

Distributor Settlement Funds Approved to Support Deflection Programs

On July 21, 2021, a nationwide settlement was reached to resolve a multi-district litigation against opioid manufacturers and distributors. The terms of the settlement are set forth in the Distributor Settlement Agreement and include approved strategies for opioid remediation activities.

First Responder Deflection and Diversion (FRDD) has emerged as a nationally recognized approach to combat the effects of the Opioid crisis. **FRDD** engages law enforcement, emergency medicine, public health, addiction treatment, and community to change the way we approach untreated addiction in our communities. **FRDD** provides a pro-active, early, “upstream” preventative approach that meets people where they are while encouraging them to seek out treatment, health care, services and recovery support.

The Police Treatment and Community Collaborative (PTACC), the definitive voice of the field of **Deflection and Pre-Arrest Diversion**, is pleased to announce that **FRDD** programs are now included in the Distributer Settlement Agreement, as found on E-8 of the document and excerpted below:

Exhibit E: Approved Uses

Part One: Treatment

D. Address the Needs of Criminal Justice-Involved Persons

Address the needs of persons with OUD and any co-occurring SUD/MH conditions who are involved in, are at risk of becoming involved in, or are transitioning out of the criminal justice system through evidence-based or evidence-informed programs or strategies that may include, but are not limited to, those that support **pre-arrest... and deflection strategies** for persons with OUD and any co-occurring SUD/MH conditions, including established strategies such as:

- 1 Self-referral strategies such as the Angel Programs or the Police Assisted Addiction Recovery Initiative (“PAARI”);
- 2 Active outreach strategies such as the Drug Abuse Response Team (“DART”) model;
- 3 “Naloxone Plus” strategies, which work to ensure that individuals who have received naloxone to reverse the effects of an overdose are then linked to treatment programs or other appropriate services;
- 4 Officer prevention strategies, such as the Law Enforcement Assisted Diversion (“LEAD”) model;
- 5 Officer intervention strategies such as the Leon County, Florida Adult Civil Citation Network or the Chicago Westside Narcotics Diversion to Treatment Initiative; or
- 6 Co-responder and/or alternative responder models to address OUD-related 911 calls with greater SUD expertise.

**Please note that the programs listed above are examples. Many alternative programs fall under each of the six pathways.*

The Distributer Agreement funds that are now available in your state represent an unprecedented opportunity to bring an end to the ongoing harm done from the Opioid Epidemic. Contact your state, county and city representatives to identify the process they’ve determined for distributing the funds. PTACC has also formed a dedicated team to help States, counties/parishes, and municipalities develop a deflection action plan and related strategy to build out and grow the reach, capacity, and impact of deflection. Contact us to get started.

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