation presently pending in the federal court system, specifically the US Supreme Court. There is also the opportunity to apply to the State for funding as the State will have \$88 M per year to utilize/grant out.

### **Opioid Statistics in brief:**



In 2021, 93 of the 127 total overdoses were attributable to opioids, 76 of those contained fentanyl, and there were 7 that were solely fentanyl overdoses.

In 2022, 105 of the 131 total overdoses were attributable to opioids, 92 of those contained fentanyl, and there were 16 that were solely fentanyl overdoses.

Alarming, in the first 4 months of 2023, 43 of the 53 total overdoses have been attributed to opioids, 38 of these contained fentanyl, and there have been 27 that were solely fentanyl overdoses.

In the first 4 months of 2023, there have been nearly 4 times the number of fentanyl overdoses as there was in the entire year of 2021.

### **Funding (Special Revenue Fund is where Revenue is received)**

The estimated annual revenue the County anticipates receiving over 18 years is \$215,123.50 per year plus interest. The first payment was received in the middle of October 2022. As of August 25, 2023, the County has also received additional payments that equal the first 5 years of funding amounting to \$1,552,141.80. The front-loading was unexpected. The total revenue for 18 years is estimated at \$3,872,223 plus compounded interest. Funds from other pending settlement agreements and litigation will add to this total as they are received, including settlement of the Purdue Pharma litigation presently pending in the federal court system.

To utilize the funding, it is recommended that funding would proceed through the normal committee structure for final allocations and decisions, with the Health and Community Services (HCS) Committee being the originating committee. The HCS Committee was selected as Opioids are a public health concern.

In order to use the funding, revenue will need to be appropriated. Additionally, revenue will need to be appropriated before November 2023. Funding will also need to be carried over annually.

## **Workgroup**

The Lake County States Attorney's office provided legal analysis and background information on the opioid settlement funds and a workgroup was formed in February 2023 to evaluate the options for use.

The Workgroup included representation from the following departments: States Attorney, Public Defender, Regional Office of Education, Health Department, Courts and Pre-trial Services, Judge Bishop, Sheriff, Coroner, Finance, and County Administration. Additionally, LCOI was consulted once the workgroup completed their internal analysis. LCOI was in support of the proposed path forward.

## **Recommendations**

The workgroup recommends two programs for funding.

1. **Opioid Program Coordinator** – \$70,090 plus benefits
  - to be housed in the County Administrator's Office.
2. **Opioid Education Program** - \$46,000
  - to be conducted by the Regional Office of Education.

## **Opioid Coordinator**

Opioid coordinator will be responsible for coordinating the county's substance use-related activities, including funding, resource development, and service coordination. Coordinator will be responsible for ensuring that funds will be used in accordance with the settlement agreement requirements. They will report to the County Administrators Office and activities will be reported through the Health and Community Services Committee.

Additionally, the six priorities that the coordinator will focus on include:

1. Coordinate the County's substance use-related activities, including funding, resource development, and service coordination;
2. Develop a process to provide grants for agencies and service providers working on the ground in the community with individuals who use drugs and their families (recommend following a similar format as the HCDC);
3. Based on a gap analysis, identify existing capacity/limitations, and pathways to increase prevention, care and support capacity per the Lake County Opioid Initiative (LCOI) strategic goal;
4. Identify pathways to increase prevention, care, and support capacity countywide; and
5. Enhance deflection and diversion initiatives;
6. Enhance education regarding substance abuse and treatment options.

## **Regional Office of Education Opioid Education**

For the 2023-2024 school year, opioid funding would help provide information to youth, staff and families at Lake County Schools. Specifically, funding would provide the following to schools across Lake County through the Regional Office of Education:

- NARCAN training to all school districts.
  - NARCAN training would allow for school staff to be trained in how to administer.
- Professional development
  - Would allow for educators and staff to learn and review current materials provided on drug education. Would also occur at the Countywide PD Institute on February 16, 2024.

- Drug education in a box
  - Would provide lessons and resources and plans for local school districts to implement by January 2024. This would allow for successful implementation in 2024-2025 school year.
- Presentations
  - Would provide opportunities to learn about opioids, prevention, and other topics. Presentations would occur at local school districts.
- Fairs for local school districts.
  - Would assist in bringing partners together to have educational fairs locally in Lake County.