



MULTNOMAH COUNTY AGENDA PLACEMENT REQUEST

(Revised: Feb. 2017)

Board Clerk Use Only

Meeting Date: 7/27/17
Agenda Item #: R.1
Est. Start Time: 9:40 am
Date Submitted: 7/21/17

Agenda Title: **Resolution Declaring an On-Going Public Nuisance Related to the Improper and Wrongful Supply and Distribution of Prescription Opioid Pain Pills in Multnomah County**

Requested

Meeting Date: July 27, 2017 **Time Needed:** 60 minutes

Department: Non-Departmental **Division:** District 1

Contact(s): Commissioner Sharon Meieran

Phone: 503/988-3138 **Ext.** 83138 **Email:** District1@multco.us

Presenters: Commissioner Sharon Meieran and invited guests

General Information

1. What action are you requesting from the Board?

Approval of a Resolution Declaring On-Going Public Nuisance Related to the Improper and Wrongful Supply and Distribution of Prescription Opioid Pain Pills in Multnomah County.

2. Please provide sufficient background information for the Board and the public to understand this issue. Please note which Program Offer(s) this action affects and how it impacts the results.

Multnomah County seeks to address conditions and practices that cause an unreasonable threat to the public health, safety and welfare. The Multnomah County Board of County Commissioners is the Local Public Health Authority, through the County Health Department. ORS 431.003, ORS 431.413(2). A core responsibility of the Local Public Health Authority is to assure activities necessary for the preservation of health or prevention of disease in the area under its jurisdiction. ORS 431.415(2).

In 2013, Oregon had the highest non-medical use of prescription pain killers in the country. In the years before and after, Oregon has consistently ranked among the top states with the highest non-medical use of prescription pain killers in the country. Hydrocodone and Oxycodone are the most prescribed opioids in Multnomah County. In 2015, retail pharmacies dispensed 1.4 million opioid prescriptions to residents of the Tri-County region, a region that has a population of 1.7 million – on average, there was nearly one opioid prescription per person living in the region. From 2009 to 2015, there were 861 opioid related deaths in Multnomah County. The improper and irresponsible dumping of pain pills into our community created an unreasonable threat to the public health, safety and welfare of the residents of Multnomah County. From 2013 to 2015, AMR ambulances responded to 1,949 non-fatal opioid overdoses in Multnomah County – on average, that is a rate of nearly twice a day. And more than half of all responses to overdoses were to public places

or businesses.

Public resources have been over-taxed and diverted in an effort to combat the on-going opioid epidemic. In Oregon and Multnomah County, the demand for medication assisted treatment, residential substance use treatment beds, inpatient hospital treatment beds and outpatient treatment facilities greatly exceeds the supply of those resources. In addition, substantial public dollars have been, and continue to be, directed toward the incarceration and supervision of people in Multnomah County on opioid related charges.

3. Explain the fiscal impact (current year and ongoing).

N/A.

4. Explain any legal and/or policy issues involved.

Multnomah County's assessment of appropriate legal remedies to minimize future economic and societal damages caused by the opioid epidemic attributed to the prescription pill crisis.

5. Explain any citizen and/or other government participation that has or will take place.

N/A.

Required Signature

**Elected
Official or
Department
Director:**

/s/ Commissioner Sharon Meieran

Date:

July 21, 2017