

2025 RES-334

**AUTHORIZING NEW HARM REDUCTION SPECIALIST POSITIONS FOR PUBLIC HEALTH  
MADISON DANE COUNTY—SUBSTANCE USE PREVENTION & HARM REDUCTION  
(SUPHR) UNIT**

Dane County government has made a commitment to action and investment to reduce the significant harm associated with opioid use among residents. The 2024 adopted operating budget created an Opioid Settlement Subcommittee of the Health and Human Needs (HHN) Committee to make recommendations for priorities to include in a request for proposals for services to be supported with opioid settlement funds. Adopted 2024 Res-143, Recommendation to Health and Human Needs Committee—Opioid Settlement Funds—BH, stated, “Public Health Madison Dane County (PHMDC) identifies an immediate need for expanding the capacity of harm reduction services, including increased hours of operation for its syringe services program.” The resolution recommended that additional opioid settlement funding be made available to PHMDC to increase staffing and related costs for syringe services.

Public Health Madison Dane County (PHMDC) operates the Substance Use Prevention & Harm Reduction (SUPHR) unit to prevent and reduce harms related to substance use in Dane County. This unit works directly with people most at risk for harm related to substance use (i.e., overdose, injury, infection), performing essential duties to improve access to care, reduce overdose deaths, prevent injury and infection, and conducting community outreach and education activities throughout Dane County to foster a safer, healthier community.

The Harm Reduction Specialist works in this unit under the direct supervision of the Public Health Supervisor. Among the responsibilities assigned to this position are: supporting prevention and harm reduction services by providing a compassionate, person-centered approach to individuals who are at risk of substance use-related harm and providing direct services to participants of the Syringe Services Program (SSP) during walk-in hours; delivering education and training on risk reduction and prevention practices, including overdose prevention and response, emergency contraception, drug checking, syringe disposal, and community resources; and distributing supplies such as Naloxone (Narcan), sterile equipment/safer use supplies, drug checking strips, wound care supplies, and personal hygiene items.

The Opioid Settlement Subcommittee of the Health and Human Needs Committee identified a need and made a recommendation for additional Harm Reduction Specialists to meet the ongoing and complex needs of the population served by the PHMDC Substance Use Prevention & Harm Reduction (SUPHR) unit.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that position authority in Public Health Madison Dane County is increased by 3.0 FTE, effective in pay period 6 of 2026, to add 3.0 FTE P-9 Classification Harm Reduction Specialists within the Substance Use Prevention & Harm Reduction (SUPHR) unit of PHMDC at a cost for 2026 of \$322,200.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that continuation of the three positions is dependent on the availability of sufficient funding in the Opioid Settlement Special Revenue Fund.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the 2026 Dane County Operating Budget be amended by creating expenditure line OPIATE NEW “Harm Reduction Specialist Reimbursement” with an

47 amount of \$322,200 to allow the county to reimburse PHMDC for the cost of the three positions  
48 from opioid settlement funds.

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50 **BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED** that the PHMDC will invoice the Department of Administration  
51 annually for the costs incurred for the three positions described above and that the Controller's  
52 Office is authorized to make payment to PHMDC.