

MARION COUNTY CITY/COUNTY  
OPIOID ABATEMENT PLAN &  
2023-2024 PRIORITY LIST

October  
2023

## **OPIOID ABATEMENT FUNDS FOR MARION COUNTY, FLORIDA**

In Marion County, Florida, we stand at a critical juncture in our ongoing battle against the opioid crisis - a challenge that has deeply affected our communities, families, and individuals across various walks of life. Recognizing the complexity and the devastating impact of Opioid Use Disorder (OUD), our Opioid Abatement Plan is a comprehensive, strategic response designed to address this epidemic holistically. This plan, tailored to the unique needs and circumstances of Marion County, aims to implement a multifaceted approach, focusing on treatment, prevention, and continuous research and education.

Our commitment is to provide effective, evidence-based strategies that encompass a broad spectrum of interventions, from expanding access to treatment and recovery services and enhancing the quality and oversight of care to pioneering preventative measures that curb the misuse of opioids. We understand that the path towards healing and recovery is not uniform; hence, our plan is inclusive, considering the diverse needs of our population, including pregnant women, criminal-justice-involved persons, and the youth.

This plan is not just a document; it's a pledge to our community. It's a pledge to employ every resource at our disposal, to collaborate across sectors, and to innovate continuously to ensure that we are doing the utmost to combat this crisis. We are dedicated to creating a future for Marion County where the shadow of opioid addiction is replaced with hope, health, and a renewed sense of community resilience.

### **BACKGROUND**

In collaboration with various cities and counties in Florida, Marion County has entered into the Florida Opioid Allocation and Statewide Response Agreement (referred to as the "Florida Plan") with the State of Florida.

Under the provisions of this plan, the State has inaugurated the City/County Fund, intended to channel funds directly to city and county jurisdictions. Notably, Marion County's funding envelope also encompasses allocations meant for municipalities within its territory. This includes Belleview, Dunnellon, McIntosh, Ocala, and Reddick. These municipalities have elected to forward their City/County Fund allocations directly to Marion County. This strategic consolidation aims to optimize resource utilization by curtailing potential service redundancy, streamlining reporting processes, and simplifying administrative tasks.

The Opioid Settlement Committee was established in Marion County in March 2023. It includes representatives from law enforcement, fire rescue, county and city personnel, a Marion County Hospital District trustee, and elected representatives. Kathy Bryant, the Marion County Commissioner, chairs the meetings.

Marion County will coordinate with the Marion County Hospital District regarding the administration of the Opioid Settlement Plan.

### **BACKGROUND REGARDING THE USE OF OPIOID ABATEMENT FUNDS OUTLINED IN THE 2022 INTERLOCAL AGREEMENT WITH KEY EXCERPTS:**

An INTERLOCAL AGREEMENT was made and entered into on March 2022 ("Effective Date") by and between the City of Ocala and the Marion County Board of County Commissioners to form a Marion County – City of Ocala Joint Opioid Settlement Fund Administration Committee to make recommendations to expend settlement funds, for which the final decision for expenditures resides with the City of Ocala and Marion County Board of County Commissioners.

“W. It is the intent of the Parties to use the proceeds from settlements with from opioid litigation to increase the amount of funding presently spent on opioid and substance abuse education, treatment, and other related programs and services, and to ensure that the funds are expended in compliance with evolving evidence-based “best practices”; and

X. Pursuant to the Florida Plan, to be considered a Qualified County and obtain a direct allocation of a portion of the settlement funds, the Parties must enter into an agreement related to the expenditure of Opioid Funds and

Y. Pursuant to the Florida Plan, such Opioid Funds must be expended towards 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;”

### **EXISTING OPIOID SERVICES, GAPS, AND PRIORITY LIST**

The Opioid Settlement Committee consulted with several community service providers to discuss solutions to the Opioid Crisis during fiscal year 2022-2023. During these discussions, the providers presented to the committee identified existing services and perceived service gaps in the community concerning opioid abuse. The following table contains the Priority List developed by the Opioid Settlement Committee.

Agency	Services Provided	Organizational Capacity	Identified Needs of Community
<b>Marion County Hospital District</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Invests in programs related to substance use disorder and behavioral health</li> <li>Provides the largest amount of investments in community</li> <li>Provides match funding to SMA to draw down more funding for uncompensated care for</li> <li>Owns, operates and invests in Beacon Point, which is a 6-building complex providing substance use disorder and behavioral health services to Marion County residents regardless of their ability to pay for the services.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The organization invests over \$5 million a year in substance use disorder and behavioral health in Marion County.</li> <li>Staff expertise on community-wide funding, gaps in services, and substance use disorder/behavioral health.</li> <li>Relationships with community providers of substance use disorder and behavioral health</li> <li>Relationships with the managing entity that provides funding for SUD and Behavioral Health</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Centralized receiving facility in Marion County to coordinate care for substance use disorder.</li> <li>Safe and affordable transitional housing for individuals in recovery</li> </ul>
<b>Ocala Fire Rescue</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Participant in the Overdose Data to Action Program (ODA2)</li> <li>Narcan leave behind program</li> <li>Participant in the Coordinated Opioid Recovery (<b>CORE</b>) -</li> <li>Responds to overdoses</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Several staff trained and dedicated to overdoses</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Housing for individuals in recovery</li> <li>Detox for medically complicated individuals</li> <li>Limited second-chance employers</li> </ul>
<b>Marion County Fire Rescue</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Paramedicine Program</li> <li>Participant in the Coordinated Opioid Recovery (<b>CORE</b>)</li> <li>Responds to overdoses</li> <li>Agency that transports all Marion County</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Staff trained and dedicated to overdoses</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Community paramedicine in each battalion</li> <li>More trained staff</li> </ul>

	residents to hospitals or treatment facilities		
<b>Marion County Sheriff's Office</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Responds to overdoses</li> <li>• House inmates in jail with substance use disorder</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Unified drug enforcement task force</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Recovery for inmates</li> <li>• Narcotics analyzer machine</li> </ul>
<b>SMA Healthcare</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Largest provider of substance use disorder and behavioral health in Marion County with 2 locations in Marion</li> <li>• Amnesty Program which is a partnership with Ocala Police Department. Under certain circumstances, the program allows for treatment before arrest and incarceration</li> <li>• Crisis Stabilization for mental health emergencies for adults and children.</li> <li>• Detoxification from alcohol and drugs.</li> <li>• Outpatient services for mental health and substance abuse</li> <li>• Residential Services</li> <li>• Medication Assisted Treatment (MAT)- located at Beacon Point, available to individuals with or without insurance, distribution of naloxone, and emergency department peer intervention program.</li> <li>• Mobile Response Team</li> <li>• Prevention and community outreach</li> <li>• Shelter Care</li> <li>• Community Action Team</li> <li>• Participant in the Coordinated Opioid Recovery (CORE)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Expertise in the field of substance use disorder and behavioral health</li> <li>• Over 200 local employees</li> <li>• Operates 24/7</li> <li>• Familiar with funding requirements for state, federal, and local funds</li> <li>• Serve more than 10,000 unique individuals annually</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Centralized receiving facility</li> <li>• Transitional housing</li> </ul>
<b>Open Arms Village</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provides shelter and services to homeless men, most of whom are in recovery from substance use</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• two dedicated staff</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Women's shelter for recovery</li> </ul>
<b>Zero Hour Life</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Peer support services</li> <li>• Support groups</li> <li>• Re-entry program for inmates</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Unclear how many staff are dedicated to Marion County</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• More housing for individuals in recovery</li> <li>• More peer support staff</li> </ul>

## **Evidence-Based Best Practices for Consideration - noncomprehensive list**

### **Part One: Treatment Strategies**

#### A. Treatment of Opioid Use Disorder (OUD)

1. Expand Treatment Options:

- Enhance the availability of OUD treatment, including all FDA-approved Medication-Assisted Treatment (MAT).
- Comply with American Society of Addiction Medicine (ASAM) care guidelines.

2. Telehealth Expansion

- Broaden telehealth services for OUD, SUD/MH conditions, including MAT and psychiatric support.

3. Opioid Treatment Program Oversight

- Improve oversight to ensure evidence-based practices in Opioid Treatment Programs (OTPs).

4. Mobile Intervention Services

- Support mobile services by qualified professionals, including peer recovery coaches, for OUD and overdose cases.

5. Trauma-Informed Care

- Offer trauma treatment for OUD individuals and their families.
- Train healthcare personnel in trauma identification and management.

6. Withdrawal Management

- Provide evidence-based withdrawal management for people with OUD and mental health conditions.

7. Training and Workforce Development

- Train healthcare providers in MAT.
- Develop a workforce for addiction professionals.
- Offer support for addiction medicine specialists.

8. Scholarships and Support for Behavioral Health Practitioners

- Implement training, scholarships, and support programs for behavioral health workers.

9. DATA 2000 Waiver Training and Support

- Fund and train clinicians for DATA 2000 waiver to prescribe MAT.

10. Educational and Curricular Development

- Disseminate web-based training curricula and develop new courses on addiction psychiatry and MAT.

#### B. Support for People in Treatment and Recovery

1. Comprehensive Wrap-Around Services

- Provide housing, transportation, education, job placement, and childcare for individuals with OUD.

2. Full Continuum of Care

- Offer supportive housing, peer support, and case management services.

### 3. Access to Housing and Community Support

- Ensure housing options, including supportive and recovery housing.
- Provide social and legal services for deinstitutionalization.

### 4. Peer-Recovery Centers and Transportation Support

- Expand peer-recovery centers and transportation services for treatment access.

### 5. Employment and Educational Services

- Offer employment training and educational services for individuals in recovery.

## C. Connections to Care

### 1. Healthcare Provider Screening and SBIRT Programs

- Ensure healthcare provider screening for OUD and fund SBIRT programs.

### 2. Training and Technology for SBIRT

- Provide training and support technology implementation for SBIRT.

### 3. Hospital and Emergency Department Support

- Train emergency personnel and support hospital programs for follow-up care.

### 4. Crisis Stabilization Centers and EMS Support

- Support alternative crisis response centers and EMS in connecting individuals to treatment.

### 5. Funding for Peer Support Specialists

- Provide funding for peer support specialists in various healthcare settings.

## D. Addressing the Needs of Criminal-Justice-Involved Persons

### 1. Diversion and Deflection Strategies

- Support strategies like the Angel Programs, DART, and “Naloxone Plus.”

### 2. Pre-Trial Services and Treatment Courts

- Connect individuals to evidence-informed treatment and support recovery courts.

### 3. Incarcerated Individuals’ Treatment

- Provide MAT and recovery support for incarcerated individuals.

### 4. Staff Training and System-Wide Assessments

- Train law enforcement and correctional personnel in best practices for OUD.

### 5. Post-Incarceration Support

- Expand opioid diversion programs and support re-entry into the community.

## E. Addressing the Needs of Pregnant or Parenting Women and Their Families

1. Support for Pregnant Women and NAS Babies
  - Provide MAT and recovery services for pregnant women and NAS babies.
2. Family Support and Child Care Services
  - Enhance family support and offer childcare for parents with OUD.
3. Home-Based Wrap-Around Services
  - Provide home-based services, including parent skills training.
4. Support for Children's Services
  - Fund positions and services related to child welfare in the context of opioid use.

## **Part Two: Prevention Strategies**

### F. Prevent Over-Prescribing and Ensure Appropriate Prescribing

1. Education and Training on Prescribing Practices
  - Fund medical provider education on best practices for opioid prescribing.
2. Support for Non-Opioid Pain Treatment Alternatives
  - Promote training for multi-modal, evidence-informed pain treatment.
3. Enhancements to Prescription Drug Monitoring Programs (PDMPs)
  - Improve PDMPs to support better prescribing and intervention strategies.

### G. Prevent Misuse of Opioids

1. Media Campaigns and Educational Initiatives
  - Fund campaigns to prevent opioid misuse and provide public education.
2. Drug Take-Back Programs and Community Coalitions
  - Support drug disposal programs and community anti-drug coalitions.

### H. Prevent Overdose Deaths and Other Harms (Harm Reduction)

1. Naloxone Distribution and Training
  - Increase availability and training on naloxone for overdose treatment.
2. Syringe Service Programs and Infectious Disease Testing
  - Support harm reduction programs, including syringe services and testing for HIV and Hepatitis C.

## **Part Three: Other Strategies**

### I. First Responders

1. Education and Wellness Support
  - Educate first responders on opioid-related emergencies and provide support services.

## J. Leadership, Planning, and Coordination

### 1. Statewide and Community Planning

- Support planning and coordination efforts to abate the opioid epidemic.

## K. Training

### 1. Funding for Staff Training and Cross-System Coordination

- Provide resources for training programs to improve opioid crisis management.

## L. Research

### 1. Opioid Abatement Research

- Support research on opioid abatement strategies, harm reduction, and prevention.