

Fresno County Department of Behavioral Health
Opioid Settlement Fund (OSF)
Community Partner Meeting
April 4, 2025



Agenda

- Welcome
- Recap of 10/1/24-10/2/2024 OSF Community Partner Meeting
- OSF Program Funding
- Initial Projects Considered for Implementation
- Other Initiatives
- Next Steps
- Questions?



Recap of October 2024 Community Partner Meeting

Key partners from various sectors in the county and community convened over a day and half to help develop Fresno County's strategic plan to abate the opioid crisis in our county.

Objectives of the meeting included:

- Reviewing and discussing key findings from the needs assessment
- Identifying and prioritizing areas of greatest need within Fresno County
- Developing a cross sector strategic plan with strategies to address substance use disorder (SUD) and opioid use disorder (OUD)



Recap of October 2024 Community Partner Meeting

After reviewing local data and findings from the needs assessment, participants identified priorities on which partners across the service spectrum should focus its efforts

The top three priorities identified all related to treatment and included:

1. Ensuring access to treatment for rural and other hard to reach populations
2. SUD workforce development in treatment and early intervention
3. Ensuring jail-based services continue and there is transition support as individuals are leaving jail



Recap of October 2024 Community Partner Meeting

Common Agenda - Shared Vision for Change

- Participants worked collaboratively to develop a shared vision to help guide our work in “solving” the opioid crisis in our community using the Collective Impact Framework
- They were then asked to vote on the statement (common agenda) that they believed best aligned with their vision for change.



Recap of October 2024 Community Partner Meeting

Common Agenda - Top “Vote Getter”

“Fresno County will address the increasing opioid use and drug related deaths in our community. Fresno County will eliminate deaths by overdose, beginning with the reduction by 25% by January 2027. To achieve this, we will collectively mobilize actions to ensure **adequate access, prevention, rural outpatient, SUD and crisis services**. We will make available a robust continuum to people across cultures and **all regions of our county.**”

(14 votes)

The other top vote getters share some commonalities including the need to increase or improve access generally - like reducing barriers to treatment, increasing services in rural areas, providing timely and quality services.



Recap of October 2024 Community Partner Meeting

Small group discussion - “What do you think are the most urgent issues to address?”

- The most significant **issues/challenges** in our community were identified as:
 - Access: A need for improved access to services, particularly for rural or hard-to-reach populations
 - Availability: Availability of services
 - Quality: Quality of services (especially in rural areas)



Recap of October 2024 Community Partner Meeting

Strategic Planning Recommendations - A *sampling* of strategies and activities recommended by conveners for how to address identified needs and challenges in our county are described below:

Prevention	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Skill based prevention for children/youth▪ Education to physicians, parents, kids, youth, and law enforcement
Harm Reduction	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Increase availability of Narcan▪ Increase access to low barrier services
Early Intervention	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Increase screening and assessment in primary care settings▪ Intervention and support for children and youth in homes with SUD▪ Education to college-age populations
Treatment	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Immediate linkages to care for individuals transitioning out of jail▪ Mobile treatment services including MAT▪ Residential treatment for youth
Recovery	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Increase care coordination and peer support for people in recovery▪ Transitional recovery homes for families
Treatment and Early Intervention	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Workforce development▪ Create pathways and support education costs



Recap of October 2024 Community Partner Meeting

Reflections/Comments - Common Themes

- Would like more information about the funding
- Would like more information about how funds may be used/possibilities for using funds
- Great to work with partners from other agencies/would like to continue to work collaboratively
- Need to determine metrics and outcomes for priorities, programs



OSF Program Funding

- OSF Payments began in 2022 and are expected to continue through 2038
- Payment terms vary by settlement and bankruptcy
- Payment amounts also vary by settlement and bankruptcy
- Fresno County received about \$18m between 2022-2024*
- Beginning in 2025, Fresno County is *projected* to receive an additional \$1.5-\$5m/year through 2038*
- Fresno County is *projected* to receive about \$66m in total, between 2022-2038*

*Settlement amount information source: National Opioids Settlement



OSF Program Funding - Settlement and Bankruptcy Payments - Received

Fresno County started to receive opioid settlement and bankruptcy payments starting in 2022. Between 2022-2024, Fresno County has received the following OSF payments:

Settlement and Bankruptcy Payments <i>RECEIVED</i> 2022-2024*	
Settlement Funds	\$17,931,757.67
Bankruptcy Funds	\$386,595.87
Total Settlement/Bankruptcy Funds Received 2022-2024:	\$18,318,353.54
*Inclusive of reallocation received from City of Kerman: \$2843.08 (Settlement) and \$466.30 (Bankruptcy)	



OSF Program Funding - Future Settlement and Bankruptcy Fund Projections (2025-2038)

Between 2025-2038, Fresno County is projected to receive:

<i>PROJECTED</i> Settlement and Bankruptcy Payments 2025-2038	
Settlement Funds	\$48,059,907.62
Bankruptcy Funds	\$0
Projected Settlement/Bankruptcy Payments 2025-2038:	\$48,059,907.62



OSF Program Funding - Allowable Uses

The County is required to spend funds in accordance with Exhibit E (Settlement Funds) and Exhibit 4 (Bankruptcy) - both exhibits have the same requirements*

Settlement funds are paid out as “Abatement” or “Subdivision” funds.

- The County is further required to spend no less than 50% of the Abatement account funds received on High Impact Abatement Activities (HIAA)**

*Find complete list of Exhibit E Core Strategies/Approved Uses here: [Exhibit E Final Settlement Agreement 8-2021](#)

**Find complete list of HIAA here: [BHIN 24-002 CA Participating Subdivision Use of OSF Allocated from the CA Abatement Accounts Fund](#)



OSF Program Funding - Allowable Uses

Exhibit E - Schedule A - Core Strategies include *in part*:

- Naloxone Training/Distribution
- MAT Distribution/Other Opioid-Related Treatment/Education
- Services to Pregnant and Postpartum Women
- Expansion of Warm Hand-off Programs/Recovery Services
- Prevention Programs



OSF Program Funding - Allowable Uses

Exhibit E - Schedule B - Approved Uses

Treatment	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Treat OUD/Support people in treatment/recovery• Connections to Care
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Address the needs of criminal justice-involved persons• Address the needs of pregnant/parenting women and families
Prevention	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Prevent misuse of opioids• Prevent overdose deaths/other harms
Other Strategies	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Education/support to first responders• Leadership, Planning, Coordination• Training



OSF Program Funding - Allowable Uses

High Impact Abatement Activities (HIAA) - required to spend at least 50% of Abatement dollars:

- **Matching funds or Operating Costs for SUD Facilities**
- **Creating New or Expanded SUD Treatment Infrastructure**
- Addressing Needs of Communities of Color/Vulnerable Populations disproportionately impacted by SUD
- Diversion from Justice System into Treatment
- Interventions to Prevent Drug Addiction in Vulnerable Youth
- Purchase of Naloxone - Distribution/Expand Access



Initial Projects Considered for Implementation

“Quick Start” Projects - Criteria for Consideration

- Projects that could be acted on relatively quickly and that would likely have an immediate positive influence on our system of care and OUD specifically
- Alignment with the needs/gaps/challenges identified through the needs assessment, data analysis, stakeholder input
- Alignment with OSF “Exhibit E” allowable expenditures and California’s “High Impact Abatement Activities”



Initial Projects Considered for Implementation

“Quick Start” projects currently planned for implementation *and/or* in the program design stage include the following:

- Adolescent SUD Residential
- Mobile MAT/Assertive Field Based Initiation/Homeless Outreach
- Rural SUD Outpatient Treatment



Other Initiatives

Additional initiatives may be proposed by County or DBH leadership, based on the needs of the county and when in alignment with allowable OSF uses.

- Utilization of OSF as matching funds for a BHCIP grant is one such use
- This particular initiative qualifies as a High Impact Abatement Activity (HIAA), specifically, “Creating new or expanding SUD treatment infrastructure”
- Counties are required to expend at least 50% of OSF on HIAA



Next Steps - Strategic Plan

Formalize Strategic Plan

- Strategic Plan was largely completed through the work at the October 1-2 Partner Planning Meeting
- The work that came out of that meeting is currently being incorporated into a formalized strategic plan document
- The finalized Strategic Plan document will be shared with the OSF Stakeholder Group and posted on the DBH OSF webpage



Next Steps - Spending Plan

Formalize spending plan that aligns with allowable OSF activities and with identified and validated needs, gaps and challenges experienced in our county

- Will be used as a guiding document to reflect the emerging needs of our community
- Some OSF funds may be held in trust if it is determined to be a beneficial strategy
 - e.g. to use as matching funds in order to leverage other funding sources, to accumulate funding available for larger scale planned projects, etc.
- The Spending Plan will be shared with the Stakeholder Group and posted on the DBH OSF website



Next Steps - Program Development

- Continue program development/evaluation/procurement/implementation of activities that can be acted on relatively quickly
- Evaluate/consider additional projects for OSF support
- Projects considered for funding will be shared with the OSF Stakeholder Group
- Projects that are ultimately approved will be posted on the OSF website after contract execution (Board approval)



Next Steps - OSF Webpage

DBH OSF Webpage

- Currently in development
- Will include OSF documents including Needs Assessment, Strategic Plan, Stakeholder Group meeting information, other pertinent documents and links
- Should be live in 1-2 weeks

DBH OSF Webpage: [Substance Use Disorder Services - County of Fresno](#)



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Next Steps - Form OSF Stakeholder Group

- Stakeholder Group members will help strategize, provide input, lend expertise
- Stakeholders will be responsible to regularly attend and participate in committee meetings - most likely 1 ½-2 hours on a quarterly basis
- Additionally, DBH will use that forum to report out on OSF activities and spending

Please complete an interest card if you are interested in becoming a member of the OSF Stakeholder Group



Questions?

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