



DATE: April 29, 2026

TO: Public Safety and Health Committee, City of Milwaukee Common Council

FROM: Shakita LaGrant McClain, Director, Department of Health and Human Services

SUBJECT: Letter of Support with respect to strategic alignment, collective impact, and local collaboration for Opioid Settlement Funds (OSF)

Dear members of the Public Safety & Health Committee,

The Milwaukee County Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) expresses its support for the City of Milwaukee's proposed three-year strategic plan to respond to the substance use epidemic. DHHS supports the City in undertaking a whole government approach to collaboratively achieve better health outcomes, fewer years of life lost to substance use, and fewer drug-related deaths in our community.

Both the City and County of Milwaukee were party to the opioid litigation and have each been separately awarded and entrusted with transformational sums to abate the harms of substance use in our community. The resources, released in segments from 2022-2038, are, and will continue to be, invested to promote wellbeing, expand prevention efforts, increase access to treatment and recovery, and reduce overdose deaths.

The City and County are each implementing interventions and programs aligned with their respective jurisdictional scopes of practice. We are committed to continued alignment on strategic objectives, and remain committed to working in a parallel and complementary fashion, including diverging where necessary to avoid duplication of efforts. For example, DHHS BHS will continue and expand its substantial portfolio in Mental, Emotional, and Behavioral (MEB) programs and services. The City can regard these MEB services as the scaffolding upon which additional investments of opioid settlement funds can be built, for example by focusing efforts and strengthening investment in health promotion and universal, selective, and indicated prevention.

Milwaukee County and the City of Milwaukee commit to continued communication, collaboration, and partnership in investment of opioid settlement funds, with the understanding that the community's health lies in our mutual success. This partnership continues a long tradition of City-County engagement across many years and various committees. Some of the many collaborations include: The Prevention Collective, Milwaukee County Overdose Public Health and Safety Team Advisory Committee and General Membership, Medical College of Wisconsin's Center for Substance Use Research and Intervention (SURI) Community Advisory Board, Overdose Spike Alert Rapid Evaluation Team, RISE Drug Free MKE, and



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engagement from MHD Senior Public Health Strategist in the County's scoring of proposed settlement fund projects.

Together, we will expand and amplify the existing substance use response capacity within our community and stand united to reduce overdoses and improve wellbeing.

Sincerely,

Shakita LaGrant-McClain
Shakita LaGrant/McClain, Director
Department of Health and Human Services