



Expanded Multi-Agency Strategy to Combat Opioid Crisis

September 26, 2023

COUNTY AGENCIES

COAST

County Opioid Abuse Suppression Taskforce



VENTURA COUNTY
BEHAVIORAL HEALTH

A Department of Ventura County Health Care Agency



COUNTY of VENTURA



VENTURA COUNTY
PUBLIC HEALTH

A Department of Ventura County Health Care Agency



COUNTY of VENTURA
Medical Examiner's Office



COUNTY of VENTURA
Public Defender



VENTURA COUNTY
MEDICAL CENTER



COUNTY of VENTURA
County Executive Office



VENTURA COUNTY
AMBULATORY CARE



OVERVIEW

Background

- Plan Overview
- Expansion of County Efforts through General Fund and Other Funds

Opioid Settlement Funds (OSF)

- Background
- Best Practices

OSF Spending Plan

- Expansion of Efforts Via OSF
- Allowable Uses

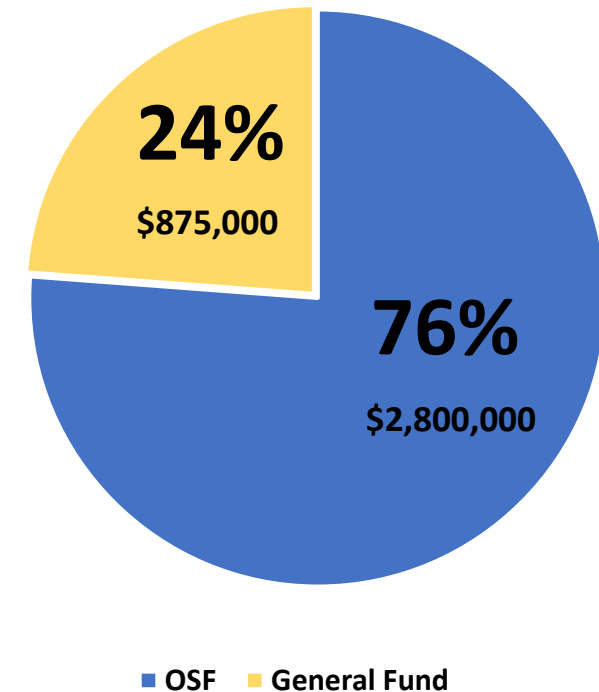
Next Steps

- Ongoing Evaluation
- Evaluate Infrastructure Needs

Plan Overview

| Funding Source | One-Time | Ongoing | TOTAL |
|-------------------------|----------|---------|--------|
| Opioid Settlement Funds | \$827K | \$2M | \$2.8M |
| General Fund | \$159K | \$716K | \$875K |
| TOTAL | | | \$3.7M |

Expansion Plan



Expansion of Efforts Via General Fund

| Agency/Activity | Total |
|--|---------------|
| District Attorney's Office <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Addition of 1 Senior Attorney (new PCN) | \$210K |
| Medical Examiner's Office <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Addition of 1 Fixed-Term Senior Investigator (new PCN) | \$136K |
| Probation Agency <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Drug Testing & Lab Supplies | \$100K |
| Sheriff's Office <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Addition of 2 Forensic Scientists• (1 new fixed-term PCN)• Forensics Lab Equipment• Forensics Lab Technology Support/Management | \$429K |
| TOTAL | \$875K |

OPIOID SETTLEMENT FUNDS

- J&D Settlement (Janssens and Distributors)
 - Janssens payments expected over 9 years
 - Distributors expected over 18 years
- Activities must tie to the ending, reduction or lessening the effects of the opioid epidemic in communities and include prevention, intervention, harm reduction, treatment and recovery services.

Opioid Remediation

“Care, treatment and other programs and expenditures...designed to:

- Address the misuse and abuse of opioid products
- Treat or mitigate opioid use or related disorders, and
- Mitigate other alleged effects of, including on those injured as a result of, the opioid epidemic.

UNALLOWABLE EXPENDITURES

- Salaries and benefits of individuals not performing opioid remediation activities
- Paying for law enforcement activities related to interdiction or criminal processing;
- Paying for non-FDA-approved medications related to the treatment of substance use disorders (SUD) or mental health conditions
- Paying for medications, medical services, or equipment not related to the treatment of SUD or mental health conditions
- Developing infrastructure or investing in equipment not directly related to prevention, treatment, harm reduction or recovery services
- Paying for, investing in, or implementing service activities not included in Exhibit E or other expenses not directly related to opioid remediation activities.

BEST PRACTICES

- Prioritize evidence-based strategies listed in Schedule A “Core Strategies” of Exhibit E
- Ensure at least 50% of abatement funds are spent on High Impact Abatement Activities (HIAA)
- Use funding to supplement current successful efforts, rather than creating new programs and supplanting existing efforts
- Work with local opioid coalitions to maximize impact of the funds
- Align funding streams

Expansion of Efforts Via Opioid Settlement Funds

| Category | Total |
|--|--------|
| Category 1: Substance Use Disorder (SUD) Treatment Continuum Expansion (HIAA #2) | \$1M |
| Category 2: Expanding Overdose Awareness Among Vulnerable Population (HIAA #3) | \$942K |
| Category 3: Early Intervention for Young People (HIAA #5) | \$285K |
| Category 4: Overdose Prevention and Access to Treatment for Justice Involved Individuals (HIAA #4) | \$429K |
| Category 5: Opioid Abatement Strategies Research and Evaluation | \$103K |
| Category 6: Enhanced Opioid Response Planning and Coordination | \$35K |
| TOTAL | \$2.8M |

ALLOWABLE EXPENDITURES

HIGH IMPACT ABATEMENT ACTIVITIES (HIAA)

1. Provision of matching funds or operating costs for substance use disorder (SUD) facilities within the Behavioral Health Continuum Infrastructure Program 2
2. Creating new or expanded SUD treatment infrastructure
3. Addressing the needs of communities of color and vulnerable populations (including sheltered and unsheltered homeless populations) that are disproportionately impacted by SUD
4. Diversion of people with SUD from the justice system into treatment, including providing training and resources to first and early responders (sworn and non-sworn) and implementing best practices for outreach, diversion and deflection, employability, restorative justice, and harm reduction
5. Interventions to prevent drug addiction in vulnerable youth
6. Purchase of naloxone for distribution and efforts to expand access to naloxone for opioid overdose reversals.

ALLOWABLE OPIOID REMEDIATION USES- CORE STRATEGIES (SCHEDULE A)

1. Naloxone or Other FDA-Approved Drug to Reverse Opioid Overdoses
2. Medication Addiction Treatment (MAT) Distribution and Other Opioid-Related Treatment
3. Pregnant and Postpartum Women
4. Expanding Treatment for Neonatal Abstinence Syndrome (NAS)
5. Expansion of Warm Hand-Off Programs and Recovery Services
6. Treatment for Incarcerated Population
7. Prevention Programs
8. Expanding Syringe Service Programs
9. Evidence-Based Data Collection & Research Analyzing Effectiveness of Abatement

Strategies within the State

Substance Use Disorder (SUD) Treatment Continuum Expansion ~\$1M

❖ **VCMC Addiction Medicine/ Ambulatory Care:**

- ❑ Clinical staff for expansion of Addiction Medicine Clinic to a second site in Oxnard - Magnolia clinic
- ❑ New Withdrawal Management services toxicology testing equipment
- ❑ Primary care and specialty provider training

❖ **VCMC Emergency Department:**

- ❑ Two Substance Use Navigators (SUNs) to link individuals leaving the ED to the SUD care

❖ **VC Behavioral Health Substance Use Treatment Services:**

- ❑ SUD Withdrawal Management funding gap – Tarzana Treatment
- ❑ Startup funds for local men's SUD DMC-ODS residential program expansion – Khepera House
- ❑ One SUD counselor in Care Coordination to connect unsheltered individuals to SUD treatment
- ❑ Learning events, training, and technical assistance to expand medication for opioid use disorders (MOUD) prescribing in Ventura County, primarily buprenorphine (Suboxone)

Expanding Overdose Awareness Among Vulnerable Population~\$942K

❖ **VC Public Health:**

- ❑ One Public Health Program Coordinator main point-of-contact on opioid crisis efforts
- ❑ One Training/Education Assistant for opioid outreach and education

❖ **VC Behavioral Health Overdose Prevention Services:**

- ❑ Two Community Services Workers for countywide community events, presentations to key audiences, connecting people to SUD treatment, and reaching the underserved and at-risk communities
- ❑ One bilingual Harm Reduction Trainer for OD Prevention Fillmore/Santa Paula
- ❑ Overdose Prevention Video and training (English/Spanish)
- ❑ Fentanyl Test Strip Project with Public Health and Ambulatory Care
- ❑ Increased community messaging: radio, streaming and broader range media, location-based media

❖ **VC Office of the Medical Examiner:**

- ❑ Expanded toxicology testing capacity

Overdose Prevention and Access to Treatment for Justice Involved~\$429K

❖ VC Sheriff's Office:

- ❑ Expand Jail Medication for Addiction Treatment (MAT) - Sublocade program
- ❑ Risk and harm reduction messaging in waiting areas and custody staff training
- ❑ Sequential intercept mapping process training

❖ VC Public Defender:

- ❑ One Community Services Coordinator to secure SUD treatment programs for clients leaving custody
- ❑ Sober Living Fund for after incarceration placements into sober living houses that would otherwise prevent indigent clients from entering

❖ VC Probation Agency:

- ❑ MAT Program education to clients and staff members with a collaborative team to address MAT related treatment both in and out of custody
- ❑ Public Safety-First Aid Training for sworn staff which includes Naloxone training, permitting them to carry and administer Naloxone for emergent situations

Early Intervention for Young People ~\$285K

❖ VC Behavioral Health Early Intervention Prevention Services in coordination with county schools:

- ❑ Youth promoted learning management system content development, curriculum infusion, digital learning platform
- ❑ One Adolescent SUS Prevention Education staff to spearhead opioid and other substances youth educational campaigns

Opioid Abatement Strategies Research and Evaluation~\$103K

❖ VC Behavioral Health Prevention in coordination with COAST and Public Health:

- ❑ Enhance local capacity for data collection and evaluation of OSF programs and strategies, making data available to the public in annual reports and on public-facing data dashboards
- ❑ Results Based Accountability (RBA) evaluation- establish and measure ongoing reach, quality, outcomes with EvalCorp.

Enhanced Opioid Response Planning and Coordination ~\$35K

❖ VC Behavioral Health Prevention Services in coordination with COAST partners:

- ❑ COAST Training Activities and Events, including meetings and conferences for the Opioid & Illicit Drug Workgroup and County Opioid Abuse Suppression Taskforce (COAST) to improve lives and decrease fatal overdose.
- ❑ Series of informational community events, town hall meetings and forums to promote a shared awareness of the opioid crisis across the county, including fall ***Facing Down Fentanyl*** Town Hall

Next Steps

- ❖ Establish the administrative infrastructure for reporting and tracking expenditures
- ❖ Leverage Results Based Accountability (RBA) evaluation to monitor and evaluate data and programs
- ❖ Evaluate existing and future funding streams (i.e., BHCIP) to support eligible infrastructure projects relating to SUD
- ❖ Continue evaluating existing programs and opportunities to augment evidence-based strategies



THANK YOU!
