

Item Title: Approve Resolution Authorizing Execution of Additional Opioid Settlements and a Third Supplemental Agreement

Specific Action Requested:

That the Board of Commissioners approves a resolution authorizing execution of opioid settlements with secondary opioid manufactures, Purdue Pharma LP, and the Sackler Family, and approves the third supplemental agreement for additional funds (SAAF-3) between the state of North Carolina and local governments on proceeds relating to the settlement of opioid litigation.

Item Summary:

Purpose: The Board of Commissioners is requested to approve a resolution to support Wake County's participation in additional opioid settlement agreements and authorize execution of a supplemental agreement with the State of North Carolina.

Background: Lawsuits aimed at several companies involved in manufacturing and distributing prescription opioid drugs have been settled in federal court. Under the terms of the settlement, North Carolina will receive approximately \$1.5 billion, and Wake County will receive over \$67 million over 18 years to address the opioid epidemic. Wake County agreed to be part of the settlement in November 2021 and agreed to the terms of a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) that establishes the terms for oversight and use of settlement funds in North Carolina.

A settlement has been reached with Purdue Pharma LP and the Sackler Family that is estimated to bring approximately \$150 million in new money to North Carolina over the next 15 years and \$6.94 to Wake County directly. Additionally, additional settlements have been finalized with eight companies that manufactured generic opioids, estimated to bring approximately \$23 million in new money to North Carolina and approximately \$1.11 million to Wake County.

Strategic Plan: This action supports Community Health and Wellbeing Goal 3: By 2029, 5% more residents asked will indicate low barriers to healthcare and behavioral health services, such as access to providers, insurance coverage, affordability, and appointment wait times.

Fiscal Impact: This action will result in an increase of approximately \$6.94 million from the Purdue Pharma LP and Sackler Family settlement and approximately \$1.11 million from settlements with eight generic opioid manufacturers. These additional revenues will be distributed to Wake County over the next 15 years and will be deposited in the Opioid Settlement Fund for future appropriation by the Board of Commissioners.

In June 2025, the Board approved a FY2026–FY2027 spending plan that guides investments of previously awarded settlement funds. These new funds will be integrated into the County’s existing opioid settlement planning and budgeting process and will be brought to the Board for appropriation through future board action.

Additional Information:

The overdose crisis is one of the worst public health emergencies our country has faced in decades. In 2023, over 107,000 people died of a drug overdose in the United States, including 233 individuals in Wake County. Early data from 2024 shows decreases in the number of overdose deaths for the first time in years. This promising trend underscores the importance of ongoing investments in overdose prevention and support for people with opioid use disorder in Wake County.

North Carolina is part of a historic agreement that will bring \$1.5 billion to the state that will provide much needed relief to communities impacted by opioids. These funds are being used to support early intervention, treatment for opioid use disorder, recovery support, recovery housing, naloxone distribution, and other life-saving programs and services. In November 2021, Wake County agreed to participate in the national settlement and will receive approximately \$67.7 million over the next 18 years.

The funds from these additional settlements will be allocated within North Carolina consistent with the prior settlements, with 85% going to local governments to address the overdose crisis. The Purdue/Sackler settlement falls under the scope of the existing MOA Wake County signed in 2021. The new manufacturer settlements are accompanied by a new supplemental MOA (e.g., SAAF-3) extending the original MOA to the settlements, which the board is being asked to sign today.

Attachments:

1. Resolution Authorizing Execution of Additional Opioid Settlements and a Third Supplemental Agreement (e.g., SAAF-3)
2. Wake County FY26-FY27 Opioid Settlement Funding Plan