

RESOLUTION NO. R-25-045

A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF MANATEE COUNTY, FLORIDA, ESTABLISHING AN OPIOID ABATEMENT COORDINATING COUNCIL TO REPLACE DRUG FREE MANATEE AS THE OPIOID TASKFORCE FOR MANATEE COUNTY; REPEALING AND SUPERSEDING CONFLICTING RESOLUTIONS; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

WHEREAS, the Board of County Commissioners of Manatee County (Board) previously adopted Resolution No. R-22-020 on January 25, 2022, designating Drug Free Manatee as Manatee County's opioid taskforce to serve in an advisory capacity to the Board regarding expenditure of settlement awards resulting from lawsuits filed by Manatee County (County) and other county municipalities against opioid manufacturers, distributors, and retailers (Opioid Litigation) to enable the County to utilize any such funds to best serve all citizens within the geographic boundaries of the County; and

WHEREAS, the Board now finds it appropriate and necessary to establish an Opioid Abatement Coordinating Council to replace Drug Free Manatee as the County's opioid taskforce, in order to establish a more centralized, efficient, and transparent framework for opioid abatement efforts in the County.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of County Commissioners of Manatee County, Florida, as follows:

SECTION 1. RECITALS. The recitals set forth above are adopted as findings of the Board and are incorporated herein by reference.

SECTION 2. OPIOID ABATEMENT COORDINATING COUNCIL ESTABLISHMENT AS REPLACEMENT OPIOID TASKFORCE. The Board hereby establishes an Opioid Abatement Coordinating Council ("Council") to replace Drug Free Manatee as the designated opioid taskforce for Manatee County for the purpose of advising the Board regarding the expenditure of regional settlement funds from the Opioid Litigation. The Council shall have the following duties and functions:

- a. The Council shall meet regularly and as often as needed to effectuate its responsibilities, but no less than quarterly.

- b. The Council shall adopt and amend its own bylaws, as necessary, to govern its operations, provided that such bylaws shall be consistent with the Florida Opioid Allocation and Statewide Response Agreement, attached hereto as Exhibit 1, applicable state and federal law, and the policies of the County.
- c. The Council shall accept the Drug Free Manatee abatement plan as a baseline framework and shall be authorized to update and revise the abatement plan in accordance with evolving community needs and the Opioid Litigation settlement requirements.
- d. The Council shall be comprised of a maximum of seven (7) voting members, each appointed for two-year terms. The members of the Council shall be as follows:
 - 1. The Board Chair of Drug Free Manatee or his or her designee. If Drug Free Manatee declines to participate or is unable to appoint a representative, the seat shall instead be filled by one (1) Director from a nonprofit organization partnering with the County that specializes in opioid use treatment and/or abatement appointed by the Board;
 - 2. One (1) Manatee County Commissioner appointed by the Board;
 - 3. The Manatee County Sheriff or his or her designee, or if the Manatee County Sheriff declines to participate, one (1) member with experience in law enforcement appointed by the Board;
 - 4. The Mayor of the City of Bradenton or his or her designee, or if the City of Bradenton declines to participate one (1) resident of the City of Bradenton with experience in opioid prevention, treatment or recovery appointed by the Board;
 - 5. The Mayor of the City of Palmetto or his or her designee, or, if the City of Palmetto declines to participate one (1) resident of the City of Palmetto with experience in opioid prevention, treatment, or recovery appointed by the Board;
 - 6. One (1) professor from an accredited college or university with demonstrated expertise in opioid prevention, treatment, or recovery appointed by the Board;
 - 7. One (1) Manatee County representative who has personally experienced opioid addiction appointed by the Board;

The Council shall be permitted to add additional non-voting members, at its discretion.

- e. Five (5) voting members shall constitute a quorum of the Council. If a member misses two (2) consecutive meetings, the Council shall, at the second missed meeting, consider whether that member should be replaced. If a majority of the voting members present determine that replacement is warranted, the Council may declare the seat vacant and initiate the process for a replacement to be appointed in accordance with these provisions and any subsequent bylaws.
- f. For the Council's first year, the Manatee County Commissioner member shall serve as Chair and the Manatee County Sheriff member or designee/alternate, shall serve as Vice-Chair. Thereafter, the Council shall annually, or as otherwise necessary, elect a Chair and Vice-Chair from among its voting members.
- g. The Council shall serve in an advisory capacity to the Board regarding the use of opioid settlement funds and shall fulfill the following responsibilities:
 - i. Review and assess funding priorities to ensure alignment with the abatement plan.
 - ii. Recommend to the Board strategies to optimize the use and impact of available funds in reducing opioid-related harm within the community.
 - iii. Promote principles of equity and inclusion in the development, selection, and implementation of funded programs and initiatives.
 - iv. Review grant applications or proposals, as applicable, and provide funding recommendations to the Board.
 - v. Monitor and evaluate the performance and outcomes of funded programs to ensure accountability and effectiveness.
 - vi. Facilitate collaboration and coordination among agencies and organizations engaged in opioid prevention, treatment, harm reduction, and recovery services.
 - vii. Provide input and recommendations to the Board regarding public education and awareness initiatives related to opioid use, prevention, and recovery services.

- viii. Regularly reassess opioid abatement priorities each year to ensure alignment with emerging community needs, evolving best practices, and to identify new priority areas as they arise.

SECTION 3. CONFLICTING RESOLUTIONS. All conflicting resolutions and parts of resolutions in conflict with the provisions of this resolution are hereby repealed, rescinded, superseded and replaced by this Resolution to the extent of such conflict.

SECTION 4. SEVERABILITY. If any section, sentence, clause, or other provision of this Resolution is held invalid or unconstitutional by a court of competent jurisdiction, such invalidity or unconstitutionality shall not be construed as to render invalid or unconstitutional the remaining sections, sentences, clauses, or provisions of this Resolution.

SECTION 5. EFFECTIVE DATE. This Resolution shall take effect immediately upon adoption.

DULY ADOPTED with a quorum present and voting this 16 day of December, 2025.



BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
OF MANATEE COUNTY, FLORIDA

By: [Signature]
Chairperson

ATTEST: ANGELINA COLONNESO
CLERK OF THE CIRCUIT COURT AND COMPTROLLER

By: [Signature]
Deputy Clerk