

**BEFORE THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
FOR MULTNOMAH COUNTY, OREGON**

**RESOLUTION NO. 2017-068**

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

**The Multnomah County Board of Commissioners Finds:**

- a. The Board of Commissioners for Multnomah County seeks to address conditions and practices that cause an unreasonable threat to the public health, safety and welfare to our community.
- b. 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).
- c. In 2013, Oregon had the highest non-medical use of prescription painkillers 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 painkillers in the country.
- d. Hydrocodone and Oxycodone are the most prescribed opioids in Multnomah County.
- e. 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 has created an ongoing, unreasonable threat to the public health, safety, and welfare of the residents of Multnomah County.
- f. Public resources have been over-taxed and diverted in an effort to combat the ongoing 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 prosecution of crimes directly attributable to opioid addiction and the subsequent incarceration and supervision of people in Multnomah County on opioid related charges.
- g. 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.

h. A "public nuisance" is one that endangers the health, life, property and well-being of the citizens of Multnomah County. It is an ongoing condition that interferes with the community's general welfare disrupting our common cultural, social, environmental, economic and political interests.

**The Multnomah County Board of Commissioners Resolves:**

The improper and wrongful supply and distribution of prescription opioid pain pills has been, is, and continues to be a public nuisance in Multnomah County.

**ADOPTED this 27th day of July, 2017.**



BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
FOR MULTNOMAH COUNTY, OREGON

*Deborah Kafoury*

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Deborah Kafoury, Chair

REVIEWED:

JENNY M. MADKOUR, COUNTY ATTORNEY  
FOR MULTNOMAH COUNTY, OREGON

*JM Madkour*

By \_\_\_\_\_  
Jenny M. Madkour, County Attorney

**SUBMITTED BY:** Commissioner Sharon Meieran, District 1