TRACKING NUMBER: 8-20260420-R13

**A RESOLUTION BY THE COUNTY OF Columbus**
**TO DIRECT THE EXPENDITURE OF OPIOID SETTLEMENT FUNDS**

**WHEREAS** Columbus 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.

**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 Memorandum of Agreement Between the State of North Carolina and Local Governments on Proceeds Relating to the Settlement of Opioid Litigation ("MOA");

**WHEREAS** Columbus 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;

**WHEREAS** section E.6 of the MOA states that, before spending opioid settlement funds, the local government's governing body must adopt a resolution that:

(i) indicates that it is an authorization for expenditure of opioid settlement funds; and,
(ii) states 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) states the amount dedicated to each strategy for a specific period of time.

**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED,** in alignment with the NC MOA, Columbus County authorizes the expenditure of opioid settlement funds and allows the County Manager to execute contracts as needed for the following:

1. **First strategy authorized**
   a. COLLABORATIVE STRATEGIC PLANNING
   b. Exhibit A-1
   c. $100,000
   d. July 1, 2026 through End date June 30, 2027
   e. Bruton Consulting, Inc. will manage the County's Opioid Settlement Project and coordinate communication among programs funded by the Opioid Settlement funds as well as be responsible for completing all reports required for the Opioid Settlement to the NC State reporting system and NC Attorney General. Additional, will support grant writing to leverage opioid settlement funds should grant funding become available and implement the Strategic Plan as approved by the County Commissioners. Bruton Consulting will facilitate the quarterly meetings of the Opioid Steering Committee as outlined in the MOU>
   f. Provider: Columbus County contract with Bruton Consulting, Inc.

2. **Second strategy authorized**
   a. HARM REDUCTION-NALOXONE DISTRIBUTION
   b. Exhibit B-H-1
   c. $18,000
   d. July 1, 2026-June 30, 2027
   e. Columbus County provides Naloxone for its County and municipal first responders as needed..
   f. Provider: Columbus County.

3. **Third strategy authorized**
   a. PREVENT OVERDOSE DEATHS AND OTHER HARMS (HARM REDUCTION)
   b. Exhibit B: H-5
   c. $15,000
   d. July 1, 2026 through June 30, 2027
   e. Software support for EMS database to track Opioid and other drug overdoses occurring in the County EMS system.
   f. Provider: Columbus County

4. **Fourth strategy authorized**
   a. SUPPORT PEOPLE IN TREATMENT AND RECOVERY
   b. Exhibit A-2
   c. $225,000
   d. July 1, 2026 through June 30, 2027
   e. Contract with The Healing Place of New Hanover County to provide 3102 days of stabilization, short and long term rehabilitation to support Opioid/Other SUD or OUD/MH conditions for adults from Columbus County.

f. Provider: The Healing Place of New Hanover County

5. **Fifth strategy authorized**
   a. CONNECT PEOPLE WHO NEED HELP TO THE HELP THEY NEED
   b. Exhibit B: C-16
   c. $85,700.00
   d. July 1, 2026 through June 30, 2027
   e. Provide 24/7 Crisis phone line and referral services.
   f. Provider: Columbus County Health Department

6. **Sixth strategy authorized**
   a. PREVENT MISUSE OF OPIOIDS
   b. Exhibit B: G-9
   c. $75,000.00
   d. July 1, 2026 through June 30, 2027
   e. Provide LifeSkills EBP curricula, training/supports and evaluation to the Columbus County and Whiteville School Systems. Evaluate the programs at both schools to track data and determine effectiveness.
   f. Provider: Botkin "Lifeskills Training" – Evidence Based Prevention curricula and Bruton Consulting, Inc. providing the Evaluation.

7. **Seventh strategy authorized**
   a. SUPPORT TREATMENT AND RECOVERY COURTS THAT PROVIDE EVIDENCE BASED OPTIONS FOR PERSONS W OUD AND ANY CO-OCCURRING SUD.MH CONDITIONS.
   b. B: D-3
   c. $480,477.00
   d. July 1, 2026 through June 30, 2027
   e. Provide funding for up to 1 year of operations for a Columbus County Recovery Court operating out of the District Court.
   f. Provider: Columbus County.

8. **Eighth strategy authorized**
   a. PREVENT MISUSE OF OPIOIDS
   b. B: G-1
   c. $100,000.00
   d. July 1, 2026-June 30, 2027
   e. Develop and implement a comprehensive marketing plan to educate Columbus County residents on the harm of Opioid/Other Substance Use/MH conditions and local resources. Maintain and provide weekly updates to the Quit-It Columbus Facebook page utilizing recent Columbus County specific data and EBP researched information about opioids and other drugs and resources.
   f. Provider; Columbus County via contracts with Josh Fraimow, Indigo Media, Inc., and Bruton Consulting, Inc.

9. **Ninth strategy authorized**
   a. SUPPORT PEOPLE IN TREATMENT AND RECOVERY
   b. B: B-7
   c. $8,000.00
   d. July 1 2026- June 30, 2027
   e. Provide to transport Columbus County residents to Jacksonville and Greenville for detoxification/stabilization services for conditions related to their opioid, dual diagnosis or other substance use issues requiring specialized assessment and stabilization.
   f. Provider: TBN

10. **Tenth strategy authorized**
   a. LEADERSHIP, PLANNING AND COORDINATION
   b. B: J-4
   c. $75,000
   d. July 1, 2026-June 30 , 2027.
   e. This supports two part-time positions within the County Government: Grants Coordinator and Accounting Technician who account for the Opioid Settlement Funding and outcomes reporting requirements.
   f. Provider: Columbus County.

The total dollar amount of Opioid Settlement Funds appropriated across the above named and authorized strategies is $1,182,177.00

Adopted this the 20th day of April, 2026.

Brent Watts, Chair

Columbus County Board of Commissioners

ATTEST:

Jana Nealey, Clerk to the Board

**COUNTY SEAL**

