

Attachment: Opioid Settlement Funds Prevention Activities

Effectiveness, Allowability, and Evaluation Framework

Lake County Behavioral Health Services | June 2026

Purpose

This attachment provides a concise framework for evaluating opioid prevention activities funded with Opioid Settlement Funds (OSF), including naloxone distribution, overdose education, harm-reduction messaging, targeted community outreach, and connection to services.

It is intended to support Board consideration of small, time-limited prevention activities by distinguishing between reasonable activity-level measures and broader countywide outcome measures.

Summary Findings

- Prevention is an appropriate component of a balanced opioid-abatement strategy. Treatment, recovery, crisis response, naloxone access, youth prevention, and community education are complementary, not competing, strategies.
- Naloxone access is one of the clearest overdose-prevention interventions because it can reverse an opioid overdose when administered in time. CDC identifies naloxone as a safe, life-saving medication that can reverse overdoses involving opioids, including fentanyl, heroin, and prescription opioids.
- Community outreach is best evaluated as an access and engagement strategy. It creates low-barrier points of contact, reduces stigma, distributes overdose-prevention information, and connects people to resources.
- A single small-dollar outreach activity should not be expected to independently reduce countywide overdose deaths. The appropriate standard is whether the activity is allowable, targeted, documented, and contributes measurable outputs to the County's broader prevention portfolio.
- For Board governance, prevention activities should include clear reimbursement controls and post-activity reporting so that the County can evaluate reach, materials distributed, naloxone access, referrals, and lessons learned.

How Prevention Activities Reduce Overdose Risk

Prevention activities reduce overdose risk through a chain of near-term steps. They should be judged by whether they move people closer to safety and services, not only by whether one activity can prove a countywide mortality change.

Prevention Activity	Near-Term Result	Longer-Term Contribution
Naloxone distribution and education	More people can recognize and respond to overdose	More overdoses are reversed before becoming fatal
Substance use education and stigma reduction	People and families are more willing to ask questions and seek help	Earlier connection to treatment, harm reduction, and recovery supports
Targeted outreach in community settings	Contact with residents who may not otherwise engage County systems	Reduced missed opportunities for prevention and service linkage
Youth/family prevention messaging	Improved awareness of risks, resources, and healthy decision-making	Reduced initiation and earlier support when risk is identified

Application to Agenda Item

The proposed Pride Fair MOU is a small, targeted prevention and outreach activity. The event outline identifies the activity as an opportunity to distribute naloxone, provide substance use-related education, reduce stigma, bridge education gaps for youth and families, discuss healthy decision-making, build relationships, and connect community members to local resources. The total expected cost is \$867.

The MOU is not structured as general event sponsorship. It is structured as a cost-reimbursement agreement for eligible opioid-related prevention, education, and outreach costs. The MOU requires invoice documentation, supporting receipts, documentation of expenditures, and a post-event report describing the activities conducted, number of individuals reached, number of individuals provided with substance use-related information or resources, outreach materials used, and other relevant documentation.

This structure is consistent with a reasonable prevention accountability model: low cost, narrow scope, reimbursement only after documentation, and output reporting tied to opioid-abatement activities.

Recommended Evaluation Standard

For small prevention activities, the County should use a proportional evaluation standard. The Board should not expect a single outreach event to prove a countywide mortality reduction. The County should expect the activity to document what was done, who was reached, what resources were provided, and how the activity supports the broader OSF strategy.

Question	Recommended Standard
Is the activity allowable?	It must be tied to opioid prevention, overdose education, naloxone access, harm reduction, treatment/recovery connection, or another approved opioid-abatement purpose.
Is the activity targeted?	It should reach a population, location, or setting where prevention outreach is reasonable and where barriers to care may exist.
Is the activity controlled?	Payment should be capped, cost-reimbursement based, and supported by receipts and documentation.
Is the activity measurable?	The County should collect outputs such as individuals reached, materials distributed, naloxone kits or education provided, and referrals or resource connections.
How should impact be evaluated?	Individual activities should be evaluated for outputs and near-term outcomes; the full OSF portfolio should be evaluated over time against overdose trends, treatment linkage, naloxone reversals, and other indicators.

Recommended Reporting Metrics for OSF Prevention Activities

- Number of individuals reached or engaged;
- Number of individuals provided with substance use-related information or resources;
- Naloxone kits/doses distributed or overdose-response education encounters provided, when applicable;
- Outreach materials used or distributed;
- Referrals, warm handoffs, or resource connections made, when applicable;
- Actual cost and supporting receipts/documentation;
- Brief narrative of lessons learned and any follow-up opportunities.

Board-Level Conclusion

Prevention activities should be retained within Lake County's OSF portfolio when they are clearly tied to opioid abatement, targeted to community need, and supported by documentation. Naloxone access and overdose education are direct harm-reduction strategies. Community outreach expands the reach of those strategies by creating low-barrier access points for residents who may not otherwise connect with County systems. For Agenda Item 5.6, the appropriate Board question is whether the MOU is allowable, targeted, controlled, and measurable. Based on the structure of the MOU and the event outline, the activity meets that standard if reimbursement is limited to documented opioid-related prevention, education, outreach, naloxone access, and resource-connection activities.

Sources

- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), "Lifesaving Naloxone," updated June 11, 2025.
- California Department of Health Care Services (DHCS), "Opioid Settlement Funds: Allowable Expenditures."
- Lake County Health Services, "2026 Lake County LGBTQIA2S+ Pride Fair Summary Alignment," March 30, 2026.
- Memorandum of Understanding between Lake County Behavioral Health Services and Lake County Health Services Department, Public Health Division, for the 2026 Pride Fair.
- Lake County OSF planning and payment materials provided for agenda preparation.