

Item Title: NC Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) Grant Award for Drug Overdose Prevention and Tobacco Use Initiative

Specific Action Requested:

That the Board of Commissioners accepts and appropriates \$49,566 into the General Fund from DHHS for the Drug Overdose Prevention and Tobacco Use Initiative.

Item Summary:

Purpose: The Board of Commissioners must approve all additional revenue added to the FY 2020 Adopted Budget.

Background: In 2018, the Drug Overdose Prevention and Tobacco Use Initiative received three years of funding from the ABC Board to establish the Post Overdose Response Team. This team is a partnership between Wake County Human Services and EMS and Healing Transitions of Wake County. Currently, the team consists of two Certified Peer Support Specialists and two Advanced Practice Paramedics who visit people within 48 hours of an overdose episode and try to engage them in services. Staff also provide follow up support to the overdose survivors and their families. Grant funding from the State will expand the capacity of the team by adding one contracted person. The additional staff will help to provide service to existing clients by decreasing current caseloads from approximately 250 participants to approximately 165 participants per Certified Peer Support Specialist and provide evening and weekend support to overdose survivors.

Board Goal: This action supports routine County operations.

Fiscal Impact: This agreement provides an additional \$49,566 for project participation in FY20. DHHS will provide grant funding through August 2022. Subsequent years of grant funding will be appropriated through the annual budget process. There is no matching funds requirement.

Additional Information:

In April 2018 Wake County established a post overdose response team using two contracted Peer Support Specialists who are employed by Healing Transitions and two EMS Advanced Practice Paramedics. Certified Peer Support Specialists are individuals with lived experience from drug use who establish relationships with those who have experienced an opioid overdose. The team refers overdose survivors for medical, behavioral and public health services, recovery support, harm reduction interventions,

and treatment for substance use and mental health disorders. The team also assists with scheduling appointments and provide ongoing communication to ensure individuals show up for their referral appointments. This team has served 577 people since the program's inception. These people have connected with a Certified Peer Support Specialists as a result of an overdose. There is ongoing communication between the Certified Peer Support Specialist, the survivor and their families. The total annual funding for the program is \$316,714.

The Grant from DHHS will cover salaries for one additional full-time contracted Certified Peer Support Specialist position to provide weekday evening and weekend support coverage for overdose survivors and one part time contracted Driver position to assist with access to outpatient treatment centers that are not on a bus line. Currently the Certified Peer Support Specialists are available five days a week and often respond to participants on weekday evenings, on their days off, work in high-risk settings, have exposure to secondary trauma risk factors, and are confronted with boundary dilemmas. By adding a third Certified Peer Support Specialist, burnout is minimized, caseloads become more manageable and staff can practice better self-care.

The grant will also cover operational costs including promotional items, publications, educational material reprints, gas and grocery gift cards, bus tickets, food bags, and allowable syringe exchange supplies.

The following table displays the FY 2020 project funding by budget category:

| Budget Category | FY2020 Award |
|--|---------------------|
| Medical Supplies | \$495 |
| Staff Development | \$1,400 |
| Travel | \$4,332 |
| Printing | \$1,152 |
| Client Transportation | \$2,932 |
| Food - Program | \$5,308 |
| Contract Services: Overdose Rapid Response | \$33,947 |
| TOTAL | \$49,566 |

DHHS will provide funding grant funding through August 2022. Subsequent years of grant funding will be appropriated through the annual budget process. The Drug Overdose and Tobacco Use Initiative will continue to seek funding to continue the work of the Post Overdose Support Team.

Attachments:

1. Award Letter
2. Human Services Budget Memo