

County of Bucks

STRATEGIES FOR UTILIZATION OPIOID SETTLEMENT FUNDS

**Presented to:
Robert J. Harvie, Jr.
Board Chair, Bucks County Board of Commissioners**

**Presented by:
Bucks County Opioid Advisory Committee**

**Date:
September 9, 2022**

**Updated:
October 7, 2022**

Guiding Principles for Use of the Opioid Settlement Funds

1. Apply the Opioid Settlement Funds to address detrimental effects of the opioid/overdose crisis currently experienced in Bucks County and to help protect the community from such negative effects in the future.
2. Provide services related to Opioid Use Disorders (OUD) and co-occurring substance use disorder (SUD) and Mental Health (MH) conditions to all communities and residents in Bucks County with respect, dignity and equity while supporting culturally appropriate services and programs.
3. Whenever possible, use existing resources in order that Opioid Settlement funds can be directed to addressing gaps in services and maintaining and enhancing established programs and activities.
4. Support additional services which compliment and/or enhance existing programs while avoiding unnecessary duplication of effort.
5. Provide sustainability for proven and effective services for expiring grant programs.
6. Collaborate with community organizations to develop, implement, and sustain services to the community.
7. Convene and utilize a *Bucks Opioid Settlement Advisory Committee* as an advisory body for input and feedback regarding projects supported through Opioid Settlement Funds.

The following plan has been developed to identify best practices for the delivery of OUD and co-occurring SUD/MH prevention, intervention, treatment, and recovery support services to the people of Bucks County.

While this plan is comprehensive, it is by no means all-inclusive of all potential approaches. It is expected that this fluid document will be updated regularly to identify and incorporate other proven effective strategies that comply with the approved remedial uses outlined in the opioid settlement.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Bucks County Opioid Advisory Committee (OAC) was appointed by the Chair of the Bucks County Commissioners, Robert J. Harvie, Jr. Members are as follows:

- Diane W. Rosati, Chair
- Alana Hardison
- Micki Kaisinger
- Chief William McVey
- Rachael K. Neff
- Susan Ousterman
- Ryan Schweiger
- Timothy Wynn

The OAC met from the period of May-September, 2022, to develop the proposed Plan. Meetings were held virtually, and Minutes of each meeting were recorded. A priority for the OAC was to obtain community member and stakeholder participation. Two community Forums were conducted, in order to receive input into the proposed Plan. One Forum was a hybrid of virtual and in person, held during the day, and one Forum was held virtually, in the evening, to allow for optimal participation. In addition, an email account, OAC@buckscounty.org, was established, to elicit further response from stakeholders. OAC members had opportunity to share their own perspectives which was invaluable. Principles that were adhered to during the process:

- Follow Opioid Settlement Document Exhibit E, List of Opioid Remediation Uses;
- Ensure balanced continuum of Prevention, Treatment, Recovery Support and Other Categories within Exhibit E;
- Pledge that all OAC members and their values, experiences and input will be valued; and
- Communicate with County Leadership on the progress of the OAC

The Plan contains the following recommendations to fall within the timeline of the first two payments to Bucks County, from the Opioid Settlement. The Committee would like to highlight that out of the proposed 23 initiatives that 12 are new initiatives that we would like to introduce to Bucks County and 11 are existing initiatives that we would like to expand. As the plan was crafted, there was recognition that Bucks County should both dedicate resources to services that have proven to be effective and that we should think expansively as to how we can further support our community with added services.

1. 24/7 Stabilization Unit for Residents with Drug/Alcohol and Co-Occurring Issues. Includes evening/off hours peer support and relapse prevention drop in and assessment services.
2. Transportation to and from Drug and Alcohol Services
3. Grief Support Groups
4. Recovery Housing
5. Peer Support
6. Warm Handoff for Overdose Survivors
7. Outreach and Mobile Engagement Services
8. Jail Medication Assisted Treatment
9. Co-Responder Program
10. Drug Court Probation Officer
11. Nurse Family Partnership
12. Grand Family Resources
13. Women and Children's Housing Support Services
14. Mobile Prevention Unit
15. Narcan Purchase and Distribution
16. Evidence Based Skill Building Prevention Programs
17. Community Based Mini Grants
18. Media Campaigns
19. Alternative Activities
20. Website with Family Focused Resources
21. Fentanyl Test Strips, Materials and Distribution
22. Project Evaluation, Reporting, Administration

Stakeholders, Collaborations and Contractual Arrangements

The OAC recognizes the magnitude of this Plan and potential impact. It is anticipated that projects and initiatives will be carried out via multiple approaches and parties. Numerous stakeholders will be mobilized, and collaboration will be a guiding principle. Leadership of the entire Project will be under the purview of the Division of Human Services. Potential contractual relationships will be formed and/or expanded with various entities. These alliances and entities can include, but are not limited to:

- Bucks County Departments
- Bucks County Behavioral Health Managed Care Organization
- Hospital Systems
- Law Enforcement
- Licensed Recovery Houses and Other Housing
- Media Outlets
- Medical Services
- Not-For-Profit Community Based Providers
- Prevention, Intervention, Treatment and Recovery Support Providers
- Project Evaluator
- Transportation

The following proposed Plan is in response to Exhibit E, List of Opioid Remediation Uses, Schedule B, Approved Uses:

PART ONE: TREATMENT

A. TREAT OPIOID USE DISORDER (OUD)

New Service: Establish 24/7 Stabilization Unit for Residents with Drug/Alcohol and Co-Occurring Issues.

The Stabilization Unit is intended to provide an immediate location where individuals can go when experiencing a behavioral health crisis so that the proper services and supports can be offered. Part of the goal in establishing a Stabilization Unit in Bucks County is to decrease barriers in accessing immediate treatment. Includes evening/off hours peer support and relapse prevention drop in and assessment services. Facility to be located on the grounds of Doylestown Hospital, and managed by Lenape Valley Foundation along with various providers.

Region Covered: County of Bucks

Number of Individuals Served: 4,000

Est Proposed Cost: \$900,000

Timeline: Begin construction 2023

Expanded Service: Extend residential length of stay in treatment

Establish a pool of funding to ensure that residents have access to the most appropriate length of residential treatment, offering up to 10 days additional treatment, project to be funded on per diem basis.

Region Covered: County of Bucks

Number of Individuals Served: 100

Est Proposed Cost: \$300,000

Timeline: Begin December 2022

B. SUPPORT PEOPLE IN TREATMENT AND RECOVERY

New Service: Establish Transportation to and from Drug/Alcohol Services.

Ride agents will be identified in each treatment/recovery support organization, and Danny's Ride will ensure payment to rideshare groups such as LYFT and Uber. Number of sessions/rides to be determined, and transportation will be provided for all levels of drug/alcohol treatment.

Region Covered: County of Bucks

Number of Individuals Served: 300

Est Proposed Cost: \$75,000

Timeline: Launch January 2023

New Service: Establish Grief Support Groups

Contract with outside consultant and develop Request For Proposals for a provider to offer supportive services for Bucks residents who have lost a loved one to opioid use. Service will begin as adult focused and will expand to children's support as well.

Region Covered: County of Bucks

Number of Individuals Served: 300

Est Proposed Cost: \$100,000

Timeline: Launch January 2023

Expanded Service: Expand Recovery Housing

Ensure that residents with financial barriers have access to licensed, safe, supportive recovery housing. Will provide per diem funding in recovery houses as well as lease arrangements, as well as an incentive for house owners who have applied for licensure and would be admitted to BC-ROC and BCDAC, Inc. network.

Region Covered: County of Bucks

Number of Individuals Served: 50

Est Proposed Cost: \$60,000

Timeline: Launch December 2022

C. CONNECT PEOPLE WHO NEED HELP TO THE HELP THEY NEED (CONNECTIONS TO CARE)

Expanded Service: Peer Support and Case Management

Recognizing that people with lived experience have significant impact, this project will expand Certified Peer Support and Case Management services offered to residents with substance use disorders.

Region Covered: County of Bucks

Number of Individuals Served: 500

Est Proposed Cost: \$200,000

Timeline: Launch January 2023

Expanded Service: Warm Handoff for Individuals Surviving Overdose

Ensure that each Bucks County Hospital has coverage to meet with residents with substance use disorders, including those who have survived and opioid overdose. The goal is to provide immediate access to treatment services.

Region Covered: County of Bucks

Number of Individuals Served: 40

Est Proposed Cost: \$150,000

Timeline: Launch January 2023

Expanded Service: Outreach and Mobile Engagement Services (MES)

Contract with MES provider to expand to another full-time MES worker to engage residents in services.

Region Covered: County of Bucks

Number of Individuals Served: 60

Est Proposed Cost: \$100,000

Timeline: Launch December 2022

D. ADDRESS THE NEEDS OF CRIMINAL JUSTICE-INVOLVED PERSONS

Expanded Service: Jail Medication Assisted Treatment (MAT and Ensure Continuation for Incoming Inmates on MAT

Provide payment for Medication Assisted Treatment for inmates with opiate use disorders, at the Department of Corrections.

Region Covered: County of Bucks

Number of Individuals Served: 250

Est Proposed Cost: \$150,000

Timeline: Launch January 2023

Expanded Service: Co-Responder Program

Establish team of Co-Responders to partner with police department to meet social service needs of residents who engage with law enforcement. This project currently exists in several Lower Bucks communities and would expand to an Upper Bucks community.

Region Covered: Upper Bucks County

Number of Individuals Served: 250

Est Proposed Cost: \$200,000

Timeline: January 2023

Continued Service: Drug Court Adult Probation Officer

Provide funding for one full-time Probation Officer assigned to Drug Court, a position currently funded by BCDAC, Inc., which would allow BCDAC, Inc. to expand their project management in lieu of Drug Court funding.

Region Covered: County of Bucks

Number of Individuals Served: 50

Est Proposed Cost: \$200,000

Timeline: January 2023

E. ADDRESS THE NEEDS OF PREGNANT OR PARENTING WOMEN AND THEIR FAMILIES, INCLUDING BABIES WITH NEONATAL ABSTINENCE SYNDROME

New Service: Nurse Family Partnership

Provide evidence-based community health program with goals of improving pregnancy outcomes, improving child health and development and improving economic self-sufficiency.

Region Covered: County of Bucks

Number of Individuals Served: 50

Est Proposed Cost: \$175,000

Timeline: Launch April 2023

New Service: Support of Grand Family Resources

Provide funding to grand family services for residents who have lost an adult child to opiate use disorder. Support groups, resources, mini grants for families and community related events will be offered.

Region Covered: County of Bucks

Number of Individuals Served: 200

Est Proposed Cost: \$50,000

Timeline: Launch November 2022

New Service: Women and Children’s Housing Services

Establish one identified cottage for women with substance use disorders, to received housing and case management support, along with their children.

Region Covered: County of Bucks

Number of Individuals Served: 20

Est Proposed Cost: \$200,000

Timeline: Launch April 2023

PART TWO: PREVENTION

F. PREVENT OVER PRESCRIBING AND ENSURE APPROPRIATE PRESCRIBING AND DISPENSING OF OPIOIDS

New Service: Mobile Prevention Unit for Countywide D/A and MH Education

Engage with a company to build a mobile mock teen bedroom and stock the room with items of concern, including drug/alcohol, mental health, human trafficking, suicide related items that can be disguised or hidden. This Mobile Unit can be used throughout the County and co-lead a county managed department and a prevention specialist, to educate parents, grandparents, educators, medical staff, clergy, social workers.

Region Covered: County of Bucks

Number of Individuals Served: 2,000 per year

Est Proposed Cost: \$50,000

Timeline: Begin Project Construction/Development December 2022

G. PREVENT MISUSE OF OPIOIDS

Expanded Service: Narcan Purchase and Distribution

Purchase and disseminate Narcan, the rescue medication for Opioid overdose, to residents.

Region Covered: County of Bucks

Number of Individuals Served: 2,500

Est Proposed Cost: \$125,000

Timeline: Launch December 2022

Expanded Service: Evidence Based Skill Building Prevention Programs for Children

Offer various skill building prevention programs, including Life Skills, Too Good For Drugs/Violence, Strengthening Families, etc. to youth.

Region Covered: County of Bucks

Number of Individual Served: 300

Est Proposed Cost: \$125,000

Timeline: July 2023

New Service: Community Based Mini Grants

In an effort to ensure that non traditional agencies have opportunity to make an impact on the community and opioid related issues, conduct a Request for Proposals to offer services such as advocacy, prevention, faith based support, support for people in recovery, community services.

Region Covered: County of Bucks

Number of Individuals Served: 5,000

Est Proposed Cost: \$350,000

Timeline: January 2023

Expanded Service: Media Campaigns

Ensure residents are aware of available resources, are educated on drug trends (such as Fentanyl), medication/syringe returns, diversionary programs, treatment availability

Region Covered: County of Bucks

Number of Individual Served: 300,000

Est Proposed Cost: \$150,000

Timeline: December 2022

New Service: Alternative Activities Including Summer Camp with SUD Focus

Provide non traditional support to youth with families where substance use is prevalent, including but not limited to summer camps, adventure experiences, recreational activities, all with substance use and supportive theme.

Region Covered: County of Bucks

Number of People Served: 75

Est Proposed Cost: \$50,000

Timeline: June 2023

Expanded Service: Website with Family Resources

Edit current BCDAC, Inc. website to include improved and updated Family Resources.

Region Covered: County of Bucks

Number of People Served: 300,000

Est Proposed Cost: \$2,500

Timeline: January 2023

H. PREVENT OVERDOSE DEATHS AND OTHER DEATHS (HARM REDUCTION)

New Service: Fentanyl Test Strip Distribution and Materials

Purchase Fentanyl Test Strips and disseminate among the community, to reduce opioid death.

Region Covered: County of Bucks

Number of Individuals Served: 2,500

Est Proposed Cost: \$30,000

Timeline: Upon Legalization

PART THREE: OTHER STRATEGIES

J. LEADERSHIP, PLANNING AND COORDINATION

New Service: Project Evaluation, Fiscal Management, Data Dashboard, Reporting, Administrative Costs

Includes a full-time Fiscal Analyst and Project Manager, as well as university level Project Evaluator, and Reporting functions for the Opioid Settlement. Provide administrative fee to BCDAC, Inc. for any projects managed by that department.

Region Covered: County of Bucks

Number of Individuals Served:

Est Proposed Cost: \$400,000

Timeline: Varied – agree on varied timelines; Est Start November 2022
