



County of Monterey

Item No.

Board Report

Board of Supervisors
Chambers
168 W. Alisal St., 1st Floor
Salinas, CA 93901

Legistar File Number: A 25-417

October 28, 2025

Introduced: 10/9/2025

Current Status: Agenda Ready

Version: 1

Matter Type: BoS Agreement

- a. Approve and authorize the Director of Health Services or designee to execute a no-cost Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with City of Soledad, authorizing the installation of one (1) naloxone and fentanyl test strip vending machine at the City of Soledad Fire Station, for a term effective upon execution through October 31, 2029, with no fiscal provisions; and
- b. Approve the recommendation of Director of Health Services to accept all non-standard provisions in Agreement.

RECOMMENDATION:

It is recommended that the County of Monterey Board of Supervisors:

- a. Approve and authorize the Director of Health Services or designee to execute a no-cost Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with City of Soledad, authorizing the installation of one (1) naloxone and fentanyl test strip vending machine at the City of Soledad Fire Station, for a term effective upon execution through October 31, 2029, with no fiscal provisions; and
- b. Approve the recommendation of Director of Health Services to accept all non-standard provisions in Agreement.

SUMMARY:

Overdose deaths, particularly those involving fentanyl, continue to rise both nationally and locally. Fentanyl, a powerful synthetic opioid often mixed with other substances, significantly increases the risk of unintentional overdoses. In response, the County of Monterey Health Department is launching new harm reduction efforts aimed at addressing this growing crisis, with a focus on expanding the availability of naloxone, a medication that can reverse opioid overdoses.

DISCUSSION:

Building on previous initiatives, this new effort includes a key partnership with the City of Soledad to increase access to naloxone and fentanyl test strips in critical areas. One of nine planned vending machines will be installed at The City of Soledad Fire Station at 525 Monterey Street, while the other machines will be strategically placed in areas with high rates of opioid use and overdoses. These vending machines will dispense free naloxone and fentanyl test strips, empowering individuals to detect fentanyl in substances and prevent fatal overdoses.

This initiative reflects the County's ongoing commitment to public health and safety by ensuring lifesaving tools and resources are easily accessible. Through this partnership and targeted outreach efforts, the County aims to reduce overdose deaths and foster a healthier, safer community.

OTHER AGENCY INVOLVEMENT:

The offices of County Counsel and Risk Management have reviewed and approved this MOU as to form and content, respectively.

FINANCING:

There is no impact to the General Fund from execution of this MOU, as it contains no fiscal provisions and procurement of the dispensing machines will be financed with Opioid Settlement Funds.

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS STRATEGIC INITIATIVES:

This MOU will create easier access to healthcare for underserved populations in the community, aligning with the Strategic Plan Goal of Well-Being and Quality of Life.

Mark a check next to the related Board of Supervisors Strategic Plan Goals:

- ☒ Well-Being and Quality of Life
- ☐ Sustainable Infrastructure for the Present and Future
- ☐ Safe and Resilient Communities
- ☐ Diverse and Thriving Economy

Prepared by: Shiba Sumeshwar, Compliance Officer, 755-4018

Approved by: Elsa Mendoza Jimenez, Director of Health Services, 755-4526

Attachments:

Board Report

MOU