

## STAFF REPORT

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**Date:** November 20, 2024

**To:** Mayor and City Council

**Through:** Jackie Bryant, Interim City Manager

**Subject:** Resolution No. \_\_\_\_ (For Possible Action): Resolution donating Opioid Funds to the Nevada Peer Support Network to provide training, wellness programs, and outreach initiatives to first responders related to opioid substance use in an amount not to exceed \$25,000. (Opioid Recoveries Special Revenue Fund)

**From:** Cynthia Esparza, Chief Equity and Community Relations Officer

**Department:** City Manager's Office

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**Summary:**

The Nevada Peer Support Network supports the well-being of first responders, law enforcement officers, emergency medical services personnel, firefighters, veterans, and healthcare professionals in times of need. Substance use disorders, including opioid addiction, are significant concerns among first responders and healthcare professionals due to the high-stress nature of the profession. The One Nevada Agreement on Allocation of Opioid Recoveries supports donations to non-profits for opioid remediation purposes and working with the community. This donation further supports the City's public safety strategic priority and the overall health of this community. Staff recommends Council approve the donation to the Nevada Peer Support Network in the amount of \$25,000 from the Opioid Recoveries Special Revenue Fund.

<b>Consent Review</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>
1. Is this item an annual or standard item that comes before Council for regular approval?		<b>X</b>
2. Is this item an agreement required based on an item previously approved by Council?		<b>X</b>
3. Is this item included in the current budget approved and adopted by Council?	<b>X</b>	
<b>Other Considerations</b>		
What percent of the total City budget does this item represent?	<b>0.002%</b>	

**Alignment with Strategic Plan:**

## Public Safety

### **Previous Council Action:**

June 14, 2023 – Council approved a resolution establishing the One Nevada Opioid Recoveries Special Revenue Fund and approval of the fund policy for the One Nevada Opioid Recoveries Special Revenue Fund.

July 28, 2021 – Council approved the Nevada Agreement on the Allocation of Opioid Recoveries, related to an existing opioid litigation, and recovery proceeds to remediate the harms, impacts, and risks associated with the opioid epidemic.

### **Background:**

Due to the growing impacts of opioids, the City of Reno joined the State of Nevada and other municipalities in litigation against pharmaceutical companies and distributors of opioids. As a result of the settlement, the City of Reno entered into an agreement with One Nevada Opioid Recoveries to receive funds restricted for specific use related to the opioid epidemic.

Under the One Nevada Agreement on Allocation of Opioid Recoveries, the City may use and distribute funds recovered under the settlement for opioid remediation purposes. Approved uses include, but are not limited, to the following uses:

Expand warm hand-off services to transition to recovery services.

- Broaden scope of recovery services to include co-occurring SUD or mental health conditions.
- Provide comprehensive wrap-around services to individuals in recovery, including housing, transportation, job placement/training, and childcare.
- Provide the full continuum of care of treatment and recovery services for OUD and any co-occurring SUD/MH conditions, including supportive housing, peer support services and counseling, community navigators, case management, and connections to community-based services.
- Provide counseling, peer-support, recovery case management and residential treatment with access to medications for those who need it to persons with OUD and any co-occurring SUD/MH conditions.
- Provide or support transportation to treatment or recovery programs or services for persons with OUD and any co-occurring SUD/MH conditions.
- Engage non-profits, faith-based communities, and community coalitions to support people in treatment and recovery and to support family members in their efforts to support the person with OUD in the family.
- Provide training and development of procedures for government staff to appropriately interact and provide social and other services to individuals with or in recovery from OUD, including reducing stigma.
- Invest in infrastructure or staffing at government or not-for-profit agencies to support

collaborative, cross-system coordination with the purpose of preventing overprescribing, opioid misuse, or opioid overdoses, treating those with OUD and any co-occurring SUD/MH conditions, supporting them in treatment or recovery, connecting them to care, or implementing other strategies to abate the opioid epidemic described in this opioid abatement strategy list.

- Provide resources to staff government oversight and management of opioid abatement programs.

### **Discussion:**

Opioid addiction affects all sectors of the community and often linked to trauma or injury. Due to the high-stress nature, physical demands, and work injuries, substance use disorders, including opioid misuse, pose significant risks for both first responders and healthcare professionals.

The NVPSN supports this population and their families through several programs in a safe and confidential environment. Over the years, the NVPSN has reduced the stigma of front-line workers seeking mental health services, reduced symptoms of trauma and suicide ideation, provided counseling and peer support services, and helped first responders develop new health habits. Understanding community needs, the NVSPN is looking to expand support dedicated to opioid use.

A qualifying use of settlement funds includes engaging non-profits to support individuals in opioid use disorder treatment and recovery and their families. This work aligns with the mission of the NVPSN, and the funding will augment services to this community by trained professionals. The NVPSN recognizes the unique experiences of first responders and carefully selects qualified trauma-informed clinicians and therapists to work with this population. In addition to current programs such as one-on-one opioid support and Narcotics Anonymous, the \$25,000 allocation will further support and enhance including, but not limited to, the following initiatives:

- Peer Support Training and Certification – Train and certify peer support specialists in mental health first aid, crisis intervention, opiate use identification, and resilience-building strategies tailored for first responders.

- Community Resilience and Awareness Initiatives – Conduct community outreach programs focused on mental health education, peer support, post-traumatic stress disorder and post-traumatic stress injury awareness, substance misuse resource outreach and suicide prevention.

- Emergency Support Fund – Immediate aid to first responders and healthcare professionals facing acute mental health crises, including funding for counseling, help with inpatient and outpatient therapeutic services, including access to opiate and substance misuse rehabilitation programs or other urgent needs.

- Resilience Center and Wellness Programs – Support resilience-building workshops, substance misuse confidential meetings, access to use the confidential space for CISDs (Critical Incident

Stress Debriefings). Programs will focus on coping mechanisms, mindfulness, and mental wellness practices to strengthen long-term resilience.

· Evaluation and Outreach Materials – Outreach and evaluation materials, including surveys and printed resources, to better engage our community, gather feedback, and continually improve our program offerings to align with the evolving needs of those we serve.

As an opioid funding recipient, the NVPSN will follow state reporting requirements until funds are expended.

**Financial Implications:**

Fund allocation funded via the Opioid Recoveries Special Revenue Fund.

**Legal Implications:**

Legal review completed for compliance with City procedures and Nevada law.

**Recommendation:**

Staff recommends Council approve the donation to the Nevada Peer Support Network in the amount of \$25,000. (Opioid Recoveries Special Revenue Fund)

**Proposed Motion:**

I move to approve staff recommendation.

**Attachments:**

- Nevada Peer Support Network Resolution
- Nevada Peer Support Network Funding Request