

RESOLUTION NO. 21 – 134

A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF PINELLAS COUNTY, FLORIDA RECOGNIZING THE EFFORTS OF PINELLAS COUNTY IN FUNDING AND PROVIDING OPIOID MISUSE PREVENTION AND TREATMENT SERVICES, PINELLAS COUNTY'S CONTINUED PARTICIPATION IN THE PINELLAS COUNTY OPIOID TASK FORCE, AND ADOPTION OF THE PINELLAS COUNTY OPIOID TASK FORCE STRATEGIC PLAN; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

WHEREAS, Pinellas County has suffered harm from the opioid epidemic; and

WHEREAS, to combat the opioid epidemic and assist residents in need of medical care, the Pinellas County Board of County Commissioners utilizes County General Funds to provide various opioid misuse and substance abuse prevention and treatment services through the Pinellas County Human Services Department ("PCHS"); and

WHEREAS, PCHS contracts with community partners to provide substance abuse prevention and treatment services and programs aimed at addressing the opioid epidemic; and

WHEREAS, in response to the sharp increase in opioid-related drug abuse and deaths in the County, the Pinellas County Opioid Task Force, a collaboration of community partners including Pinellas County elected officials, County Administration and PCHS (hereinafter "Task Force"), was created in June 2017; and

WHEREAS, the Task Force convened on multiple occasions during 2017 to develop and implement a Strategic Plan intended to communicate the recommended actions to address community opioid abuse, including new recommendations, but also promoting established community resources, providing opportunities for fiscal requests and empowering policy change; and

WHEREAS, the Task Force has continued to meet regularly and has recently developed an updated Strategic Plan with the continued goals of providing awareness, reducing deaths, connecting residents to treatment, decreasing the supply of opioids, and strengthening data sharing efforts; and

WHEREAS, Pinellas County is also a litigating public entity with claims pending in the federal district court in In re: National Prescription Opiate Litigation, MDL No. 2804 (N.D. Ohio) ("multidistrict litigation"); and

WHEREAS, the attorneys representing the State of Florida and various local governments, including Pinellas County, have proposed a unified plan for the allocation and use of prospective settlement dollars from the opioid related litigation; and

WHEREAS, the Florida Attorney General has set forth a general framework of a unified plan for the proposed allocation and use of opioid settlement proceeds (the "Florida Plan") and it

is anticipated that formal agreements implementing the Florida Plan will be entered into at a future date; and

WHEREAS, Pinellas County adopted Resolution No. 21-45 finding that participation in the Florida Plan would be in the best interest of Pinellas County and its residents; and

WHEREAS, the Florida Plan provides for the direct receipt of regional funds for certain counties meeting the requirements to be a “Qualified County” as defined within the Florida Plan; and

WHEREAS, in order to meet the definition of a Qualified County, Pinellas County must have an opioid taskforce of which it is a member or operates in connection with its municipalities or others on a local or regional basis and have an abatement plan that has been either adopted or is being utilized to respond to the opioid epidemic.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF PINELLAS COUNTY, FLORIDA, AS A DULY ASSEMBLED MEETING HELD ON THIS 7th DAY OF December, 2021, AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1. The Pinellas County Board of County Commissioners finds that continued involvement with and membership in the Task Force is in the best interest of Pinellas County and its residents in the ongoing efforts to abate and resolve the opioid epidemic.

Section 2. The Pinellas County Board of County Commissioners finds that the Task Force’s Strategic Plan has constituted and continues to constitute an abatement plan which the County utilizes to respond to the opioid epidemic.

Section 3. Pinellas County hereby acknowledges its continued support of, and participation in, the Pinellas County Opioid Task Force and their Strategic Plan with the continued goals of providing awareness, reducing deaths, connecting residents to treatment, decreasing the supply of opioids, and strengthening data sharing efforts amongst community partners.

Section 4. Pinellas County Board of County Commissioners finds that Pinellas County’s involvement with the Task Force and the County’s support of the Task Force’s Strategic Plan satisfies the requirements within the Florida Plan to have an opioid taskforce and an abatement plan.

Section 5. This Resolution shall become effective upon its adoption.

In a regular meeting duly assembled on the 7th day of December, 2021, Commissioner Peters offered the foregoing Resolution and moved its adoption, which was seconded by Commissioner Flowers, and upon roll call the vote was:

Ayes: Eggers, Justice, Flowers, Gerard, Long, Peters, and Seel.

Nays: None.

Absent and not voting: None.

APPROVED AS TO FORM
By: Matthew Tolnay
Office of the County Attorney