

VILLAGE OF ROYAL PALM BEACH
Agenda Item Summary

AGENDA ITEM: Adoption of Resolution No. 21-22, joining with the State of Florida and other local government units as a participant in the Florida Memorandum of Understanding and Formal Agreement, and authorizing the Mayor to execute the Florida Memorandum of Understanding and any additional settlements obtained related to the opioid litigation.

ISSUE:

The State of Florida and almost 100 political subdivisions within the state have filed suit against numerous entities engaged in the manufacture, marketing, promotion, distribution or dispensing of opioids. Another 30 political subdivisions in the state, including the Village of Royal Palm Beach, have filed claims in the Purdue Pharma bankruptcy case. The State is involved in ongoing negotiations as part of its litigation but under the likely settlement structure for the cases, states and their political subdivisions are encouraged to reach a joint resolution of all State and political subdivision claims.

The Florida Memorandum of Understanding (“Florida Plan”) sets forth a framework of a unified plan for the proposed allocation and use of opioid settlement proceeds and it is anticipated that formal agreements implementing the Florida Plan will be entered into at a future date. Participation in the Florida Plan by a large majority of Florida cities and counties will materially increase the amount of funds to Florida and should improve Florida’s relative bargaining position during additional settlement negotiations.

The Florida Plan divides the settlement funds between three funds: 1) City/County Fund, 2) Regional Fund and 3) State Fund. The proposed allocation in the Florida Plan is better than the alternative that subdivisions will receive if they do not enter into an agreement with the State.

By agreeing to the Florida Plan, the Village is agreeing that almost all of the funds from any settlement will go to abatement activities (e.g., be utilized for strategies, programming and services to expand the availability of treatment

for individuals impacted by opioid use disorder or co-occurring substance use disorders and mental health disorders). The Florida Plan contains an expansive, non-exclusive list of potential abatement programs for which the funds could be used.

The deadline for the Village to submit a signed Memorandum of Understanding to participate in the state's settlement is January 2, 2022.

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Motion to Adopt Resolution No. 21-22 and authorize the Mayor to execute the Florida Memorandum of Understanding.

Initiator	Village Manager Approval	Agenda Date	Village Council Action
		12/16/21	

RESOLUTION NO. 21-22

A RESOLUTION OF THE VILLAGE COUNCIL OF THE VILLAGE OF ROYAL PALM BEACH, FLORIDA, AUTHORIZING THE VILLAGE OF ROYAL PALM BEACH TO JOIN WITH THE STATE OF FLORIDA AND OTHER LOCAL GOVERNMENT UNITS AS A PARTICIPANT IN THE FLORIDA MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING AND FORMAL AGREEMENTS IMPLEMENTING A UNIFIED PLAN RELATING TO THE OPIOID LITIGATION FOR THE ALLOCATION AND USE OF PROSPECTIVE SETTLEMENT DOLLARS FROM OPIOID RELATED LITIGATION AND AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO EXECUTE THE MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING; PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

WHEREAS, the Village of Royal Palm Beach (“Village”) has suffered harm from the opioid epidemic; and

WHEREAS, the Village recognizes that the entire State of Florida has suffered harm as a result from the opioid epidemic; and

WHEREAS, the State of Florida has filed an action pending in Pasco County, Florida, and a number of Florida Cities and Counties have also filed an action In re: National Prescription Opiate Litigation, MDL No. 2804 (N.D. Ohio) (the “Opioid Litigation”) and the Village is not a litigating participant in that action; and

WHEREAS, the State of Florida and lawyers representing certain various local governments involved in the Opioid Litigation have proposed a unified plan for the allocation and use of prospective settlement dollars from opioid related litigation; and

WHEREAS, the Florida Memorandum of Understanding (the “Florida Plan”) sets forth a framework of a unified plan for the proposed allocation and use of opioid settlement proceeds and it is anticipated that formal agreements implementing the Florida Plan will be entered into at a future date; and

WHEREAS, participation in the Florida Plan by a large majority of Florida cities and counties will materially increase the amount of funds to Florida and should improve Florida’s relative bargaining position during additional settlement negotiations; and

WHEREAS, failure to participate in the Florida Plan will reduce funds available to the State, Village, and every other Florida city and county.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED BY THE VILLAGE COUNCIL OF THE VILLAGE OF ROYAL PALM BEACH, FLORIDA, THAT:

Section 1: That the Village of Royal Palm Beach finds that participation in the Florida Plan would be in the best interest of the Village of Royal Palm Beach and its citizens in that such a plan ensures that almost all of the settlement funds go to abate and resolve the opioid epidemic and each and every city and county receives

funds for the harm that it has suffered.

Section 2: That the Village of Royal Palm Beach Council hereby expresses its support of a unified plan for the allocation and use of opioid settlement proceeds as generally described in the Florida Plan, attached hereto as Exhibit "A."

Section 3: That Village of Royal Palm Beach Mayor Fred Pinto is hereby expressly authorized to execute the Florida Plan in substantially the form contained in Exhibit "A."

Section 4: That Village of Royal Palm Beach Mayor Fred Pinto is hereby authorized to execute any formal agreements implementing a unified plan for the allocation and use of opioid settlement proceeds that is not inconsistent with the Florida Plan and this Resolution.

Section 5: That the Clerk of the Village of Royal Palm Beach is hereby instructed to record this Resolution in the appropriate record book upon its adoption.

Section 6: That the Clerk of the Village of Royal Palm Beach is hereby directed to furnish a certified copy of this Resolution to the Florida Attorney General Ashley Moody, c/o John M. Guard, The Capitol, PL-01, Tallahassee, FL 32399-1050.

Section 7: This Resolution shall take effect immediately upon its adoption.

PASSED AND ADOPTED this 16th day of December, 2021.

VILLAGE OF ROYAL PALM BEACH

MAYOR FRED PINTO

ATTEST:

(SEAL)

DIANE DISANTO, VILLAGE CLERK

PROPOSAL
MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

Whereas, the people of the State of Florida and its communities have been harmed by misfeasance, nonfeasance and malfeasance committed by certain entities within the Pharmaceutical Supply Chain;

Whereas, the State of Florida, through its Attorney General, and certain Local Governments, through their elected representatives and counsel, are separately engaged in litigation seeking to hold Pharmaceutical Supply Chain Participants accountable for the damage caused by their misfeasance, nonfeasance and malfeasance;

Whereas, the State of Florida and its Local Governments share a common desire to abate and alleviate the impacts of that misfeasance, nonfeasance and malfeasance throughout the State of Florida;

Whereas, it is the intent of the State of Florida and its Local Governments to use the proceeds from Settlements with Pharmaceutical Supply Chain Participants to increase the amount of funding presently spent on opioid and substance abuse education, treatment and other related programs and services, such as those identified in Exhibits A and B, and to ensure that the funds are expended in compliance with evolving evidence-based “best practices”;

Whereas, the State of Florida and its Local Governments, subject to the completion of formal documents that will effectuate the Parties’ agreements, enter into this Memorandum of Understanding (“MOU”) relating to the allocation and use of the proceeds of Settlements described herein; and

Whereas, this MOU is a preliminary non-binding agreement between the Parties, is not legally enforceable, and only provides a basis to draft formal documents which will effectuate the Parties’ agreements.

A. Definitions

As used in this MOU:

1. “Approved Purpose(s)” shall mean forward-looking strategies, programming and services used to expand the availability of treatment for individuals impacted by substance use disorders, to: (a) develop, promote, and provide evidence-based substance use prevention strategies; (b) provide substance use avoidance and awareness education; (c) decrease the oversupply of licit and illicit opioids; and (d) support recovery from addiction. Approved Purposes shall include, but are not limited to, the opioid abatement strategies listed on Exhibits A and B which are incorporated herein by reference.

2. “Local Governments” shall mean all counties, cities, towns and villages located within the geographic boundaries of the State.

3. “Managing Entities” shall mean the corporations selected by and under contract with the Florida Department of Children and Families or its successor (“DCF”) to manage the

daily operational delivery of behavioral health services through a coordinated system of care. The singular “Managing Entity” shall refer to a singular of the Managing Entities.

4. “County” shall mean a political subdivision of the state established pursuant to s. 1, Art. VIII of the State Constitution.

5. “Municipalities” shall mean cities, towns, or villages of a County within the State with a Population greater than 10,000 individuals and shall also include cities, towns or villages within the State with a Population equal to or less than 10,000 individuals which filed a Complaint in this litigation against Pharmaceutical Supply Chain Participants. The singular “Municipality” shall refer to a singular of the Municipalities.

6. “Negotiating Committee” shall mean a three-member group comprised by representatives of the following: (1) the State; and (2) two representatives of Local Governments of which one representative will be from a Municipality and one shall be from a County (collectively, “Members”) within the State. The State shall be represented by the Attorney General or her designee.

7. “Negotiation Class Metrics” shall mean those county and city settlement allocations which come from the official website of the Negotiation Class of counties and cities certified on September 11, 2019 by the U.S. District for the Northern District of Ohio in *In re National Prescription Opiate Litigation*, MDL No. 2804 (N.D. Ohio). The website is located at <https://allocationmap.iclaimsonline.com>.

8. “Opioid Funds” shall mean monetary amounts obtained through a Settlement as defined in this MOU.

9. “Opioid Related” shall have the same meaning and breadth as in the agreed Opioid Abatement Strategies attached hereto as Exhibits A or B.

10. “Parties” shall mean the State and Local Governments. The singular word “Party” shall mean either the State or Local Governments.

11. “PEC” shall mean the Plaintiffs’ Executive Committee of the National Prescription Opiate Multidistrict Litigation pending in the United States District Court for the Northern District of Ohio.

12. “Pharmaceutical Supply Chain” shall mean the process and channels through which Controlled Substances are manufactured, marketed, promoted, distributed or dispensed.

13. “Pharmaceutical Supply Chain Participant” shall mean any entity that engages in, or has engaged in the manufacture, marketing, promotion, distribution or dispensing of an opioid analgesic.

14. “Population” shall refer to published U.S. Census Bureau population estimates as of July 1, 2019, released March 2020, and shall remain unchanged during the term of this MOU. These estimates can currently be found at <https://www.census.gov>

15. “Qualified County” shall mean a charter or non-chartered county within the State that: has a Population of at least 300,000 individuals and (a) has an opioid taskforce of which it is a member or operates in connection with its municipalities or others on a local or regional basis; (b) has an abatement plan that has been either adopted or is being utilized to respond to the opioid epidemic; (c) is currently either providing or is contracting with others to provide substance abuse prevention, recovery, and treatment services to its citizens; and (d) has or enters into an agreement with a majority of Municipalities (Majority is more than 50% of the Municipalities’ total population) related to the expenditure of Opioid Funds. The Opioid Funds to be paid to a Qualified County will only include Opioid Funds for Municipalities whose claims are released by the Municipality or Opioid Funds for Municipalities whose claims are otherwise barred.

16. “SAMHSA” shall mean the U.S. Department of Health & Human Services, Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration.

17. “Settlement” shall mean the negotiated resolution of legal or equitable claims against a Pharmaceutical Supply Chain Participant when that resolution has been jointly entered into by the State and Local Governments or a settlement class as described in (B)(1) below.

18. “State” shall mean the State of Florida.

B. Terms

1. **Only Abatement** - Other than funds used for the Administrative Costs and Expense Fund as hereinafter described in paragraph 6 and paragraph 9, respectively), all Opioid Funds shall be utilized for Approved Purposes. To accomplish this purpose, the State will either file a new action with Local Governments as Parties or add Local Governments to its existing action, sever settling defendants, and seek entry of a consent order or other order binding both the State, Local Governments, and Pharmaceutical Supply Chain Participant(s) (“Order”). The Order may be part of a class action settlement or similar device. The Order shall provide for continuing jurisdiction of a state court to address non-performance by any party under the Order. Any Local Government that objects to or refuses to be included under the Order or entry of documents necessary to effectuate a Settlement shall not be entitled to any Opioid Funds and its portion of Opioid Funds shall be distributed to, and for the benefit of, the other Local Governments.

2. **Avoid Claw Back and Recoupment** - Both the State and Local Governments wish to maximize any Settlement and Opioid Funds. In addition to committing to only using funds for the Expense Funds, Administrative Costs and Approved Purposes, both Parties will agree to utilize a percentage of funds for the core strategies highlighted in Exhibit A. Exhibit A contains the programs and strategies prioritized by the U.S. Department of Justice and/or the U.S. Department of Health & Human Services (“Core Strategies”). The State is trying to obtain the United States’ agreement to limit or reduce the United States’ ability to recover or recoup monies from the State and Local Government in exchange for prioritization of funds to certain projects. If no agreement is reached with the United States, then there will be no requirement that a percentage be utilized for Core Strategies.

3. **Distribution Scheme** - All Opioid Funds will initially go to the State, and then be distributed according to the following distribution scheme. The Opioid Funds will be divided into three funds after deducting costs of the Expense Fund detailed in paragraph 9 below:

- (a) City/County Fund- The city/county fund will receive 15% of all Opioid Funds to directly benefit all Counties and Municipalities. The amounts to be distributed to each County and Municipality shall be determined by the Negotiation Class Metrics or other metrics agreed upon, in writing, by a County and a Municipality. For Local Governments that are not within the definition of County or Municipality, those Local Governments may receive that government's share of the City/County Fund under the Negotiation Class Metrics, if that government executes a release as part of a Settlement. Any Local Government that is not within the definition of County or Municipality and that does not execute a release as part of a Settlement shall have its share of the City/County Fund go to the County in which it is located.
- (b) Regional Fund- The regional fund will be subdivided into two parts.
 - (i) The State will annually calculate the share of each County within the State of the regional fund utilizing the sliding scale in section 4 of the allocation contained in the Negotiation Class Metrics or other metrics that the Parties agree upon.
 - (ii) For Qualified Counties, the Qualified County's share will be paid to the Qualified County and expended on Approved Purposes, including the Core Strategies identified in Exhibit A, if applicable.
 - (iii) For all other Counties, the regional share for each County will be paid to the Managing Entities providing service for that County. The Managing Entities will be required to expend the monies on Approved Purposes, including the Core Strategies. The Managing Entities shall endeavor to the greatest extent possible to expend these monies on counties within the State that are non-Qualified Counties and to ensure that there are services in every County.
- (c) State Fund - The remainder of Opioid Funds after deducting the costs of the Expense Fund detailed in paragraph 9, the City/County Fund and the Regional Fund will be expended by the State on Approved Purposes, including the provisions related to Core Strategies, if applicable.
- (d) To the extent that Opioid Funds are not appropriated and expended in a year by the State, the State shall identify the investments where settlement funds will be deposited. Any gains, profits, or interest accrued from the deposit of the Opioid Funds to the extent that any funds are not appropriated and expended within a calendar year, shall be the sole property of the Party that was entitled to the initial deposit.

4. Regional Fund Sliding Scale- The Regional Fund shall be calculated by utilizing the following sliding scale of the Opioid Funds available in any year:

- A. Years 1-6: 40%
- B. Years 7-9: 35%
- C. Years 10-12: 34%
- D. Years 13-15: 33%
- E. Years 16-18: 30%

5. Opioid Abatement Taskforce or Council - The State will create an Opioid Abatement Taskforce or Council (sometimes hereinafter “Taskforce” or “Council”) to advise the Governor, the Legislature, Florida’s Department of Children and Families (“DCF”), and Local Governments on the priorities that should be addressed as part of the opioid epidemic and to review how monies have been spent and the results that have been achieved with Opioid Funds.

- (a) Size - The Taskforce or Council shall have ten Members equally balanced between the State and the Local Governments.
- (b) Appointments Local Governments - Two Municipality representatives will be appointed by or through Florida League of Cities. Two county representatives, one from a Qualified County and one from a county within the State that is not a Qualified County, will be appointed by or through the Florida Association of Counties. The final representative will alternate every two years between being a county representative (appointed by or through Florida Association of Counties) or a Municipality representative (appointed by or through the Florida League of Cities). One Municipality representative must be from a city of less than 50,000 people. One county representative must be from a county less than 200,000 people and the other county representative must be from a county whose population exceeds 200,000 people.
- (c) Appointments State -
 - (i) The Governor shall appoint two Members.
 - (ii) The Speaker of the House shall appoint one Member.
 - (iii) The Senate President shall appoint one Member.
 - (iv) The Attorney General or her designee shall be a Member.
- (d) Chair - The Attorney General or designee shall be the chair of the Taskforce or Council.
- (e) Term - Members will be appointed to serve a two-year term.

- (f) Support - DCF shall support the Taskforce or Council and the Taskforce or Council shall be administratively housed in DCF.
- (g) Meetings - The Taskforce or Council shall meet quarterly in person or virtually using communications media technology as defined in section 120.54(5)(b)(2), Florida Statutes.
- (h) Reporting - The Taskforce or Council shall provide and publish a report annually no later than November 30th or the first business day after November 30th, if November 30th falls on a weekend or is otherwise not a business day. The report shall contain information on how monies were spent the previous fiscal year by the State, each of the Qualified Counties, each of the Managing Entities, and each of the Local Governments. It shall also contain recommendations to the Governor, the Legislature, and Local Governments for priorities among the Approved Purposes for how monies should be spent the coming fiscal year to respond to the opioid epidemic.
- (i) Accountability - Prior to July 1st of each year, the State and each of the Local Governments shall provide information to DCF about how they intend to expend Opioid Funds in the upcoming fiscal year. The State and each of the Local Government shall report its expenditures to DCF no later than August 31st for the previous fiscal year. The Taskforce or Council will set other data sets that need to be reported to DCF to demonstrate the effectiveness of Approved Purposes. All programs and expenditures shall be audited annually in a similar fashion to SAMHSA programs. Local Governments shall respond and provide documents to any reasonable requests from the State for data or information about programs receiving Opioid Funds.
- (j) Conflict of Interest - All Members shall adhere to the rules, regulations and laws of Florida including, but not limited to, Florida Statute §112.311, concerning the disclosure of conflicts of interest and recusal from discussions or votes on conflicted matters.

6. **Administrative Costs**- The State may take no more than a 5% administrative fee from the State Fund (“Administrative Costs”) and any Regional Fund that it administers for counties that are not Qualified Counties. Each Qualified County may take no more than a 5% administrative fee from its share of the Regional Funds.

7. **Negotiation of Non-Multistate Settlements** - If the State begins negotiations with a Pharmaceutical Supply Chain Participant that is separate and apart from a multi-state negotiation, the State shall include Local Governments that are a part of the Negotiating Committee in such negotiations. No Settlement shall be recommended or accepted without the affirmative votes of both the State and Local Government representatives of the Negotiating Committee.

8. **Negotiation of Multistate or Local Government Settlements** - To the extent practicable and allowed by other parties to a negotiation, both Parties agree to communicate with

members of the Negotiation Committee regarding the terms of any other Pharmaceutical Supply Chain Participant Settlement.

9. **Expense Fund** - The Parties agree that in any negotiation every effort shall be made to cause Pharmaceutical Supply Chain Participants to pay costs of litigation, including attorneys' fees, in addition to any agreed to Opioid Funds in the Settlement. To the extent that a fund sufficient to pay the entirety of all contingency fee contracts for Local Governments in the State of Florida is not created as part of a Settlement by a Pharmaceutical Supply Chain Participant, the Parties agree that an additional expense fund for attorneys who represent Local Governments (herein "Expense Fund") shall be created out of the City/County fund for the purpose of paying the hard costs of a litigating Local Government and then paying attorneys' fees.

- (a) The Source of Funds for the Expense Fund- Money for the Expense Fund shall be sourced exclusively from the City/County Fund.
- (b) The Amount of the Expense Fund- The State recognizes the value litigating Local Governments bring to the State of Florida in connection with the Settlement because their participation increases the amount Incentive Payments due from each Pharmaceutical Supply Chain Participant. In recognition of that value, the amount of funds that shall be deposited into the Expense fund shall be contingent upon on the percentage of litigating Local Government participation in the Settlement, according to the following table:

Litigating Local Government Participation in the Settlement (by percentage of the population)	Amount that shall be paid into the Expense Fund from (and as a percentage of) the City/County fund
96 to 100%	10%
91 to 95%	7.5%
86 to 90%	5%
85%	2.5%
Less than 85%	0%

If fewer than 85% percent of the litigating Local Governments (by population) participate, then the Expense Fund shall not be funded, and this Section of the MOU shall be null and void.

- (c) The Timing of Payments into the Expense Fund- Although the amount of the Expense Fund shall be calculated based on the entirety of payments due to the City/County fund over a ten to eighteen year period, the Expense Fund shall be funded entirely from payments made by Pharmaceutical Supply Chain Participants during the first two years of the Settlement. Accordingly, to offset the amounts being paid from the City/County to the Expense Fund in the first two years, Counties or Municipalities may borrow from the Regional Fund during the

first two years and pay the borrowed amounts back to the Regional Fund during years three, four, and five.

For the avoidance of doubt, the following provides an illustrative example regarding the calculation of payments and amounts that may be borrowed under the terms of this MOU, consistent with the provisions of this Section:

Opioid Funds due to State of Florida and Local Governments (over 10 to 18 years):	\$1,000
Litigating Local Government Participation:	100%
City/County Fund (over 10 to 18 years):	\$150
Expense Fund (paid over 2 years):	\$15
Amount Paid to Expense Fund in 1st year:	\$7.5
Amount Paid to Expense Fund in 2nd year:	\$7.5
Amount that may be borrowed from Regional Fund in 1st year:	\$7.5
Amount that may be borrowed from Regional Fund in 2nd year:	\$7.5
Amount that must be paid back to Regional Fund in 3rd year:	\$5
Amount that must be paid back to Regional Fund in 4th year:	\$5
Amount that must be paid back to Regional Fund in 5th year:	\$5

- (d) Creation of and Jurisdiction over the Expense Fund- The Expense Fund shall be established, consistent with the provisions of this Section of the MOU, by order of the Circuit Court of the Sixth Judicial Circuit in and for Pasco County, West Pasco Division New Port Richey, Florida, in the matter of *The State of Florida, Office of the Attorney General, Department of Legal Affairs v. Purdue Pharma L.P., et al.*, Case No. 2018-CA-001438 (the “Court”). The Court shall have jurisdiction over the Expense Fund, including authority to allocate and disburse amounts from the Expense Fund and to resolve any disputes concerning the Expense Fund.
- (e) Allocation of Payments to Counsel from the Expense Fund- As part of the order establishing the Expense Fund, counsel for the litigating Local Governments shall seek to have the Court appoint a third-neutral to serve as a special master for purposes of allocating the Expense Fund. Within 30 days of entry of the order appointing a special master for the Expense Fund, any counsel who intend to seek an award from the Expense Fund shall provide the copies of their contingency fee contracts to the special master. The special master shall then build a mathematical model, which shall be based on each litigating Local Government’s share under the Negotiation Class Metrics and the rate set forth in their contingency contracts, to calculate a proposed award for each litigating Local Government who timely provided a copy of its contingency contract.

10. **Dispute resolution**- Any one or more of the Local Governments or the State may object to an allocation or expenditure of Opioid Funds solely on the basis that the allocation or expenditure at issue (a) is inconsistent with the Approved Purposes; (b) is inconsistent with the distribution scheme as provided in paragraph 3, or (c) violates the limitations set forth herein

with respect to administrative costs or the Expense Fund. There shall be no other basis for bringing an objection to the approval of an allocation or expenditure of Opioid Funds.