

Item Title: Additional Half Position for Behavioral Health Department Using Opioid Settlement Funds

Specific Action Requested:

That the Board of Commissioners establishes a 0.50 full-time equivalent position using opioid settlement funds for a Department Business Officer within the Behavioral Health department.

Item Summary:

Purpose: In accordance with the North Carolina Local Government Budget and Fiscal Control Act, the Board of Commissioners must approve all authorized full-time equivalent (FTE) positions in accordance with the County's Personnel Ordinance.

Background: The Behavioral Health Department currently has 0.50 FTE for a Department Business Officer role. Due to increasing complexity and volume of business administration work caused by the receipt of Opioid Settlement Funds, the Department requires 1.00 FTE for a Department Business Officer fully dedicated to Behavioral Health.

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 services, such as access to providers, insurance coverage, affordability and appointment wait times.

Fiscal Impact: Funding to support the authorization of this 0.50 FTE is included in prior appropriations of Wake County Opioid Settlement Funds. The estimated cost of the half position is \$70,000 including salary and benefits. There is sufficient Opioid Settlement funding to cover the cost of this position for at least the next 12 years.

Additional Information:

The Behavioral Health Department currently has 0.50 authorized FTE for a Department Business Officer role. Due to increasing complexity and volume of business administration work caused by the receipt of Opioid Settlement Funds, the Department requires 1.00 FTE for a Department Business Officer fully dedicated to Behavioral Health.

In November 2021, Wake County agreed to participate in the national settlement and will receive approximately \$67.7 million over an 18-year period. The use of these funds is guided by the North Carolina Memorandum of Agreement and requires formal approval and authorization of an expenditure plan by the Wake County Board of Commissioners. Forthcoming agenda items will appropriate additional Opioid Settlement Funds that the County continues to receive.

Attachments:

1. Budget Memo – FY 2026 Personnel Ordinance Memo