



Opioid Settlement Strategic Planning

Planning Report Findings & Voices of Experience Panel

May 18th, 2023



Settlement Overview



Attorney General

Josh Stein

Summer, 2021

"These companies made billions of dollars while millions of Americans got hooked on opioids. In North Carolina, we've already lost at least 20,000 people to this crisis, and countless families more have been devastated by loss and addiction. That's why I led a bi-partisan coalition of attorneys general from across the country to hold them accountable. We achieved the second largest state attorney general settlement in history – \$26 billion."

- Buncombe County is scheduled to receive \$16,177,778 between 2022-2038
 - Roughly \$1 million per year through 2027
- Purpose: to support programs or services that serve persons with Opioid Use Disorder or any co-occurring Substance Use Disorder or mental health conditions



Strategic Planning Overview

Visioning Process

Community Outreach

Key Indicators

Root Cause Analysis

Strategies & Recommendation Development

Implementation Structure Development

Monitoring & Evaluation Planning



Julian F. Keith Alcohol and Drug Abuse Treatment Center
Vocational Rehabilitation



Key Findings

Strengths

- Community Paramedic PORT Team
- Jail MAT Program
- High number of treatment providers
- County diversion and community re-entry programs
- Syringe Service Program supporting
 - Harm reduction
 - MOUD access
 - Naloxone distribution

Gaps

- Affordable housing
- Mental health care
- Limited public transportation
- Lack of cultural diversity among providers
- Exclusions for care:
 - Sobriety requirements
 - Criminal history
 - MOUD Utilization
- Inefficient coordination across systems

Opportunities for Change

- Public engagement and education
- Support young people
 - Prevention education
 - Mental health and substance use treatment
 - Prosocial connection
- Increase shelter and housing access
- Increase inpatient treatment and MOUD access
- Expand education and career development programs
- Promote community and connection

Challenges

- COVID-19: Increase in social isolation and mental health stressors
- Service provider burnout, turnover, staffing challenges
- High cost of living and growing unhoused population
- Rural locality, geographically isolated communities
- Stigma and marginalization of people who use substances



Opioid Settlement Project: Goals & Strategies Workgroup Recommendations

Bold intervention to address the increasing lethality of drug supplies by **prioritizing life-saving and harm-reducing measures today**

Apply a sense of urgency to **investment in prevention and longer-term planning to address systemic root causes** of substance use

Collaborative Strategic Planning

- Real-time information sharing
- Enhance community outreach in underserved communities
- Collaborative goal setting, objective identification, and prioritization

Evidence-Based Addiction Treatment

- Expand access to MOUD
- Streamline data & information sharing across County MOUD programs

Acute Response Resources

- Funding for **Recovery Support Services** addressing Social Determinants of Health
- Funding & Education for **Naloxone Distribution**

Early Intervention

- Invest in youth voice and leadership
- Education & awareness-raising
- Community-based resources (e.g. youth peer support programs)

Employment-Related Services

- Holistic care models support job readiness in treatment/shelter settings
- Employer collaboration to promote hiring & recovery-friendly workplaces

Recovery Housing

- Support housing providers in meeting best-practice quality benchmarks
- Create opportunities to expand evidence-based housing options



Recommended for Fiscal Year 2024

Collaborative Strategic Planning

- Behavioral Health Manager Position
- Behavioral Health & Justice Analyst Position
- **Medical Substance Use Professional/Epidemiologist Contract**
- **911 Dispatch Diversion Feasibility Study**

Recovery Support Services

- Public Health Substance Use Services Coordinator Position
- Community Paramedicine Peer Supports & Clinician Contract
- Justice Services Community Re-entry Team Contract
- **Funds to Address Social Determinants of Health**
- **Community Paramedicine Positions**

Naloxone Distribution

- Naloxone & Harm Reduction Supplies
- **Inclusive Engagement Specialist Position**
- **Media & Engagement Materials**



Fiscal Year 2024: What's Next?

Crisis Response

- Focus on coordination between existing services
- Increase time-sensitive access to treatment
- Promote data coordination and analysis across service spectrum
- Data-informed gaps analysis of pathways to care
- Funding to reach those outside of existing pathways

Communication & Outreach

Working with community to better understand:

- What is our current service capacity?
- What is the capacity for growth?
- What are pathways into care?
- Who is not served by current pathways?
Why not?



Voices of Experience

A panel to discuss lessons learned and opportunities for responding to the opioid crisis

Moderator: Zakiya Bell-Rogers, Buncombe County Community and Public Engagement

Panelists:

- **Justin Hall** - Peer Coordinator for Buncombe County EMS Community Paramedic Team
- **Erin Bowman** –Director of JFK Alcohol and Drug Addiction Treatment Center; Buncombe County Recovery Housing Consultant
- **Kecia White** – Crisis Intervention Life Coach, provides counseling throughout the community, including in the Buncombe County Detention Facility
- **Samantha Bradley** - North Carolina Peer Support Specialist at Sunrise Community for Recovery and Wellness
- **Sergio Fernandez** - Regional Program Manager for Aspire Youth and Family, a 501 C3 dedicated to helping children between the ages 12-17 years old



NEXT STEPS



The Buncombe County Commissioners and the Opioid Response Team are seeking input about **how to best reach those in the BIPOC community surrounding the Opioid crisis and substance-use disorder.** Make your voice heard here:



View the [Strategic Planning Report](#) in full on the County's Public Input Page

