



July 23, 2024

Office of the Commissioner
NH Department of Health & Human Services
129 Pleasant Street
Concord, NH 03301

RE: City of Keene Annual Report on Opioid Abatement Trust Funding

Dear Commissioner,

In accordance with RSA 126-A:84.IV., I am pleased to submit this annual report regarding the City of Keene Opioid Litigation Settlement distributions totaling \$204,783.93 as of June 30, 2024.

June 2021 = \$7,375.59
June 2022 = \$13,611.92
June 2023 = \$94,742.14
June 2024 = \$89,054.28

These funds have been deposited into an Opioid Litigation Settlement Revolving Fund established by the Keene City Council on July 1, 2021. As of June 30, 2024, \$28,225.64 of the funds have been expended for social worker expenses broken down as follows:

Wages - Full Time	\$17,524.13
Health and Dental Insurance	\$6,958.47
New Hampshire Retirement	\$2,370.99
Social Security/Medicare	\$1,340.84
Workers' Compensation	\$31.21
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	\$28,225.64

The City of Keene has created the first ever social worker position at the Keene Police department. Kaitlynn Mello took on this role in March of 2024. The funding needed to establish this position is coming from the reserve account created to deposit the 15% allocation of funds received as part of the state's opioid abatement lawsuit.

From calendar year 2018 through 2022 the Keene Police Department responded to an annual average of 65.2 overdose calls for service, resulting in an average of 11 deaths annually during that time frame. These statistics do not include the non-fatal overdoses not reported, which we believe has increased dramatically since Narcan became publicly available.

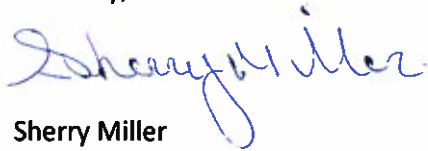
Our officers, although well trained in these areas, lack the capacity to conduct any meaningful follow-up. The Keene Police Department Social Worker position was created to ensure that those suffering from opioid addiction issues are provided with the best referral information and after-the-fact assistance across the continuum of care.

There is a clear and increasing need and want in our community for a service such as this. The Governors commission on Alcohol and Other Drugs Action plan update states: "People experiencing substance use disorder and their families need more support to navigate the complex system of care." "System navigation, case management and care coordination services are helpful and worthy of additional investment."

Our police social worker is quickly becoming a universal advocate for those in need, providing referral assistance and coordination across the continuum of prevention, harm reduction, treatment and recovery support. In addition, this position will coordinate and provide members of the department with ongoing training regarding responses to substance use disorders and mental health calls for service to include harm reduction, substance uses treatment and recover, the disease model of addition and non-stigmatizing language.

If you have any questions, please contact City Manager Elizabeth Dragon at 603-357-9804.

Sincerely,



Sherry Miller
Senior Staff Accountant for Fund and Grants Management
shmill@keenenh.gov

cc: Elizabeth Dragon, City Manager
Tom Mullins, City Attorney