



Office of

Attorney's Matters 2/25/2025

INDIAN RIVER COUNTY ATTORNEY

Jennifer W. Shuler, County Attorney
Susan J. Prado, Deputy County Attorney
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MEMORANDUM

TO: Indian River County Board of County Commissioners

THROUGH: John A. Titkanich, Jr., County Administrator

FROM: Jennifer W. Shuler, County Attorney

DATE: February 14, 2025

SUBJECT: Amendment No. 1 to the Service Agreement with Southeast Florida Behavioral Health Network for Administration of Opioid Settlement Proceeds

BACKGROUND. On May 21, 2024, the Board approved a Service Agreement (“Agreement”) with Southeast Florida Behavioral Health Network (“SEFBN”) to disperse opioid settlement funds received from larger class action defendants to certain organizations approved by the County. The State of Florida requires that counties that have a population of less than 300,000 enter a partnership with a DCF approved third party to receive and distribute these opioid settlement funds. SEFBN has received the settlement funds but lacks the staff resources necessary to both administer and disperse the funds and, as a result, the money is not being distributed to the approved organizations.

SEFBN has agreed to hire and allocate staff to fully administer and disperse the opioid settlement monies in exchange for a 5% administrative processing fee, which would be withheld from the settlement funds. The attached amendment provides for payment of this administrative fee and clarifies the roles and responsibilities of the parties. If the amendment is approved, SEFBN will proceed to process the disbursements.

The County received \$1,641,140.00 for FY 2023-24. The amount of funds distributed under the Agreement will be split with \$625,000 going to Coordinated Opioid Recovery (CORE) Services such as the local hospitals and first responders and \$1,016,140.00 going to the Organizations previously approved by the Board: Indian River County Sheriff, Substance Awareness Center, IRC Mental Health Collaborative, 19th Judicial Circuit Problem-Solving Courts and Treasure Coast Homeless Council. Currently, these funds are being held, and the organizations are not receiving their disbursements.

Staff supports the amendment so that funds can be released to these approved organizations to continue providing services that benefit the County.

FUNDING. The 5% administrative fee paid to SEFBN will come from the settlement proceeds allotted to the County, the fee is not passed on to the approved organizations receiving funds. There is no cost from the County Budget associated with this item.

RECOMMENDATION. The County Attorney's Office recommends that the Board approve and authorize the Chairman to sign Amendment No. 1 to the Southeast Behavioral Service Agreement in a final form approved by the County Attorney and the Director of the Office of Management and Budget.

3 ATTACHMENTS.

Amendment No. 1 to Service Agreement track changes

Amendment No. 1 to Service Agreement clean copy

Amendment Cover Sheet

Copies sent by email to:

Amanda Busbin, SEFBN