



# SULLIVAN COUNTY

*Serving the communities of*

Acworth, Charlestown, Claremont, Cornish, Croydon, Goshen, Grantham, Langdon,  
Lempster, Newport, Plainfield, Springfield, Sunapee, Unity & Washington

## Board of Commissioners

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## Dept. of Corrections

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## Facilities & Operations

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## Human Resources & Payroll

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30 August 2023

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

Re: 2023 Annual Report on Opioid Abatement Trust Funding

Dear Commissioner Weaver

In accordance with RSA 126-A:84.IV., I am submitting this report on Sullivan County's opioid settlement distributions received during this reporting period.

All settlement funds were deposited into a special reserve fund established by the Sullivan County Delegation in accordance with RSA 35:1-c in 2021. The fund has a current balance of \$168,130.35, which includes the most recent settlement payment of \$17,095.84 received on 28 August 2023.

We are taking a strategic approach to deploy these funds in order to make a significant impact in our fight against the opioid crisis. We understand that it will take years of sustained effort to make a difference. We also understand that any new programs will require much more than \$168,130.35, so we need to be smart about how those funds are utilized in order to sustain these efforts.

In the short term, this fund is being held in reserve to support "Sullivan House," which is a sober housing facility owned and operated by Sullivan County through its Department of Corrections and primarily serves graduates of the County's substance use treatment program. September 2023 marks the 1-year anniversary of our first resident, and we are steadily building up resident census in order to generate enough revenue to cover the operating costs. Until then, our settlement funds will be kept in reserve to ensure there is no taxpayer subsidy for annual operating costs. Sullivan County taxpayers have already provided \$1.8 million in construction funding to make Sullivan House a reality.

Over this coming year, we anticipate reaching the point where the resident census is sufficient to sustain Sullivan House operations. That will allow us to

explore other programming and partnerships funded by our settlement payments to support eligible abatement activities as specified in RSA 126-A:86.

Our strategic approach accounts for the unpredictable frequency and amounts of these recurring distributions. We need to accumulate a sufficient balance in the reserve account in order to deploy it in meaningful and effective ways. Otherwise, we run the risk of establishing new programs or services that will quickly deplete their funding, which in my view would be irresponsible. I understand some might view this as "hoarding" these settlement funds, but I believe it is a prudent and practical way to manage these funds.

Please let me know if you have any questions.

Sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Derek R. Ferland". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized 'D' and 'F'.

Derek R. Ferland  
Sullivan County Manager