

1 **2024 RES-143**

2 **2024 RECOMMENDATION TO HEALTH AND HUMAN NEEDS COMMITTEE — OPIOID**
3 **SETTLEMENT FUNDS — BH**

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

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16 Public Health Madison Dane County (PHMDC) identifies an immediate need for expanding the
17 capacity of harm reduction services, including increased hours of operation for its syringe services
18 program. Public testimony has emphasized the need to provide culturally-specific supportive
19 spaces. The County Board seeks to implement the Opioid Settlement Subcommittee’s
20 recommendations for a Harm Reduction and Prevention Drop-In Center but has limited resources
21 to open a new facility. Therefore, the County Board supports funding to meet immediate harm
22 reduction needs and development of new partnerships to create a centralized Harm Reduction
23 and Prevention Drop-In Center to ensure the County is meeting the needs of those using drugs
24 and most at risk of drug overdose death.

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26 The Center will serve as a hub for community building and healing, safety, and connection by
27 counteracting the isolation and exclusion faced by individuals who have used and are using drugs.
28 The Center will expand the services offered by PHMDC and provide more accessible and
29 welcoming spaces to better adhere to the principles of harm reduction. The Center will incorporate
30 the existing harm reduction services provided by PHMDC (syringe services, distribution of safe
31 smoking supplies, education on and distribution of Narcan, and distribution of test strips for
32 Fentanyl and Xylazine). The Center will also provide new services in alignment with the national
33 harm reduction framework, including drug checking, access to onsite wound care supplies, and
34 enhanced overdose education opportunities through connection to peer services. Some of these
35 services may be provided by PHMDC and other services would be provided by community
36 partners selected through a request for proposals (RFP).

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38 The RFP shall encourage collaborative applications that include strong community partnerships
39 to provide culturally specific services and resources to meet the diverse needs for a safe and
40 inclusive space. The County seeks to partner with service providers and a center operator to
41 serve mothers, babies, older Black men, queer individuals, and others most impacted by the harm
42 caused by the defendants of the opioid settlement. The Center shall also serve as a safe space
43 for the dual-stigmatized houseless substance user. A successful RFP response must
44 demonstrate the respondent’s experience with respecting the autonomy of the people being
45 served, practicing acceptance and hospitality, providing support to individuals on their use and
46 recovery journeys, and providing multiple pathways to reducing harm and pursuing recovery.

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49 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Dane County Board of Supervisors supports
50 the recommendations of the Opioid Settlement Subcommittee for the 2024 funds and thanks the
51 subcommittee for their diligence and sacrifice in developing the recommendations.

52 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that PHMDC will consider further input, if any, from the Opioid
53 Settlement Subcommittee on the request for proposals to be issued for the Harm Reduction and
54 Prevention Drop-In Center funding.

55 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Dane County Board of Supervisors recommends that
56 \$331,200 in Opioid Settlement funding be made available to PHMDC via a memorandum of
57 understanding to increase staffing and related costs for syringe services.

58 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Dane County Board of Supervisors recommends that the
59 remaining Opioid Settlement funding be made available through an RFP process for
60 partnerships with one or more community providers to operate a Harm Reduction and
61 Prevention Drop-In Center to offer services as described in this resolution.

62 BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that the Dane County Board of Supervisors requests that the RFP
63 evaluation team include at least two members of the Opioid Settlement Subcommittee who are
64 not employees of Dane County or Public Health Madison Dane County.