



Office of
**INDIAN RIVER COUNTY
ATTORNEY**

Dylan Reingold, County Attorney
William K. DeBraal, Deputy County Attorney
Susan J. Prado, Assistant County Attorney

MEMORANDUM

TO: Board of County Commissioners
THROUGH: John Titkanich, Jr., County Administrator
FROM: Dylan Reingold, County Attorney
DATE: May 17, 2023
SUBJECT: Opioid Settlement Spending Plan

BACKGROUND.

On June 15, 2021, the Indian River County Board of County Commissioners ("Board") approved a proposed Memorandum of Understanding ("MOU") with the State of Florida Attorney General's Office that serves as the allocation agreement between the State of Florida and the local governments on the settlement of various opioid cases.

As part of the MOU, money would go into a City/County Fund, a Regional Fund and a State Fund. In December 2022, Indian River County received \$139,604.16 from the State of Florida for its portion of the City/County Fund. It is anticipated that Indian River County should also receive roughly \$158,000 as a one-time payment as part of the Walmart opioid settlement in the next 60 days. And Indian River County should expect to receive year 2 funds in the amount of roughly \$140,000 in August or September.

On April 4, 2023, the Board voted to have the County Attorney's Office work with Commissioner Loar as a liaison and focus using the proceeds from the opioid settlements on the alternative court programs, mental health court and drug court, and coordinate with other sister agencies, such as Hospital District.

Since that time, Commissioner Deryl Loar and I met with Judge Cox, Judge Menz and Judge Stone. The judges recommended using the proceeds on assessment, treatment, testing and wrap around services, such as housing and transportation.

On May 17, 2023, the Indian River County Hospital District Board of Trustees discussed this matter and voted unanimously in agreement with the recommendation to use the proceeds on assessment, treatment, testing and wrap around services for the alternative court programs. The Mental Health Court has submitted a funding request for FY 2023-24 to the Hospital District. Any amount of the opioid settlement proceeds directed to the mental health court will directly offset the local tax dollars necessary to support these services.

FUNDING.

Upon the Board of County Commissioners approving the spending plan, for use for assessment, treatment, testing and wrap around services, such as housing and transportation, by those in the alternative court programs, a future budget amendment will be submitted to the Board allocating the funds.

RECOMMENDATION.

The County Attorney's Office recommends that the Board approve utilizing the opioid settlement funds on assessment, treatment, testing and wrap around services, such as housing and transportation as part of the alternative court programs.