

1 **2024 RES-370**

2 RECOMMENDATION TO RESTORE ADDITIONAL OPIOID SETTLEMENT FUNDS FOR  
3 CREATION OF A CENTRALIZED HARM REDUCTION AND PREVENTION DROP-IN CENTER

4 The 2024 adopted operating budget created an Opioid Settlement Subcommittee of the Health  
5 and Human Needs (HHN) Committee to make recommendations for priorities to include in a  
6 request for proposals for services to be supported with opioid settlement funds. Since 1999,  
7 more than one million people have died of a drug overdose in the United States. The nature of  
8 this crisis has evolved rapidly in recent years, with synthetic opioids, such as fentanyl, now  
9 dominating the drug supply. Amid an evolving and increasingly life-threatening substance use  
10 environment, harm reduction has become a pillar of America’s overdose prevention strategy.  
11 Harm reduction is an evidence-based approach to engage and meet the needs of people who  
12 use drugs.

13 A 2024 resolution (RES-143) recommended to the HHN Subcommittee on Opioid Settlement  
14 Funds use of \$800,000 of these funds for the creation of a centralized Harm Reduction and  
15 Prevention Drop-In Center (“The Center”). At that time, Public Health Madison Dane County  
16 (PHMDC) identified an immediate need for expanding the capacity of harm reduction services  
17 through increased hours of operation for its syringe services program to ensure accessibility to  
18 the program for those using drugs and most at risk of drug overdose death. To meet this  
19 immediate need, \$331,200 of the \$800,000 from the Opioid Settlement funds initially  
20 recommended for creation of The Center were earmarked and used to fund the additional  
21 position support for expanded PHMDC syringe services.

22 The RFP for the Harm Reduction and Prevention Drop-In Center is now in the process of being  
23 developed. 2024 RES-143, which was passed in November 2024, stated that the RFP shall  
24 encourage collaborative applications that include strong community partnerships to provide  
25 culturally specific services and resources to meet the diverse needs for a safe and inclusive  
26 space, allowing the County to partner with service providers and a center operator that will serve  
27 mothers, babies, older Black men, queer individuals, and others most impacted by the harm  
28 caused by the defendants of the opioid settlement, and also serve as a safe space for the dual-  
29 stigmatized substance user without housing.

30 The Center will expand the services offered by PHMDC and provide more accessible and  
31 welcoming spaces to better adhere to the principles of harm reduction. It will incorporate the  
32 existing harm reduction services provided by PHMDC (syringe services, distribution of safe  
33 smoking supplies, education on and distribution of Narcan, and distribution of test strips for  
34 Fentanyl and Xylazine). In addition, The Center will provide new services in alignment with the  
35 national harm reduction framework, including drug checking, access to onsite wound care  
36 supplies, and enhanced overdose education opportunities through connection to peer services.  
37 Some of these services may be provided by PHMDC and other services would be provided by  
38 community partners selected through the pending request for proposals (RFP).

39 Because of the complex and holistic nature of the services and partnerships anticipated to be  
40 provided by the new Harm Reduction and Prevention Drop-In Center, and the scope of the  
41 needs that The Center is intended to address, the County must provide adequate initial  
42 resources to ensure the successful creation and implementation of The Center and its objectives.

43 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Dane County Board of Supervisors reiterates  
44 its support for the recommendations of the Opioid Settlement Subcommittee.

45 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Dane County Board of Supervisors recognizes the  
46 critical need for a Harm Reduction and Prevention Drop-In Center that will effectively and  
47 holistically address the complex range of community needs and achieve the County's harm  
48 reduction goals.

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50 BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that the 2025 Operating budget be amended to demonstrate a  
51 budgetary commitment to the Harm Reduction and Prevention Drop-In Center: Increase  
52 Expenditure account 95000 NEW "Harm Reduction Center Expenditure" and 95000 89105  
53 "Operating Transfer In-Opiate Fund" by \$800,000