

August 17, 2023

Opioid and Substance Use Response Initiatives Milestones and Future Opioid Response Activities Update

Milestones

Ramsey County's share of the Minnesota opioid overdose prevention settlement funds is \$15,780,977, payable in installments over the course of an 18-year period from both the Distributor and Johnson & Johnson settlements.

To date, Ramsey County has received five payments in 2022 and 2023 for a total amount of \$3,728,022.51 and anticipates receiving 5 additional payments in 2023 of approximately \$2,470,620.97 dollars from the recent Teva, Allergan, Walgreens, and Walmart settlements.

SPRCPH Community Feedback Survey on Opioid Resources – A Preliminary Summary

An electronic community feedback survey was available via SurveyMonkey to Ramsey County residents and others who work in the county (including county employees) during June-August 2022. The survey asked respondents for their opinion on how important is it that Ramsey County prioritize resources for each defined remediation categories outlined in the 1st Opioid Settlement Agreement. Over 350 people responded.

Ramsey County Launched the Opioid Response Initiative Website

As part of our public education and awareness on this issue, we launched a [opioid response initiative web page](#) in 2022.

Ramsey County Launched the Open Data portal

A new resource is available that tracks the local impact of the opioid epidemic. Saint Paul – Ramsey County Public Health has partnered with county Communications to create an [Opioid Crisis in Ramsey County](#) dashboard to share the story of how this national public health crisis is impacting our community.

SPRCPH Hosted its 1st annual meeting with City Jurisdictions on November 30, 2022

The purpose of the meeting was to discuss how we can partner to meet the needs of residents in the Ramsey County through a shared Opioid Response Initiative, and how we can leverage settlement funds overtime.

SPRCPH Hosted its 1st Opioid Response Initiative Partner meeting on March 22, 2023

Twenty-Four invited organizations attended our 1st community partner meeting. The purpose of the meeting was to provide an update on the current impact of the opioid crisis and the preliminary survey data, to gather ideas on what's needed and possible to address this crisis, ideas for future use of Opioid funds. We also took time to get feedback from our partners on how they'd like to be involved and how SPRCPH can collaborate with our partners moving forward. We shared our commitments to the community and next steps this year for the Opioid Response Initiative.

SPRCPH Submitted the 1st Annual Opioid Settlement Funds Report to DHS on March 31, 2023

All Participating Local Governments that directly receive Opioid Settlement funds need to report annually to The Minnesota Department of Human Services (DHS) on activities and expenditures to date.

SPRCPH Narcan Training for Ramsey County Staff

Since 2022, our peer specialist has provided 41 trainings to 681 county staff, senior and executive leadership on how to use Narcan and other harm reduction resources. Nasal Narcan was given to each employee that attended the training. Funding from the DHS Opioid Epidemic Response Advisory Council (OERAC) grant helps support the work of our peer specialist and internal trainings for county staff and leadership that will continue through 2024.

Amended Minnesota Opioids State-Subdivision Memorandum of Agreement

Ramsey County signed and opted into the amended Minnesota Opioids State-Subdivision Memorandum of Agreement on April 10, 2023, which includes the second wave of settlements from Teva, Allergan, CVS, Walgreens, and Walmart.

Ramsey County Detox and Withdrawal Management

The [Ramsey County Detoxification Facility](#) is accepting clients again, and is now offering medicated withdrawal management services. This new service offers a more holistic approach with high-end stabilization and treatment planning as well as medication assistance with withdrawal. The county obtained a license from the Minnesota Department of Human Services which expands capacity to provide this service in the metro area. The county had temporarily paused its operations to train staff on this new service and to integrate it with existing operations. As of August 14, County Detox is fully operational. The Detox and Withdrawal Management Center is located in the [402 University Avenue East building](#).

Syringe Service Program (SSP)

The SSP is centrally located in downtown St. Paul, accessible to communities disproportionately impacted by substance use disorder and HIV including low-income individuals, racially and ethnically diverse communities, and people experiencing homelessness. It is the only SSP in St. Paul, and functions primarily as a safe place to dispose of contaminated syringes and receive sterile syringes. Its wraparound services include naloxone kit distribution and overdose prevention education; HIV, HCV, and STI testing and linkage to care; wound care; vaccinations; and referrals to substance use disorder treatment, medical care, mental health, and social services. To meet diverse needs of clients, staff formed and maintained relationships with multiple community partners. In 2022, the SSP saw 2,106 individuals for 6,798 visits. SSP staff distributed 374,232 syringes to individuals and 66,840 to community partners. Narcan kits (3 doses) were distributed to 5,798 individuals.

Medicated Assisted Treatment (MAT) Program

Ramsey County provides culturally responsive Medicated Assisted Treatment (MAT) for its residents with Opioid Use Disorder, focusing on African American and American Indian communities. The African American/Black and American Indian populations are overrepresented in both the corrections system and in the chemical health facility (Detox/Withdrawal Management), and those facilities are among the entry points for services. Services are provided by Saint Paul-Ramsey County Public Health in collaboration with the Ramsey County Social Services and Community Corrections Departments. The service design includes three components: Corrections-based treatment, community-based treatment, and care coordination. Corrections-based treatment is available to people with substance use disorder who enter the Adult Detention Center and the Ramsey County Correctional Facility while they are going through withdrawal. Community-based treatment is provided to those referred from community partners, correctional facilities, Ramsey County mental health services, Ramsey County syringe exchange services and Detox. Finally, care coordination and community follow up is provided to improve treatment continuity and prevent recidivism.

Future Opioid Response Initiatives Activities Update

Ultimately our goal is to build strategies that are informed and co-designed in consultation with internal and external key partners, municipalities, and people most impacted by the opioid and substance use crisis. It's important that we have a vision for addressing the opioid epidemic that is not just tied to the settlement or other funding that is available but focuses on the needs of our community and making the greatest impact over time through education and awareness, treatment, prevention, and recovery. SPRCPH will implement the following efforts as part of the county's opioid response in 2023-2024:

- Host the 2nd Opioid Response Initiative Partnership meeting for further action planning for community engagement
- Launch the Ramsey County Naloxone and Narcan Distribution Pilot Program
- Publish Phase I Action Steps for the Ramsey County Opioid Response Initiative
- Open applications for the Ramsey County Community Response and Prevention Grant Program
- Host the annual Ramsey County Jurisdictions meeting