

MEMORANDUM



Bellevue Parks &
Community Services

DATE: February 21, 2024

TO: Human Services Commission Members

FROM: Toni Esparza, Assistant Director
Parks & Community Services

SUBJECT: Opioid Settlement Proposal

The City of Bellevue is accepting settlement funds from various opioid distributors and sellers. The use of the funds are dictated by a settlement agreement and oversight comes from the newly developed Opioid Abatement Council. A cross departmental workgroup with representatives from Parks & Community Services-Human Services, Bellevue Police Department and Bellevue Fire Department have formed a recommendation for use of these funds in line with the settlement agreement. Also, in line with the settlement agreement, we are conducting public outreach to seek feedback on the proposal.

Overdose deaths involving opioids in King County have quadrupled from 189 overdose deaths in 2012 to 802 overdose deaths in 2022. There is also a critical shortage of treatment resources, and the process to access these resources is cumbersome, frequently posing systemic barriers to our most marginalized community members. To provide residents with support to access resources, the workgroup is recommending the addition of an **Opioid Use Disorder Crisis Response and Outreach Worker** to be added to the City of Bellevue Fire CARES team. This social worker would support low- and moderate-income community members struggling with an opioid use disorder or experiencing an opioid crisis to connect to treatment resources. The social worker would address barriers to successful treatment through navigation support. Settlement dollars would also be used for direct provision of resources that would enable access to treatment. Dependent on workload, this individual would provide education on prevention and intervention related to opioids to external and internal stakeholders.

Staff are seeking feedback from the community and the Human Services Commission:

- Does this proposal meet a community need?
- What suggestions do you have that will further the success of this proposal and ensure we reach those who need help the most?

Attachments:

One Washington Memorandum of Understanding Between Washington Municipalities

King County Regional Agreement Opioid Abatement Council