

**BERNALILLO COUNTY**

**BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**

**ADMINISTRATIVE RESOLUTION NO. 2023 105**

**A RESOLUTION ESTABLISHING A POLICY FOR THE EXPENDITURE  
OF OPIOID SETTLEMENT MONIES**

**WHEREAS**, opioid settlement monies are being provided to address the damages inflicted by the widespread marketing and misuse of synthetic opioids, its impact on our public health and safety, on families and individuals, and the local economy; and

**WHEREAS**, the term “opioid” can be used to include plant-derived opiates, semisynthetic opioids such as oxycodone, which have compounds from plant sources, and fully synthetic opioids which are completely humanmade via laboratories; and

**WHEREAS**, opioid settlement monies are insufficient to address the full spectrum of needs of our community as it relates to opioid use disorder, but these monies offer a unique and potentially transformational opportunity for targeted spending to address some of these needs; and

**WHEREAS**, opioid settlement monies are a one-time source of funding and should thus fund effective evidence-based, culturally responsive, trauma-responsive, and promising practices to address addiction, homelessness due to addiction and prevention, intervention and treatment programs and facilities; and

**WHEREAS**, the planned, strategic spending of these funds should include a focus on addressing community impacts of opioids, in alignment with the advice of behavioral health, community prevention, and addiction treatment providers who are experts in the area of behavioral health, positive youth development, family engagement, and public health and policy experts, such as the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health, the Rand

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1 Corporation, the National Association of Counties, and local providers such as those on the  
2 ATAB (Addiction Treatment Advisory Board); and

3 **WHEREAS**, opioid settlement monies have a set of guidelines attached based on the  
4 settlement agreements reached with the various parties. While the range of possible uses of  
5 these funds is broad, many of the uses fall into the category of recurring expenditures and  
6 thus should include the understanding of the need to commit future dollars to these expenses;  
7 and

8 **WHEREAS**, opioid settlement monies will be received in payments over a number of  
9 years depending on the specific settlement agreement. The overall projected settlement fund  
10 and timeline of receipt of the funding should be a critical factor in the planning and decision-  
11 making processes rather than point-in-time snapshots of the funding available; and

12 **WHEREAS**, through careful, deliberate, and strategic planning and consideration of the  
13 best practices and promising best practices principles established by public health  
14 policymakers, behavioral health experts, and the Substance Abuse and Mental Health  
15 Services Administration ("SAMHSA"), opioid settlement funding can be used to make  
16 strategic investments that have real and lasting impacts in our community and for individuals  
17 and families most impacted; and

18 **WHEREAS**, combining opioid settlement resources and planning with the City of  
19 Albuquerque will further strengthen our ability to meet the biggest opioid use disorder needs  
20 in our community while avoiding duplication of effort and building a strong and coordinated  
21 support network.

22 **NOW, THEREFORE**, be it resolved by the Board of County Commissioners, the  
23 governing body of the County of Bernalillo, that