

REQUEST FOR BOARD ACTION
HENDERSON COUNTY
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

MEETING DATE: March 6, 2023

SUBJECT: Memorandum of Agreement on Potential Opioid Settlement

PRESENTER: Charles Russell Burrell

ATTACHMENT(S): Resolution of Adoption
Supplemental Agreement with Henderson County signature page

Additional defendants have settled in the various opioid class actions, and the settlements are moving forward toward final approval. Attached is a proposed resolution indicating County approval of the concept, and a supplemental agreement that would distribute funds received in settlements with Walmart, Inc., Teva Pharmaceutical Industries Ltd., Allergan Finance, LLC, Allergan Limited, CVS Health Corporation, CVS Pharmacy, Inc., and Walgreen Co., The distribution of funds would follow the same formula as for previous settlements.

County staff will be present and prepared if requested to give further information on this matter.

BOARD ACTION REQUESTED:

Approval of the Supplemental Agreement.

If the Board is so inclined, the following motion is suggested:

I move that the Board approve the proposed Resolution and proposed Supplemental Agreement, and that the Chair execute the documents on behalf of the County.

Henderson County
North Carolina

Before the Board of Commissioners

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS ENACTMENT 2023-_____

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING EXECUTION OF OPIOID SETTLEMENTS AND APPROVING THE SUPPLEMENTAL AGREEMENT FOR ADDITIONAL FUNDS BETWEEN THE STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA AND LOCAL GOVERNMENTS ON PROCEEDS RELATING TO THE SETTLEMENT OF OPIOID LITIGATION

WHEREAS, the opioid overdose epidemic had taken the lives of more than 32,000 North Carolinians (2000-2021);

WHEREAS, the COVID-19 pandemic has compounded the opioid overdose crisis, increasing levels of drug misuse, addiction, and overdose death; and

WHEREAS, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention estimates the total economic burden of prescription opioid misuse alone in the United States is \$78.5 billion a year, including the costs of healthcare, lost productivity, addiction treatment, and criminal justice involvement; and

WHEREAS, certain counties and municipalities in North Carolina joined with thousands of local governments across the country to file lawsuits against opioid manufacturers, pharmaceutical distribution companies, and chain drug stores to hold those companies accountable for their misconduct; and

WHEREAS, settlements have been reached in litigation against Walmart, Inc., Teva Pharmaceutical Industries Ltd., Allergan Finance, LLC, Allergan Limited, CVS Health Corporation, CVS Pharmacy, Inc., and Walgreen Co., as well as their subsidiaries, affiliates, officers, and directors named in the these Settlements; and

WHEREAS, representatives of local North Carolina governments, the North Carolina Association of County Commissioners, and the North Carolina Department of Justice have negotiated and prepared a Supplemental Agreement for Additional Funds (SAAF) to provide for the equitable distribution of the proceeds of these settlements; and

WHEREAS, by joining the settlements and approving the SAAF, the state and local governments maximize North Carolina's share of opioid settlement funds to ensure the needed resources reach communities, as quickly, effectively, and directly as possible; and

WHEREAS, it is advantageous to all North Carolinians for local governments, including Henderson County and its residents, to sign onto the settlements and SAAF and demonstrate solidarity in response to the opioid overdose crisis, and to maximize the share of opioid settlement funds received both in the state and Henderson County to help abate the harm; and

WHEREAS, the SAAF directs substantial resources over multiple years to local governments on the front lines of the opioid overdose epidemic while ensuring that these resources are used in an effective way to address the crisis;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Henderson County Board of Commissioners hereby authorizes the Board Chair and county staff to execute all documents necessary to enter into opioid settlement agreements with Walmart, Walgreens, CVS, Allergan, and Teva, to execute the SAAF, and to provide such documents to Rubris, the Implementation Administrator.

Adopted this the _____ day of March, 2023.

REBECCA McCALL, Chair
Henderson County Board of Commissioners

ATTEST:

DENISA LAUFFER, Clerk to the Board

[SEAL]

Supplemental Agreement for Additional Funds From Additional Settlements of Opioid Litigation

I. PURPOSE

The purpose of this Supplemental Agreement for Additional Funds (“SAAF”) is to direct Additional Funds from Additional Settlements of opioid litigation to the state of North Carolina and local governments in a manner consistent with the Memorandum of Agreement (“MOA”) Between the State of North Carolina and Local Governments on Proceeds Relating to the Settlement of Opioid Litigation that has governed the distribution of Opioid Settlement Funds to the State and its Local Governments since May 2022.

This SAAF does not change the scope or meaning of the MOA with respect to Opioid Settlement Funds governed by the MOA. Instead, this SAAF applies the terms of the MOA – with certain clarifications noted below – to the Additional Settlements and Additional Funds described below.

II. SCOPE

- A. Scope of the MOA. Under the terms of the MOA, the MOA governs Opioid Settlement Funds from:
1. The National Settlement Agreement with the drug distributors Cardinal, McKesson, and AmerisourceBergen and the drug maker Johnson & Johnson and its subsidiary Janssen Pharmaceuticals; and
 2. The Bankruptcy Resolution with Mallinckrodt; any Bankruptcy Resolution with Purdue; and any other Bankruptcy Resolution as the term “Bankruptcy Resolution” is defined in the MOA.
- B. Scope of this SAAF. This SAAF governs Additional Funds from the Additional Settlements with Additional Settling Defendants Walmart, Inc., Teva Pharmaceutical Industries Ltd., Allergan Finance, LLC, Allergan Limited, CVS Health Corporation, CVS Pharmacy, Inc., and Walgreen Co., as well as their subsidiaries, affiliates, officers, and directors named in the Additional Settlements.

III. APPLICATION OF THE MOA TO ADDITIONAL SETTLEMENTS AND FUNDS

The MOA, which is incorporated herein by reference, governs Additional Settlements and Additional Funds in every respect, except as set forth hereinbelow. In the event of any conflict between the MOA and this SAAF, with respect to Additional Settlements and Additional Funds, the provisions of this SAAF shall take precedence.

A. Definitions.

1. The definitions used in the MOA are incorporated by reference into this SAAF.
2. “Additional Funds” shall mean all funds allocated by the Additional Settlements to the State or Local Governments for purposes of opioid remediation activities, as well as any repayment of those funds and any interest or investment earnings that may accrue as those funds are temporarily held before being expended on opioid remediation strategies. Not included are funds made available in Additional Settlements for the payment of the Parties’ litigation expenses or the reimbursement of the United States Government.
3. “Additional Settlements” means a national opioid settlement agreement with the Parties and one or more of the Additional Settling Defendants concerning alleged misconduct in manufacture, marketing, promotion, distribution, or dispensing of an opioid analgesic.
4. “Additional Settling Defendants” means the defendants listed in section II.B of this SAAF.
5. “Local Counsel” means legal counsel and law firms who have a principal office in North Carolina and represented one or more North Carolina counties and municipalities in litigation against one or more Additional Settling Defendant concerning opioids.
6. “National Counsel” means legal counsel and law firms who have a principal office outside of North Carolina and represented various North Carolina counties and municipalities in litigation against one or more Settling Defendant or Additional Settling Defendant concerning opioids.
7. “Required Local Governments” means all North Carolina counties and municipalities that have filed litigation against any of the Settling Defendants or Additional Settling Defendants.

B. Allocation of Additional Funds

1. Method of distribution. Pursuant to any Additional Settlements, Additional Funds shall be distributed directly to the State, Local Governments, and Local Counsel for such uses as set forth in the MOA and this SAAF, provided Opioid Settlement Funds shall not be considered funds of the State, any Local Governments, or any Local Counsel unless and until such time as each distribution is made.
2. Overall allocation of funds. Additional Funds shall be allocated as follows with respect to each payment from the Additional Settling Defendants: (i) 15% directly to the State (“State Additional Abatement Fund”), (ii) 84.62% to abatement funds established by Local Governments (“Local Additional Abatement Funds”), and (iii) 0.38% to a Local Counsel Fee Fund described in section IV of this SAAF.
3. The allocation of Local Additional Abatement Funds between Local Governments shall be as described in MOA section B.3. However, to the extent required by the terms of an Additional Settlement, the proportions set forth in MOA Exhibit G shall be adjusted: (i) to provide no payment from an Additional Settlement to any listed county or municipality that does not participate in the Additional Settlement; and (ii) to provide a reduced payment from an Additional Settlement to any listed county or municipality that signs onto the Additional Settlement after the deadline specified by the Additional Settlement.
4. Municipal allocations of Local Additional Abatement Funds shall be as described in MOA section B.4. Consistent with the manner in which MOA section B.4.b has been interpreted by the parties to the MOA with respect to Opioid Settlement Funds, a municipality that directs Local Additional Abatement Funds to the county or counties in which it is located pursuant to MOA section B.4 shall be relieved of any reporting or other obligations under the MOA with respect to the redirected funds.
5. The use of Additional Funds for opioid remediation activities shall be as described in MOA section B.5.
6. All Parties acknowledge and agree the Additional Settlements will require a Local Government to release all its claims against the Additional Settling Defendants to receive Additional Funds. All Parties further acknowledge and agree based on the terms of the Additional Settlements, a Local Government may receive funds through this SAAF only after complying with all requirements set forth in the Additional Agreements to release its claims.

C. Payment of Litigating and Non-Litigating Parties

No party engaged in litigating the MDL Matter shall receive a smaller payment than a similarly situated non-litigating Party, other than as based on the Allocation Proportions in MOA Exhibit G.

D. Special Revenue Fund

Every Local Government receiving Additional Funds shall either (1) deposit the Additional Funds in the special revenue fund that the Local Government created for Opioid Settlement Funds pursuant to MOA section D.1 or (2) create a separate special revenue fund as described in MOA section D.1 that is designated for the receipt and expenditure of the Additional Funds. In either case, every Local Government receiving Additional Funds shall abide by MOA section D and other relevant provisions of the MOA with respect to the Additional Funds in the special revenue fund.

E. Opioid Remediation Activities

1. Local Governments shall expend Additional Funds according to the requirements for Opioid Settlement Funds stated in MOA section E.
2. The coordination group established by MOA section E.7 and described in MOA Exhibit D shall have the same responsibilities with respect to remediation activities funded by Additional Funds and related requirements and procedures that it has with respect to the Opioid Settlement Funds covered by the MOA.

F. Auditing, Compliance, Reporting, and Accountability

1. The Auditing, Compliance, Reporting, and Accountability provisions stated in MOA section F shall apply to Additional Funds in the way they apply to Opioid Settlement Funds.
2. The coordination group established by MOA section E.7 and described in MOA Exhibit D shall have the same responsibilities with respect to auditing, compliance, reporting, and accountability provisions relating to Additional Funds that it has with respect to the Opioid Settlement Funds covered by the MOA.

G. Effectiveness

1. When this SAAF takes effect. This SAAF shall become effective at the time a sufficient number of Local Governments have joined the SAAF to qualify the SAAF as a State-Subdivision Agreement under the Additional Settlements. If this SAAF does not thereby qualify as a State-Subdivision Agreement, this SAAF will have no effect.
2. Amendments to the SAAF.
 - a. Amendments to conform to final national documents. The Attorney General, with the consent of a majority vote from a group of Local Government attorneys appointed by the Association of County Commissioners, may initiate a process to amend this SAAF to make any changes required by the final provisions of the Additional Settlements. The Attorney General's Office will provide written notice of the necessary amendments to all the previously joining parties. Any previously joining party will have a two-week opportunity to withdraw from the SAAF. The amendments will be effective to any party that does not withdraw.
 - b. Coordination group. The coordination group may make the changes to the SAAF described and authorized in MOA Exhibit D.
 - c. No amendments to allocation between Local Governments. Notwithstanding any other provision of this SAAF, the allocation proportions set forth in MOA Exhibit G may not be amended.
 - d. General amendment power. After execution, the coordination group may propose other amendments to the SAAF, subject to the limitation in Section G.2.c of this SAAF. Such amendments will take effect only if approved in writing by the Attorney General and at least two-thirds of the Local Governments who are Parties to this SAAF. In the vote, each Local Government Party will have a number of votes measured by the allocation proportions set forth in MOA Exhibit G.
3. Acknowledgement. The Parties acknowledge this SAAF is an effective and fair way to address the needs arising from the public health crisis due to the misconduct committed by the Pharmaceutical Supply Chain Participants.

4. When SAAF is no longer in effect. This SAAF is effective until one year after the last date on which any (a) Opioid Settlement Funds are being spent by Local Governments pursuant to the National Settlement Agreement and any Bankruptcy Resolution or (b) Additional Funds are being spent by Local Governments pursuant to the Additional Settlements.
5. Application of SAAF to settlements. This SAAF applies to the Additional Settlements.
6. Applicable law and venue. Unless required otherwise by the Additional Settlements, this MOA shall be interpreted using North Carolina law and any action related to the provisions of this SAAF must be adjudicated by the Superior Court of Wake County. If any provision of this SAAF is held invalid by any court of competent jurisdiction, this invalidity does not affect any other provision which can be given effect without the invalid provision.
7. Scope of this SAAF. The Parties acknowledge this SAAF does not excuse any requirements placed upon them by the terms of the Additional Settlements, except to the extent those terms allow for a State-Subdivision Agreement to do so.
8. No third party beneficiaries. No person or entity is intended to be a third party beneficiary of this SAAF.
9. No effect on authority of parties. Nothing in this SAAF shall be construed to affect or constrain the authority of the Parties under law.
10. Signing and execution of this SAAF. This SAAF may be signed and executed simultaneously in any number of counterparts, each of which shall be deemed an original, but all of which together shall constitute one and the same agreement. A signature transmitted by facsimile, electronic image, or DocuSign shall be deemed an original signature for purposes of executing this SAAF. Each person signing this SAAF represents he or she is fully authorized to enter into the terms and conditions of, and to execute, this SAAF, and all necessary approvals and conditions precedent to execution have been satisfied.

IV. LOCAL COUNSEL FEE FUND

Local Counsel have reviewed the Additional Settlements, find them to be equitable, and recommend their clients execute these Additional Settlements and this SAAF. If (1) all Local Counsel sign this SAAF whereby they consent to the terms of this SAAF and agree to be legally bound by this SAAF, including but not limited to Section IV of this SAAF, and (2) all Required Local Governments agree on or before April 18, 2023 to dismiss all litigation against the Additional Settling Defendants as required by the Additional Settlements, then each Local Counsel shall be entitled to receive a portion of the Local Counsel Fee Fund for the Additional Settlements, in such proportions as set forth below. If one or more Required Local Governments does not dismiss litigation as required by the Additional Settlements, then the 0.38% share of Additional Funds set forth in Section III.B.2 of this SAAF for the Local Counsel Fee Fund shall be included in the Local Additional Abatement Funds, such that 85% of the Additional Funds will be allocated to Local Additional Abatement Funds, and 0% will be allocated to the Local Counsel Fee Fund.

Local Counsel release all North Carolina counties and municipalities from any claim regarding the obligation to pay legal fees or costs relating to their representation of North Carolina counties and municipalities regarding opioid claims and litigation against the Settling Defendants and Additional Settling Defendants. Local Counsel retain their rights to recover legal fees from any national legal fee fund established by a national settlement and to collect any fees due from National Counsel. If one or more National Counsel fails to release its North Carolina client counties and/or municipalities from any contractual obligation to pay legal fees or costs relating to their representation of North Carolina counties and municipalities regarding opioid claims and litigation against the Settling Defendants and Additional Settling Defendants, as required for National Counsel and Local Counsel to receive a portion of the national fee funds created by the National Settlement Agreements and Additional Settlement, then the 0.38% share of Additional Funds set forth in Section III.B.2 of this SAAF for the Local Counsel Fee Fund shall be included in the Local Additional Abatement Funds, such that 85% of the Additional Funds will be allocated to Local Additional Abatement Funds, and 0% will be allocated to the Local Counsel Fee Fund.

As soon as practicable, but in any event no later than May 1, 2023, Local Counsel shall report to the settlement administrator the proportion of the Local Counsel Fee Fund to be received by each Local Counsel. No funds shall be paid out of the Local Counsel Fee Fund until such report is received. Each Local Counsel's release of claims against all North Carolina counties and municipalities as provided above shall remain in full force and effect regardless of the proportion of the Local Counsel Fee Fund that any Local Counsel receives.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the parties, through their duly authorized officers, have executed this Supplemental Agreement for Additional Funds under seal as of the date hereof.

By: _____
REBECCA McCALL
Chairman, Henderson County Board of Commissioners

Date: _____