

Catawba County Board of Commissioners
Special Meeting –Healthy and Safe Community Workshop
Monday, August 26, 2024, 8:30 a.m.

The Catawba County Board of Commissioners met in a Special Session on Monday, August 26, 2024, immediately following the regularly scheduled Subcommittee Meeting, at 8:30 a.m., at the Catawba County Board of Elections Meeting Room, 145 Government Drive, Newton, North Carolina. The purpose of this Special Meeting was to hold a strategic planning workshop around the Healthy and Safe Community focus area.

Present were Chair Randy Isenhower, Vice-Chair Austin Allran, and Commissioners Robert C. Abernethy, Jr., Barbara G. Beatty, and Cole Setzer.

Also present were County Manager Mary Furtado, Assistant County Manager Paul Murray, Assistant County Manager Justin Merritt, County Attorney Jodi Stewart, and County Clerk Dale Stiles. Dr. Beth Penley, Newton Conover City Schools Associate Superintendent, Jamie Todd, Opioid SUD Program Coordinator and Sylvia Fisher, EMS Manager were also present.

1. Chair Randy Isenhower called the Catawba County Board of Commissioners to order at 8:39 a.m., noting a quorum was present.
2. Presentations.
 - a. County Manager Mary Furtado presented the Board with a review of key take-aways from a previous workshop in December 2023, including key themes in community data and the resulting County service pressures. These complex problems are driving a more complex service response than ever before. Ms. Furtado overviewed a parallel approach to addressing these challenges – one focused on “right care, right place, right time” service interventions, and the other focused on prevention through creating a Community Culture of Resilience.
 - b. Opioid SUD Program Coordinator Jamie Todd presented the Board with a substance use data snapshot of Catawba County. Mr. Todd also provided the Board with Catawba County substance use updates overviewing the various activities he has conducted with County departments and external partners.
 - c. EMS Manager Sylvia Fisher and Jamie Todd presented the Board with information on the proposed Post Overdose Response Team (PORT) and Community Paramedicine Pilot Program, program functions, process, providers, and cost.
 - d. Dr. Beth Penley, Newton Conover City Schools Associate Superintendent, and Jamie Todd presented the Board with an overview of the School Resilience Pilot, that included data and what it tells us, and how to best use the data in schools, resilience framework, foundational practices, community approach, how to monitor progress, and anticipated results over time.

After the presentation, the Board discussed substance use demographics, funding possibilities, and the desire for additional data on who is being most heavily impacted by this issue.

Staff recommended the Board of Commissioners appropriate \$449,000 in funding; authorize four (4) full-time positions to support establishment of PORT Community Paramedic Program; and authorize addition of Peer Support Specialist position to pay plan, at pay grade 68. Program Costs include: three (3) full-time PORT Community Paramedics-\$382,000, and one (1) full-time Peer Support Specialist - \$67,000; totaling \$449,000.

Revenue Source
Catawba Valley Medical Center

Requested Appropriation
\$250,000

Opioid Settlement Funds

\$199,000
\$449,000

Commissioner Robert C. Abernethy Jr., made a motion to appropriate \$449,000 in funding, authorize 4 full-time positions to support establishment of PORT Community Paramedic Program; and authorize addition of Peer Support Specialist position to pay plan, at grade 68. The motion passed 4-1 with Chair Isenhower, Vice-Chair Allran and Commissioners Abernethy and Beatty in favor. Commissioner Setzer opposed the motion

Staff recommended the Board of Commissioners appropriate \$80,000 in Opioid Settlement Funds to support school-based resilience pilot program. Vice-Chair Austin Allran made a motion to appropriate \$80,000 in Opioid Settlement Funds to support school-based resilience pilot program. The motion passed 3-2 with Chair Isenhower, Vice-Chair Allran and Commissioner Beatty in favor. Commissioners Setzer and Abernethy opposed the motion.

The following resolution applies:

2024-26
A RESOLUTION BY CATAWBA COUNTY
TO DIRECT THE EXPENDITURE OF OPIOID SETTLEMENT FUNDS

WHEREAS, Catawba County has joined national settlement agreements with companies engaged in the manufacturing, distribution, and dispensing of opioids, including settlements with drug distributors Cardinal, McKesson, and AmerisourceBergen, and the drug maker Johnson & Johnson and its subsidiary Janssen Pharmaceuticals; and

WHEREAS, the allocation, use, and reporting of funds stemming from these national settlement agreements and certain bankruptcy resolutions ("Opioid Settlement Funds") are governed by the Memoranda of Agreement Between the State of North Carolina and Local Governments on Proceeds Relating to the Settlement of Opioid Litigation ("MOA"); and

WHEREAS, Catawba County has received Opioid Settlement Funds pursuant to these national settlement agreements and deposited the Opioid Settlement Funds in a separate special revenue fund as required by section D of the MOA; and

WHEREAS, section E.6 of the MOA states:

E.6. Process for drawing from special revenue funds.

- a. Budget item or resolution required. Opioid Settlement Funds can be used for a purpose when the Governing Body includes in its budget or passes a separate resolution authorizing the expenditure of a stated amount of Opioid Settlement Funds for that purpose or those purposes during a specified period of time.
- b. Budget item or resolution details. The budget or resolution should (i) indicate that it is an authorization for expenditure of opioid settlement funds; (ii) state the specific strategy or strategies the county or municipality intends to fund pursuant to Option A or Option B, using the item letter and/or number in Exhibit A or Exhibit B to identify each funded strategy, and (iii) state the amount dedicated to each strategy for a stated period of time.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, in alignment with the NC MOA, the Catawba County Board of County Commissioners authorizes the expenditure of opioid settlement funds as follows:

1. First strategy authorized:
 - a. Name of strategy: Opioid / Substance Use Disorder Program Coordinator
 - b. Strategy is included in: Exhibit A
 - c. Item letter and/or number in Exhibit A or Exhibit B to the MOA: Exhibit A Item 1

- d. Amount authorized for this strategy: \$251,753
 - e. Period of time during which expenditure may take place:
Start date 8/7/2023 through End date 6/30/2025
 - f. Description of the program, project, or activity: Provides funding to employ an Opioid / Substance Use Disorder Program Coordinator Position and provide related operating expenses to explore /oversee / implement the County's collaborative strategic planning efforts related to Opioid / Substance Use Disorder, and criminal justice diversion programs (part of duties will be to work with Drug Court and Veterans Court).
 - g. Provider: Catawba County
 - h. Date(s) of BOC Action: 8/7/23; 6/3/24
2. Second strategy authorized:
- a. Name of strategy: Medication Assisted Treatment (MAT) in Detention Centers
 - b. Strategy is included in: Exhibit A
 - c. Item letter and/or number in Exhibit A or Exhibit B to the MOA: Exhibit A, Item 11
 - d. Amount authorized for this strategy: \$180,000
 - e. Period of time during which expenditure may take place:
Start date 7/1/2024 through End date 6/30/2025
 - f. Description of the program, project, or activity: Provides medically assisted treatment for this purpose and associated therapy for inmates in the Catawba County Detention Center.
 - g. Provider: Catawba County Sheriff's Office and its contracted medical provider/s.
 - h. Date(s) of BOC Action: 6/3/24
3. Third strategy authorized:
- a. Name of strategy: Community Paramedicine/PORT
 - b. Strategy is included in: Exhibit A
 - c. Item letter and/or number in Exhibit A or Exhibit B to the MOA: Exhibit A, Item 8
 - d. Amount authorized for this strategy: \$199,000
 - e. Period of time during which expenditure may take place:
Start date 8/26/2024 through End date 6/30/2025
 - f. Description of the program, project, or activity: A post-overdose response team (PORT), is an overdose follow-up program that allows Community Paramedics to visit a person who experienced an overdose within 24-72 hours of the incident. PORTs provide support, education, and access to evidence-based treatment such as medication for opioid use disorder (MOUD) and other life-saving resources.
 - g. Provider: Catawba County Emergency Services / Emergency Medical Services
 - h. Date(s) of BOC Action: 8/26/24
4. Fourth strategy authorized:
- a. Name of strategy: Newton-Conover City Schools (N-CCS) School Resilience Pilot
 - b. Strategy is included in: Exhibit A
 - c. Item letter and/or number in Exhibit A or Exhibit B to the MOA: Exhibit A, Item 6
 - d. Amount authorized for this strategy: \$80,000
 - e. Period of time during which expenditure may take place:
Start date 8/26/2024 through End date 6/30/2025
 - f. Description of the program, project, or activity: Partner with N-CCS to continue building out School Resilience Framework. Structure as pilot program to potentially serve as model for other schools
 - i. Fund full-time School Psychologist (\$61,000); part-time Community Outreach Coordinator (\$19,000) at N-CCS as part of pilot team; roles are critical to defining and facilitating framework
 - ii. Moving forward, develop replicable, measurable model and implementation method that can be scaled to fit other school systems, based on readiness.

- g. Provider: N-CCS
- h. Date(s) of BOC Action: 8/26/24

The total dollar amount of Opioid Settlement Funds appropriated across the above named and authorized strategies is \$710,753.

This the 26th day of August, 2024.

- 3. Adjournment. Upon a motion by Commissioner Beatty which unanimously carried, the meeting was adjourned at 10:45 a.m. with no further action.



Randy Isenhower, Chair
Catawba County Board of Commissioners



Dale R. Stiles, County Clerk