

NEBRASKA

Good Life. Great Mission.

DEPT. OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES



Jim Pillen, Governor

December 15, 2023

The Honorable Jim Pillen
Governor of Nebraska
P.O. Box 94848
Lincoln, NE 68509-4848

The Honorable Mike Hilgers
Attorney General of Nebraska
State Capitol Room 2115
Lincoln, NE 68509

Mr. Brandon Metzler
Clerk of the Legislature
State Capitol Room 2018
Lincoln, NE 68509

Subject: Opioid Prevention Funds Report

Dear Governor Pillen, Attorney General Hilgers and Mr. Metzler:

Pursuant to Neb. Rev. Stat. § 71-2489, the Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services is submitting the following information regarding the use of funds appropriated under the Opioid Prevention and Treatment Act and the outcomes from such use.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Tony Green".

Tony Green, Director
Division of Behavioral Health

Attachment

Division of Behavioral Health

Annual Opioid Prevention Funds Report

December 2023

Neb. Rev. Stat. § 71-2489

Opioid Settlement Activity

July 1, 2022 through June 30, 2023

Department of Health & Human Services (DHHS)

As of June 30, 2023, the DHHS Division of Behavioral Health (DBH) has expended \$1,563 to reimburse Nebraska Opioid Settlement Remediation Advisory Committee (Committee) members' expenses for attendance at Committee meetings. The Committee met six (6) times during the reporting period and continues to work to identify outcomes and distribution parameters. In addition, \$10,000,000 was disbursed per the direction of the Committee to the six Regional Behavioral Health Authorities to fund activities in their respective areas.

The Division of Public Health (DPH) has begun the hiring process for two (2) full-time employees, as appropriated in LB227A (2023). LB227 allowed for the formation of local overdose fatality review teams led by local Public Health Departments. The DPH is responsible for providing requested information to the local review teams and aggregating local review teams annually for a single, publically available report. The expected start date for the two hired positions is during Fiscal Year 2023-24. As of June 30, 2023, no expenses were incurred against the Opioid Settlement fund.

Nebraska State Fire Marshall LB814 (2023)

Nebraska's first responders have been negatively affected by the Opioid Crisis, and DHHS supports the underlying goal of providing needed support and training for the State's first responders. To fully understand the issues faced by the State's vast first responder community the Department is establishing a working group to determine: the exact needs of the various participants; possible programs; methods for distribution and participation; training styles and methods; and ways to effectively administer the funds. To facilitate dialogue and gain this information, members of the working group include representatives of the following organizations:

1. Nebraska State Volunteer Firefighters Association
2. Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services – EMS Division
3. Nebraska Municipal Fire Chiefs
4. Nebraska Crime Commission
5. Nebraska State Patrol
6. Nebraska Fraternal Order of Police (FOP)
7. Nebraska Sheriff Association
8. Omaha Fire Union President
9. Nebraska State Fire Union President
10. Senators and staff of the Legislature

As of June 30, 2023, no expenses have been incurred against the Opioid Settlement fund.

Regional Behavioral Health Authorities

Regional Behavioral Health Authorities (RBHA) were awarded \$10,000,000 to begin work within their geographic areas to address opioid/stimulant prevention, treatment, and recovery needs. Funds were distributed per settlement parameters in June 2023, which allocated a specific percentage to be awarded per county and city as designated in the settlement. Additionally, funds redirected by counties or cities to the Opioid Fund were also paid to the appropriate RBHAs as part of this payment.

June 2023 Region Disbursement	
Region 1	\$548,840
Region 2	\$516,475
Region 3	\$1,122,430
Region 4	\$885,945
Region 5	\$2,561,187
Region 6	\$4,365,123

RBHAs reported that since receiving these funds they have begun hiring staff or consultants to direct local efforts (Region 2, 3, 5, 6), establishing local teams for planning efforts (all Regions), and planning Opioid/Stimulant summits or conferences in the coming year (all Regions) to bring stakeholders together for education on evidence-based practices, identify resources, challenges and needs in the area, as well as identify priority areas. Funding distribution processes, including outcomes, are being developed but have yet to be made final in any Region.