



Board of County Commissioners  
Clackamas County

Members of the Board:

Approval of Resolution Supporting Efforts and Policies to Assist  
Those Dealing with Drug and Opioid Abuse Addiction

<b>Purpose/Outcome</b>	Resolution #_____ acknowledges the will of the Board of County Commissioners to support efforts to assist those dealing with drug and opioid abuse addiction.
<b>Dollar Amount and Fiscal Impact</b>	N/A
<b>Funding Source</b>	N/A
<b>Duration</b>	Effective July 12, 2018
<b>Strategic Plan Alignment</b>	Ensure safe, healthy and secure communities.
<b>Previous Board Action</b>	At a policy session on June 19, 2018, the Board directed staff to present this resolution at a Board Business Meeting for approval.
<b>Contact Person</b>	Gary Schmidt, Director, Public and Government Affairs, 503-742-5908
<b>Contract No.</b>	N/A

**BACKGROUND:**

On June 19, 2018, the Clackamas County Board of Commissioners requested consideration of a resolution supporting efforts and policies to assist those dealing with drug and opioid abuse addiction. The City of Milwaukie approved a similar resolution earlier this year.

Clackamas County Public Health currently uses data driven programming and interventions to enhance community-based opioid prevention, treatment, and recovery efforts. This data driven approach helps to identify areas in the county at greatest risk for opioid addiction and designs and implements programming to decrease harms and overdose deaths caused by opioids.

Clackamas County actively supported HB 4143 during the 2018 State Legislative Session, which advanced policy recommendations by the Governor’s Opioid Task Force and now requires the state to study and report on the existing barriers to effective treatment, requires all prescribing health practitioners to register with Oregon’s Prescription Drug Monitoring Program, and establishes a pilot project in four Oregon counties to determine the effectiveness of establishing immediate access to treatment for persons suffering from opiate overdoses.

Clackamas County has been identified as having the highest prescription rates in the Portland Metro Region, higher than state average in Oregon.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

Staff recommends the Board approve this resolution. Passing this resolution reinforces the Board's commitment to continue supporting efforts that curb drug and opioid abuse in Clackamas County, establish standards for appropriate prescription guidelines, educating the public on the dangers and stigmas surrounding drug and opioid addiction, and expanding treatment and recovery options to people in need.

Respectfully submitted,

Gary Schmidt  
Director, Public and Government Affairs

**BEFORE THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
OF CLACKAMAS COUNTY, STATE OF OREGON**

**In the Matter of Supporting  
Efforts and Policies to Assist  
Those Dealing With Opioid  
Abuse and Addiction**



Resolution No. \_\_\_\_\_

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**Whereas**, an unprecedented drug abuse and opioid epidemic is ravaging communities across the United States, with an estimated 64,000 people dying in 2016 from drug overdoses – nearly double the number from a decade earlier; and

**Whereas**, Clackamas County’s opioid prescribing rates are the highest in the Portland region and above the state average; and

**Whereas**, In 2015 pharmacies dispensed more than 417,000 opioid prescriptions in Clackamas County, which is more than the 401,000 residents of Clackamas County; and

**Whereas**, Clackamas County has joined Multnomah and Lane Counties in a lawsuit against opioid manufacturers, alleging they maximized profits by “waging a campaign of falsehoods” to addict chronic-pain patients to opioids; and

**Whereas**, states and communities across the nation are overwhelmed by the current epidemic of opioid abuse and addiction and are struggling to respond to and ameliorate the problem; and

**Whereas**, addiction should be treated as a chronic illness rather than a criminal act, removing the negative stigma and opening the door for treatment and recovery; and

**Whereas**, the most important factors to support recovery include safe housing, stable employment, and peer support services;

**Whereas**, millions of patients suffering from addiction are unable to access the care they need due to a lack of treatment providers, funding, and options, including medication-assisted treatment and inpatient services.

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Board Order No. \_\_\_\_\_

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**NOW THEREFORE, the Clackamas County Board of County  
Commissioners resolves as follows:**

1. To support and implement policies and practices that prevent opioid addiction and to assist those with addiction in obtaining access to quality, affordable services and will support policies that:
  - Focus on education and prevention of opioid misuse and abuse;
  - Expand and fund treatment and recovery options through federal and state funding;
  - Encourage collaboration among officials and institutions representing public health, behavioral health, public safety, education, and healthcare;
  - Reduce risks to patients by making pain treatment safer and more accessible, emphasizing the use of non-opioid treatments for pain;
  - Ensure timely access to behavioral health interventions and enforce mental health parity laws;
  - Support safe disposal of unused or expired prescription opioids;
  - Support harm reduction through access to syringe exchange services and distribution of naloxone to those most at-risk of overdose; and
  - Encourage and support innovative public safety approaches such as the Behavioral Health Unit, Law Enforcement Assisted Diversion, and Community Paramedics.

**DATED** this 12<sup>th</sup> day of July, 2018

**BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Chair

\_\_\_\_\_  
Recording Secretary