



SUBJECT: A RESOLUTION OF THE MATANUSKA-SUSITNA BOROUGH ASSEMBLY AMENDING THE ALLOCATION PERCENTAGE BREAKDOWN OF OPIOID REMEDIATION FUNDS.

AGENDA OF: October 7, 2025

Assembly Action: Adopted without objection 10/07/25 - BJH

AGENDA ACTION REQUESTED: Present to the Assembly for consideration.

Route To	Signatures
Originator	 Recoverable Signature X Kirstie Starr-Watson Signed by: Kirstie Starr-Watson
Department/Finance Director	 Recoverable Signature X Cheyenne Heindel Signed by: Cheyenne Heindel
Borough Attorney	9 / 2 5 / 2 0 2 5 X Nicholas Spiropoulos Signed by: Nicholas Spiropoulos
Borough Manager	9 / 2 5 / 2 0 2 5 X Michael Brown Signed by: Mike Brown
Borough Clerk	9 / 2 5 / 2 0 2 5 X Brenda J. Henry for Signed by: Brenda Henry

ATTACHMENT (S): Information Memorandum Serial No. 23-146 (13 pp)
Resolution Serial No. 23-073 (5 pp)
Resolution Serial No. 25-101 (2 pp)

SUMMARY STATEMENT:

On July 18, 2023, the Assembly adopted Resolution Serial No. 23-073 and its accompanying Informational Memorandum No. 23-146, authorizing the preliminary distribution method and allocation breakdown of opioid remediation settlement funds based on recommendations by the Opioid Remediation Needs Assessment Committee. The Assembly allocated 20 percent of the funds distributed to qualifying grant recipients to be used for media information and outreach purposes during the first five years. 20 percent of current opioid settlement funds represents approximately \$160,000, which is more than deemed necessary for this task.

As 2025 is the fifth year, Administration requests the Assembly amend the allocations to reduce media information and outreach to

5 percent (approximately \$40,000) and reallocate the remaining 15 percent to the four remediation priorities identified by the committee as indicated in Resolution Serial No. 25-227.

RECOMMENDATION OF ADMINISTRATION: Respectfully request approval.

MATANUSKA-SUSITNA BOROUGH INFORMATION MEMORANDUM IM No.23-146

SUBJECT: A RESOLUTION OF THE MATANUSKA-SUSITNA BOROUGH ASSEMBLY APPROVING THE PERCENTAGE ALLOCATIONS BREAKDOWN AND PRELIMINARY DISTRIBUTION METHOD OF OPIOID REMEDIATION FUNDS IN THE BOROUGH.

AGENDA OF: July 18, 2023

Assembly Action:

Approved under the consent agenda 07/18/23 - BJH

AGENDA ACTION REQUESTED: Present to the Assembly for consideration.

Route To Department/Director	Signature	Comments
Originator	<div>7/5/2023</div> <div>X Tiffany Richards</div> <div>Tiffany Richards Originator Signed By: Tiffany Richards</div>	
Department Director	<div>Recoverable Signature</div> <div>X Michael Brown</div> <div>Michael Brown Borough Manager Signed By: Michael Brown</div>	
Finance Director	<div>Recoverable Signature</div> <div>X Cheyenne Heindel</div> <div>Cheyenne Heindel Finance Director Signed By: Cheyenne Heindel</div>	
Borough Attorney	<div>7/5/2023</div> <div>X Nicholas Spiropoulos</div> <div>Nicholas Spiropoulos Borough Attorney Signed By: Nicholas Spiropoulos</div>	
Borough Manager	<div>Recoverable Signature</div> <div>X Michael Brown</div> <div>Michael Brown Borough Manager Signed By: Michael Brown</div>	
Borough Clerk	<div>Recoverable Signature</div> <div>X Lonnie McKechnie</div> <div>Lonnie McKechnie Borough Clerk Signed By: Lonnie McKechnie</div>	

ATTACHMENT (S) : Fiscal Note: YES X NO
 Resolution Serial No. 23-073 (5pp)
 Opioid Remediation Needs Assessment Committee
 Report to the Assembly (4pp)
 Community Survey Results (6pp)

SUMMARY STATEMENT: The Borough established an Opioid Remediation Needs Assessment Committee to assess the prioritization of opioid remediation needs within the Borough. The committee was tasked with identifying the prioritization order of remediation needs in order to distribute the settlement funds that the Borough will receive as part of a nationwide effort to address the repercussions of the opioid epidemic. The committee's opioid remediation report and recommendations to the Assembly are attached to this legislation.

RECOMMENDATION OF ADMINISTRATION: Respectfully request approval.

MATANUSKA-SUSITNA BOROUGH

FISCAL NOTE

Agenda Date: July 18, 2023

SUBJECT: A RESOLUTION OF THE MATANUSKA-SUSITNA BOROUGH ASSEMBLY APPROVING THE PERCENTAGE ALLOCATIONS BREAKDOWN AND PRELIMINARY DISTRIBUTION METHOD OF OPIOID REMEDIATION FUNDS IN THE BOROUGH.

FISCAL ACTION (TO BE COMPLETED BY FINANCE)	FISCAL IMPACT YES NO
AMOUNT REQUESTED *	FUNDING SOURCE Opioid Settlement Funds
FROM ACCOUNT # 205.000.000 4XX.XXX	PROJECT
TO ACCOUNT :	PROJECT #
VERIFIED BY: 7 / 5 / 2 0 2 3 <div style="border-bottom: 1px solid black; display: inline-block; width: 400px; margin-top: 5px;"> X L i e s e l W e i l a n d </div> <div style="font-size: small; margin-top: 2px;">Signed by: L i e s e l W e i l a n d</div>	CERTIFIED BY:
DATE: 7/5/2023	DATE:

EXPENDITURES/REVENUES:

(Thousands of Dollars)

OPERATING	FY2023	FY2024	FY2025	FY2026	FY2027	FY2028
Personnel Services						
Travel						
Contractual						
Supplies						
Equipment						
Land/Structures						
Grants, Claims						
Miscellaneous						
TOTAL OPERATING						

CAPITAL						
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REVENUE						
---------	--	--	--	--	--	--

FUNDING:

(Thousands of Dollars)

General Fund						
State/Federal Funds						
Other		*				
TOTAL		*				

POSITIONS:

Full-Time						
Part-Time						
Temporary						

ANALYSIS: (Attach a separate page if necessary) *Amounts depend on actual settlement funds received and how they will be distributed.

PREPARED BY: _____ PHONE: _____

DEPARTMENT: _____ DATE: _____

IM No. 23-____
 Ordinance Serial No. 23-____
 Resolution Serial No. **IM 25-227**



Recoverable Signature

APPROVED BY:

X

C h e y e n n e H e i n d e l

DATE:

S i g n e d b y : C h e y e n n e H e i n d e l

IM No. 23-____
Ordinance Serial No. 23-____
Resolution Serial No. **IM-25-227**

Report to the Assembly on Community Needs Assessment for Spending Opioid Settlement Funds in the Mat-Su Borough

July 18, 2023

Mat-Su Opioid Remediation Needs Assessment Committee Voting Members

<u>RECOVERY</u> James Savage, james@tnrak.org Director Dylan's Place/Day 1 Center True North Recovery Recovery/Detox Treatment/Withdrawal Mgmt., Wasilla	<u>HARM-REDUCTION</u> Dawn Deaver, dawn.deaver@alaska.gov Project Gabe and Project Hope Registered Nurse – Mat-Su Public Health Center, State of Alaska
<u>PRIMARY PREVENTION</u> Leslie Chisholm, LCSW leslie.chisholm@matsuk12.us Mental and Behavioral Health Supervisor Office of Instruction, MSB School District	<u>TREATMENT</u> Karl Soderstrom, karl@tnrak.org CEO True North Recovery Co-Founder Fiend 2 Clean LLC
<u>ALL AREAS OF REMEDIATION</u> Michael Carson, carsons@mtaonline.net President Mat-Su Opioid Task Force VP My House – Mat-Su Homeless Youth Center VP True North Recovery	
Borough Staff Support for Committee Non-Voting Members	
<u>Committee Facilitator</u> George Hays - Deputy Borough Manager	<u>Administrative Support for Committee</u> Tiffany Richards - Executive Coordinator Office of the Mayor

Lawsuit and Settlement Funds: The opioid epidemic has had a profound impact on numerous lives in the Mat-Su Borough (Borough), in Alaska, and across the nation. In the Borough, there were an average of 14 opioid overdose deaths per year from 2016 to 2020. In Alaska, in 2021 alone, there were 160 opioid overdose deaths, while the national figure stood at 106,699 for the same year. Recognizing the devastating consequences of this crisis, many states took legal action against distributors, manufacturers, and pharmacies involved in the distribution of prescription opioids. As a result, settlements were reached in the majority of these lawsuits, leading to the allocation of approximately \$26 billion in settlement funds nationwide to address the repercussions of the opioid epidemic. These funds are specifically earmarked for opioid remediation efforts. As part of this settlement, the Borough is set to receive payments totaling

around \$2.3 million over a span of 18 years from the litigants involved. The Governor’s Advisory Council on Opioid Remediation highly recommended that the Borough create a formal Needs Assessment to determine the prioritization of what to spend the settlement funds on. Additionally, this Needs Assessment may be used by local organizations to apply for State settlement funding.

Community Engagement in the Borough’s Needs Assessment Identification Process: Opioid remediation entails engaging the community in addressing the various aspects of the opioid epidemic, including Treatment, Primary Prevention, Harm-Reduction, and Recovery. To ensure the most effective allocation of resources, the Borough established a transparent public process to assess the most pressing opioid remediation needs within the community. The Borough Manager formed an ad-hoc committee comprising representatives from each of the four remediation areas, along with an additional member involved in all four areas. These dedicated Borough volunteers invested significant time in conducting public meetings at locations in Willow, Wasilla, and Palmer, engaging with residents to determine their perceptions of the most critical opioid remediation needs in the Borough.

During the two months that the committee was meeting, a separate online survey was created and extensively advertised to gain even more insight into the community’s priority of needs assessment. With the public meetings completed and 257 responses received to the public survey, the Needs Assessment Committee met to determine their final recommendations to the Borough Assembly.

Committee Recommendations to the Assembly: After careful deliberation and consideration of various factors, the committee proposes the following prioritization of the distribution of funds:

1. Treatment: 30%
2. Prevention: 30%
3. Recovery: 10%
4. Harm-Reduction: 10%
5. Media – covering all four areas of opioid remediation: 20% (for the first 5 years only)

The committee recognizes the importance of addressing the opioid crisis through a multi-faceted approach, focusing on treatment, prevention, recovery, harm-reduction, and public awareness. The proposed allocation of funds reflects a commitment to all aspects of opioid remediation.

Treatment is a vital component of addressing the opioid crisis. By dedicating 30% of the funds to treatment, we can support the education and training of counselors and peer support providers.

Funds can be allocated towards promoting healthy living options, developing strong social structures, and providing information about local and state rehabilitation opportunities to aid in the support necessary to live a life free of opioid addiction.

Prevention efforts are crucial in reducing opioid addiction. Allocating 30% of the funds towards prevention programs will enable the implementation of educational campaigns, community outreach initiatives, and early intervention strategies to prevent opioid misuse and addiction.

Recovery programs play a significant role in helping individuals rebuild their lives after overcoming opioid addiction. The committee recommends allocating 10% of the funds towards recovery initiatives, including peer support programs and vocational training, to aid in the successful reintegration of individuals into society.

Harm-reduction strategies are critical for minimizing the negative consequences of opioid use. Allocating 10% of the funds to harm-reduction efforts will support educating the community about other harm-reduction initiatives that save lives and reduce the spread of infectious diseases.

The committee recognizes the importance of media in raising awareness and disseminating crucial information about opioid remediation efforts. We propose allocating 20% of the funds towards media campaigns during the first five years. This investment will enable the creation of Public Service Announcement content that can be continuously used to educate the public and reduce the stigma associated with addiction.

To ensure the relevance and effectiveness of the media content, the committee requests the opportunity to provide input and collaborate on the creation of intentionally relevant media materials. Our expertise and insights will help tailor the content to the specific needs and challenges faced by our community.

Furthermore, the committee suggests developing a phone app that consolidates all available resources related to opioid remediation, similar to Connect Mat-Su or Addiction.org. This app will serve as a comprehensive resource hub, providing information on treatment facilities, support groups, helplines, and other relevant services. Additionally, investing funds in optimizing local opioid remediation resources on search engines like Google will improve their visibility and accessibility to those seeking help.

Considering potential collaborations, the committee recommends exploring the possibility of partnering with the Mat-Su Health Foundation to seek financial support for media projects. Their involvement could significantly enhance the impact and reach of our media campaigns.

In order to facilitate the application process and ensure transparency, the committee proposes making grant applications available to qualifying organizations and non-profits on the Mat-Su Borough website, once they are ready for distribution. To streamline the selection process, the committee recommends approving a maximum of 10 applications for each category. However, in cases where all applications meet the required criteria, further deliberation will be necessary to determine the most deserving recipients.

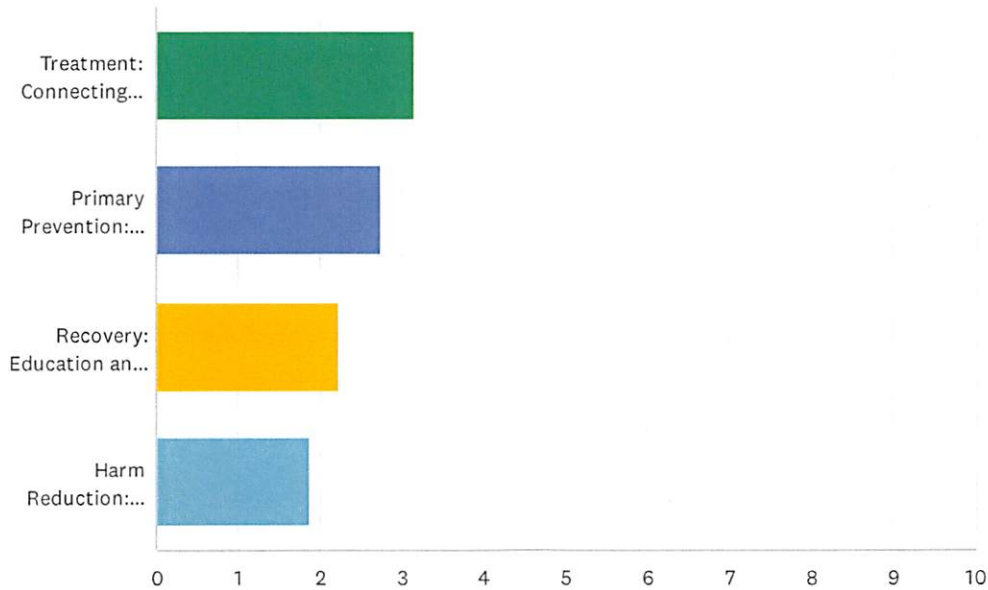
To ensure accountability and progress monitoring, the committee suggests establishing these funds as an annual Opioid Remediation Funds grant. Applicants will have the opportunity to apply for funding each year, provided they submit a required progress report at the end of the previous year. This approach will encourage ongoing evaluation of funded projects and allow for adjustments and improvements as needed.

In conclusion, the proposed allocation of funds as outlined above reflects a comprehensive and balanced approach to addressing the opioid crisis in our community. The committee's recommendations take into account the importance of treatment, prevention, recovery, harm-reduction, and media campaigns to effectively combat opioid addiction. We urge the Matanuska-Susitna Borough Assembly to approve these recommendations and move forward with the implementation of the Opioid Remediation Funds grants.

Thank you for your attention and consideration. Should you have any questions or require further information, please do not hesitate to contact the committee.

Q1 Please use the arrows to rank order the four areas below with 1 being the greatest need and 4 being the lowest need. Your decision should revolve around what area you believe should receive the greatest amount of money, the next greatest and so on. You may only fill this survey out once.

Answered: 257 Skipped: 0



	1	2	3	4	TOTAL	SCORE
Treatment: Connecting people who need help to providing organizations. Address the needs of specific populations, such as: homeless, criminal justice involved persons, pregnant or parenting women, and families of addicted residents.	45.53% 117	28.79% 74	21.01% 54	4.67% 12	257	3.15
Primary Prevention: Training through programs in schools, expanded training of first responders and training of community support groups on prevention. Education and training on the prevention of over prescribing and misuse of opioid programs.	38.91% 100	17.12% 44	22.96% 59	21.01% 54	257	2.74
Recovery: Education and training support for recovery treatment and recovery support services which integrates with support services.	8.95% 23	32.68% 84	30.74% 79	27.63% 71	257	2.23
Harm Reduction: Education on the availability of naloxone and other related drugs for emergency treatment of an opioid overdose or possible overdose. Training for properly administering Naloxone injections.	6.61% 17	21.40% 55	25.29% 65	46.69% 120	257	1.88

Mat-Su Opioid Remediation Needs Assessment

Q2 Please share any comments you have below (responses limited to 500 characters):

Answered: 92 Skipped: 165

#	RESPONSES	DATE
1	People that suffer from addiction usually have a dual diagnosis. Currently AK has very limited agencies for this and the agency we do have are not sufficient for helping (full circle) people with drug and alcohol addictions. API and North Star are some agencies that are not sufficient, overprescribing and collecting Medicaid do not serve individuals or the community in which they live in with addiction issues. In layman's words you must go out of state to get any real long-lasting help and most people with these circumstances simply do not have the resources for out of state help.	6/1/2023 2:08 PM
2	2 million divided by 16 = 125,000.00 that is one person's salary. Throwing a little bit of money at an epidemic will make little to no difference. This looks more like a band aid on a gushing wound. And a political distraction. The administration we are helping "We have just pumped 2.3 million dollars (of tax payers money) to help fight the opioid epidemic crisis.	6/1/2023 1:56 PM
3	The critical matter is addressing the roots of the addiction. Life traumas and emotional stress will always win out over education. Pursue healing first. Should we educate, educate on youth on healthy coping strategies and methods to process trauma.	5/31/2023 7:42 PM
4	It really doesn't make much sense to put funding into Primary Prevention. Trying to "scare straight" children in school is the least effective preventative measure. People get addicted to drugs because of life circumstances, not lack of education. They are well aware of what they're getting into when they start. Drug addiction will always be a part of our society and we should allocate this funding towards people who are already addicted.	5/31/2023 1:00 PM
5	We need a homeless shelter and food program for our community. Recovery starts when you start taking care of your inside and basic needs. Society the demographic as useless and lazy but they just have unresolved trauma and it all has to start with basic human needs.	5/31/2023 9:44 AM
6	I think all of these are much needed resources for this population. However, we also need experienced personal to help implement this information. So we need trained professionals that can help with this population. We have very limited detox facilities in the state of Alaska and limited treatment centers.	5/31/2023 8:52 AM
7	Too late for prevention! People are dying. Non-profit treatment entities, including My House & Covenant House, must show financials to the public. Hire college-educated, trained counselors, & therapists, not lived experienced or peer staff. The relapse/overdose of these sober workers puts those in treatment at significant risk of failure.	5/30/2023 7:52 PM
8	There are very limited youth providers in MatSu.	5/30/2023 3:25 PM
9	Trauma is the real issue. Social service programs addressing people's basic needs are most important.	5/30/2023 3:22 PM
10	Having more detox and inpatient long term beds available. Having more resources (recovery support) available for families (spouses/children/parents) in order to support the family of the loved one struggling with their disorder. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yC7UR0NZPek	5/30/2023 3:06 PM
11	Treatment and Primary Preventions should be the top priorities.	5/30/2023 2:00 PM
12	Please consider donating to programs in place to provide more services. Thank you	5/30/2023 1:22 PM
13	I think prevention is important but it must be an approach that is shown to work such as the Icelandic Youth Prevention Model. I also think it is crucial to educate prescribers on how to prevent misuse.	5/30/2023 1:01 PM
14	Teen treatment! Please convey to the State holding those large amounts of \$\$ that the level of teen treatment in this State is a source of shy and unacceptable.	5/26/2023 2:04 PM

Mat-Su Opioid Remediation Needs Assessment

15	I would hope that the dispersment of money to each of these areas would be looked at yearly to consider effectiveness ex: x amount of money went to primary prevention in 2024. Was that money effective in saving lives. Should prevention get more or less the next year?	5/26/2023 7:41 AM
16	We need to look at effective treatment options and look outside the box. We have an epidemic, we should fight fire with fire. Read "How to change your mind" by Michael Pollen. Studies on psychedelic treatments for addiction [1], [2], [3], found a 72% success rate in participants, with results demonstrating that 80% of patients have remained abstinent for 6 months, and 67% have remained abstinent after 12 months.	5/25/2023 7:10 AM
17	I believe in harm reduction but there are other organizations already doing this work. We need to consider the service gaps. Prevention is ideal and part of that is treating the family as a whole to the entire family gets support and can support their loved ones in their substance use disorder.	5/24/2023 12:17 PM
18	Have both personal and professional interests and real life experience to share. I'm a health care professional and recovering addict with both acute and chronic pain challenges	5/24/2023 10:04 AM
19	The best prevention is an intact nuclear family as God created.	5/23/2023 7:06 PM
20	I believe they are all important. However, prevention should be the primary goal and most focused upon goal, with Recovery as the second most important.	5/23/2023 4:50 PM
21	I feel harm reduction is definitely more important than treatment and recovery for those who are not yet ready and willing to enter treatment/begin their recovery journey. Access to fentanyl testing should be available to the public as well. They are in many other places in the country and around the world.	5/22/2023 8:50 PM
22	There are great treatment options in Wasilla. Would like to see more treatment options in outer areas like Houston, Willow, the Butte. And maybe do some education in the middle schools, high school with people in recovery that have been there, done that.	5/22/2023 6:50 PM
23	I think it's very important to get some kind of detox facility for pregnant women in the Matsu area it's only available and Anchorage or down on the Kenai Peninsula	5/22/2023 12:04 PM
24	Need more detox, harm reduction is so important and is really overlooked in Alaska.	5/22/2023 11:15 AM
25	all of these are valuable	5/22/2023 10:01 AM
26	There are many investments currently in treatment....so much downstream work at this time. We need more focus and opportunity to invest prior to substance use and prevention, hence primary prevention ranked first (and treatment ranked last). Our youth and sober families need loads of support to increase protective factors and decrease the possibility of risk factors. Why are people using in the first place? What is the root cause? Go there.	5/22/2023 9:36 AM
27	Stiff penalties for dealing opioids. More jobs. Better pay. More meaning in life needed for those who use and will start using. Involve local church leaders.	5/21/2023 5:48 PM
28	Stop overdose with naloxone..it should be readily available	5/20/2023 9:28 PM
29	let them die, stop wasting resorces on idiots who don't want to live.	5/20/2023 9:03 PM
30	Is there a drug/alcohol counselor for each school? Are they going into the classroom & teaching students how to avoid drugs at a party & other get togethers? That age group supposedly know all the "good" things about drugs, but none of the consequences. Parents can learn a lot too. Maybe every pharmacy can have a brochure rack on display with brochures on what help there is & where to get help in the borough	5/20/2023 5:09 PM
31	There needs to be an income based in-patient LOCAL rehabilitation and education facility.	5/20/2023 6:56 AM
32	It's hard to rank with each part seeming vital. But it does feel like harm reduction is the most critical right now, especially with the fentanyl boom	5/19/2023 1:43 PM
33	Naloxone is not "Injected" it's orally administered nasally. I'm afraid this is misleading, sway people in their ranking. Also specific populations should include at risk youth and domestic violence	5/18/2023 12:10 AM
34	Do more to crack down on the influx of these drugs coming in and/or the production of these drugs! Make the punishments harder for sellers on every level! The lack of getting on top of this is the bigger problem. One life lost to overdose is one too many!	5/17/2023 8:18 PM

Mat-Su Opioid Remediation Needs Assessment

35	I believe that education on opioids, and drug use need to start at a fairly young age. I am an Addict in long term recovery, I	5/10/2023 3:02 PM
36	Education on how opioids still can provide relief for people in medical pain. When they are misused, it's likely people are addicted to the escape from reality not necessarily the medication. It's the escape and we need to provide healthy alternatives for people to escape stress. We need to find more opportunities to share stories, talk about the reality of past traumas and how much it does make daily life harder to manage. We need activities to find joy and to be able to support one another.	5/9/2023 1:46 PM
37	Primary prevention should also include increasing protective factors, decreasing risk factors, and increasing/building the social determinants of health. Thank you for the opportunity to provide feedback.	5/8/2023 5:48 PM
38	I think prevention efforts have been good and will continue to be done well due to it being the easiest on this list. Ultimately I think detox and treatment are the number one. I don't believe there are enough options in Wasilla and whether people accept it, the problem is at our front doors. It's no longer just an Anchorage problem. It's rampant in the Valley and we need to deal with it. Thank you.	5/4/2023 11:27 AM
39	The state's own Medicaid program would rather fund opioids for pain management than longer term treatment such as nerve stimulators and injections. While it may not be right in every scenario, being low-income should not limit your treatment options and make you more likely to become an addict (when those odds are already high enough at that poverty level.)	5/3/2023 3:29 PM
40	The biggest thing is we need a detox recovery facility in the valley. Having the training to recognize OD symptoms having Narcan kits available to everyone. SINGLE PARENT FATHERS MATTER TOO. Keep kids in the loop of what Drugs look like, focus on the Autistic special needs kids/TEENS Nthat may think they are getting candy (looks like candy but NOT CANDY.	5/2/2023 12:16 AM
41	As a 5 yr recovering addict/alcoholic a person will get sober on their own terms. nding support and resources is crucial for the addict freshly in recovery. Most of the time, addiction is a symptom of a bigger life problem and it becomes a vicious cycle. Making connections with oginzations that can help build a stable foundation and be self sufficient is crucial otherwise the addict will begin to feel hopeless once again	4/30/2023 12:02 AM
42	There should be a full time detox clinic in the valley. There needs to be more treatment options, more sober living options that include and accomodations children and family reunifications. Between credit, felonies, low wage earning potential, the likelihood of addicts ability to rebuild their lives is low without ongoing g long term supports.	4/29/2023 8:45 PM
43	Please offer tx to whomever needs it, regardless of whether they can pay or not.	4/29/2023 6:18 PM
44	More detox centers	4/29/2023 4:51 PM
45	There needs to money allocated for supportive housing for people in treatment.	4/28/2023 8:39 PM
46	It all starts with educating our kids about addiction. If this is effective we won't have to pour all of our resources into treating addiction in the long run. I know this for a fact.	4/28/2023 8:08 PM
47	Programs like Thrive Mat-Su are helping with prevention by lowering risk factors and increasing protective factors with our youth. We should support their efforts.	4/28/2023 8:01 PM
48	Long term inhouse treatment, jobs and shelter afterwards	4/28/2023 2:17 PM
49	There should be a clearing house phone number to call to evaluate your specific need and to let you know all of the community resources available. If you try and google it, you get inundated with for-profit and out of town providers trying to capitalize on your needs. The first thing an addict needs is a safe place to detox with medical support to manage withdrawal symptoms. There's an apathy that drug addicts should just "tough it out" during detox.	4/28/2023 12:28 PM
50	I ranked primary prevention last because "Overprescribing" and "Misuse" are difficult to define with a highly addictive substance. If education is taught it needs to be holistic to prevent the long term administration of opioids to begin with.	4/28/2023 10:18 AM
51	Capital and infrastructure needs would be useful to ensure long term support for individuals. These often go underfunded	4/27/2023 9:32 AM
52	Put it all towards treatment where it can do the most good.	4/27/2023 9:23 AM

Mat-Su Opioid Remediation Needs Assessment

53	Focusing on youth and educating them about how opioids specifically affect/hurt the brain is upstream prevention and will over time decrease the number of people needing treatment and recovery because they will avoid using all together	4/26/2023 3:44 PM
54	Please just forward all the money to the faith based groups already working with those who are wanting to get help. Sincerely: Gerald DeVilbiss	4/26/2023 12:26 PM
55	Primary prevention can't be a one-off program. It needs to be built in at the systems' level--like expanding Youth 360 to every middle and high school, including robust surveying of parents and kids to understand the challenges and build in evidence-based solutions, and decriminalizing addiction.	4/26/2023 11:35 AM
56	Would be beneficial to add within "Primary Prevention" a component for the Borough to be able to address, via purchase/demolition of derelict properties that are associated with narcotics use/trafficking.	4/26/2023 10:32 AM
57	There needs to be more services for recovery and harm reduction. There is not enough support for recovering addicts to stay clean.	4/26/2023 5:16 AM
58	The opiate epidemic has directly impacted my family and my parents' substance abuse ultimately led to their being incarcerated, leaving me to care for my baby brother. There are not enough resources for the families of those who suffer from substance abuse / are incarcerated. Too many children of the afflicted community members sadly follow in their footsteps without intervention, continuing this cycle. Thank you for this community outreach opportunity!	4/25/2023 8:53 PM
59	All 4 are really important.	4/25/2023 3:23 PM
60	Prevention of drug abuse should be the most important task for the borough. Enabling the abuse by creating drug safe spaces like Seattle is the wrong direction for the borough. We don't want to attract drug users to our area.	4/25/2023 2:23 PM
61	What about police & drug task forces? Is that all up to the state?	4/25/2023 11:46 AM
62	I highly believe that trainings in schools, first responders and community support groups should be encouraged more to inform our youth, first responders, and our community groups about how dangerous the misuse of opioids are.	4/25/2023 11:41 AM
63	You get more of what you tolerate, and what comes next, state manufactured 'safe meth' to give to addicts safely? the #1 priority must always be law enforcement. scheduled drugs are always bad, and illegal. Providing an addict a venue to commit crimes against themselves is to be complicit in the harm. When it comes to hard drugs "Harm reduction" is an oxymoron. Providing abusers with needles and places to loiter while under the influence at the cost of tax dollars, where does the buck stop?	4/25/2023 9:45 AM
64	Dextox facilities are lacking in borough & inpatient treatment facilities. Encourage attendance at meetings of Narcotics Anonymous & Alcohol Anonymous excellent support at these meetings.	4/25/2023 8:11 AM
65	I don't agree with any of these. Spend the money on medical and EMT/paramedics.	4/25/2023 8:08 AM
66	We need 24 hour detox centers. If someone wants to get help at 2am there needs to be place they can go.	4/25/2023 8:06 AM
67	I think training of first responders should be separated out from education at schools. Kids have addicted parents at home and sent to prison. The people who are addicted and in recovery need services and resources now (first).	4/24/2023 3:56 PM
68	Harm reduction is enabling them to continue their way of life. Make syringes prescription only.	4/24/2023 3:13 PM
69	4	4/24/2023 11:52 AM
70	Many people need opioids medically. The problem I have seen is the doctors prescribed as they were taught was good and then just quit on the patients when the thoughts of opioids changed. These people sought alternatives as a result. We need to find the middle ground	4/23/2023 1:34 PM
71	I think the order presented is a good order. I concur.	4/23/2023 6:22 AM
72	Making it clear to parents, that their children can obtain drugs (not necessarily lethal opioids) through snapchat etc. These less than lethal drugs (Xanax, adderall etc) are increasingly laced with fentanyl, and these parents need to know that.	4/22/2023 11:59 PM

Mat-Su Opioid Remediation Needs Assessment

73	I'm a healthcare provider. We are DESPERATE in the healthcare community for treatment options. When someone is ready for treatment, they need it that day. Current wait times for detox and treatment are preventing patients from getting sober and contributing to overdoses.	4/22/2023 10:21 PM
74	Prevention, make kids aware of what it does	4/22/2023 9:20 AM
75	My brother is on suboxone and he has done a 180 in life. I never thought he would be himself again, but now he is and it's a miracle. Thank God for suboxone, now my brother is sober!	4/22/2023 6:37 AM
76	Treatment is an except option in theory. There are not enough resources in the valley to help. There is also a very large stigma around addiction and treatment.	4/21/2023 11:08 PM
77	Treatment centers should be mandatory. People should not be allowed to leave until their treatment is complete.	4/21/2023 10:00 PM
78	It's the gap between treatment/recovery and Relapse that's getting people killed. Treatment isn't enough - helping individuals create a life in a community that's educated about what the real issue is - Shame and Isolation.	4/21/2023 9:38 PM
79	We need a medical detox center in wasilla/Palmer	4/21/2023 9:20 PM
80	Still the problem remains that people that need help won't want it though when they're that deep into the lifestyle	4/21/2023 9:07 PM
81	These people need somewhere positive to go. These people need businesses willing to go out on a limb and hire recovered addicts with possible felonies. We need beds and housing and places to heal. We are so far past primary prevention efforts, unfortunately. Kids learn not to do drugs in health class.	4/21/2023 8:42 PM
82	Working as a probation officer, we have seen so many fatalities due to fentanyl. A specialized task force for LEO in the valley would be wonderful to track the source of fentanyl. In addition, there is a severe lack of treatment centers with inpatient treatment. Waitlists are long and people who are struggling with addiction aren't able to get the help they need.	4/21/2023 8:04 PM
83	We do not need to spend more money on referral agencies where it is used up in administration, money should be spent on successful treatment centers, creating more beds, and follow ups. Too much money goes to programs where the funds support administration and very rarely reach the client.	4/21/2023 7:42 PM
84	We definitely need more resources here in the valley. Detox with housing.	4/21/2023 7:27 PM
85	How about a rehabilitation center. Who gives a crap about the education of drug use. IT IS NOT WORKING.	4/21/2023 7:11 PM
86	We need a locked in facility for people. Jail is not a good spot but they should be punished for their crimes they did while on drugs.	4/21/2023 6:41 PM
87	Better awareness, support, and services for mental health.	4/21/2023 6:03 PM
88	More emphasis on reducing recidivism. In custody treatment needs to be expanded.	4/21/2023 6:02 PM
89	We need help and we need it fast!!!	4/21/2023 6:00 PM
90	PTSD therapy needs to be in the overall treatment plan as many of the users have had varying levels of trauma in their past and are self medicating. Cuttings or greatly reduced exposure to those the user had in their peer group when using. If the user can connect with a "wrap around service plan of care" including housing the probability of sustained recovery is enhanced.	4/21/2023 5:10 PM
91	Skills training in order to be a productive member of society is my number one opinion.	4/21/2023 9:58 AM
92	There is a bigger need in the MatSu than people realize. We need funds in all categories.	4/21/2023 9:18 AM

Adopted: 07/18/23

**MATANUSKA-SUSITNA BOROUGH
RESOLUTION SERIAL NO. 23-073**

A RESOLUTION OF THE MATANUSKA-SUSITNA BOROUGH ASSEMBLY APPROVING THE PERCENTAGE ALLOCATIONS BREAKDOWN AND PRELIMINARY DISTRIBUTION METHOD OF OPIOID REMEDIATION FUNDS IN THE BOROUGH.

WHEREAS, the opioid epidemic has caused significant harm and loss of life in the Borough and across the nation; and

WHEREAS, the Borough is set to receive approximately \$2.3 million in settlement funds over an 18-year period of time as part of a nationwide effort to address the repercussions of the opioid epidemic; and

WHEREAS, the Manager established an Opioid Remediation Needs Assessment Committee, consisting of representatives from the four areas of opioid remediation, to assess the prioritization of opioid remediation needs within the Borough; and

WHEREAS, the Committee conducted three public meetings and an online survey with 257 responses to gather community input and recommendations; and

WHEREAS, the Committee has provided a detailed report with recommendations for the allocation of funds based on the identified priority needs in the following order: #1 Treatment; #2 Prevention; #3 Recovery and #4 Harm-Reduction.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Assembly hereby adopts the following resolutions:

1. The allocation of settlement funds will be distributed by the Borough to qualifying grant recipients; the funds shall be spent in accordance with the percentage requirements indicated below:
 - a. Treatment: 30 percent
 - b. Prevention: 30 percent
 - c. Recovery: 10 percent
 - d. Harm-Reduction: 10 percent
 - e. Media information and outreach covering all four areas of remediation needs: 20 percent (for the first 5 years only)
2. Treatment Support:
 - a. Funds allocated towards treatment shall be utilized for education, training of counselors and peer support providers, promoting healthy living options, developing strong social structures, and providing information about local and state rehabilitation opportunities.
3. Prevention Efforts:
 - a. Funds allocated towards prevention programs shall be utilized for educational campaigns, community outreach initiatives, and early intervention strategies aimed at preventing opioid misuse and addiction.

4. Recovery Initiatives:

a. Funds allocated towards recovery initiatives shall be utilized for peer support programs and vocational training to aid individuals in successful reintegration into society after overcoming opioid addiction.

5. Harm-Reduction Strategies:

a. Funds allocated towards harm-reduction efforts shall be utilized for training and education of initiatives aimed at saving lives and reducing the spread of infectious diseases.

6. Media Campaigns:

a. Funds allocated towards media campaigns shall be utilized for the creation and dissemination of Public Service Announcements and other relevant content to educate the public, reduce stigma, and raise awareness about opioid remediation efforts. The Opioid Remediation Needs Assessment Committee may have the opportunity to provide input and collaborate on the creation of media materials to ensure relevance and effectiveness.

7. Development of a Phone Application and Search Engine Optimization:

a. Funds shall be allocated for the development of a phone application consolidating all available resources related to opioid remediation and for optimizing local opioid

remediation resources on search engines. This will enhance accessibility and visibility for those seeking help.

8. Collaboration with Mat-Su Health Foundation:

a. The committee recommends exploring potential collaboration with the Mat-Su Health Foundation to seek financial support for media projects, enhancing the impact and outreach of media campaigns.

9. Grant Application Process:

a. Grant applications shall be made available on the Mat-Su Borough website once they are ready for distribution, ensuring transparency and facilitating the application process.

b. The committee recommends approving no more than 10 applications for each category, subject to the amount of funding available for that year, further subject to deliberation in cases where all applications meet the required criteria.

10. Annual Opioid Remediation Project Funds Account:

a. An Opioid Remediation Project funds account shall be established, allowing applicants to apply for grant funding each year. Grant recipients shall provide a progress report at the end of the year summarizing how the money was utilized. This will facilitate accountability and ongoing evaluation of funded projects.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Matanuska-Susitna Borough Assembly commends the work of the Opioid Remediation Needs Assessment Committee and expresses gratitude to the committee members for their dedication and efforts in addressing the opioid crisis in the community and supporting the Borough's commitment to supporting the well-being of its residents.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Assembly extends its appreciation to all community members who participated in the public meetings and survey, as their input has been vital in shaping the recommendations for the allocation of opioid remediation funds.

ADOPTED by the Matanuska-Susitna Borough Assembly this 18 day of July, 2023.


EDNA DeVRIES, Borough Mayor

ATTEST:


LONNIE R. McKECHNIE, CMC, Borough Clerk

(SEAL)

PASSED UNANIMOUSLY: Nowers, McKee, Yundt, Tew, Fonov, and Bernier