

AUTHORIZING RECLASSIFICATION OF PROJECT COORDINATOR - PROJECT
#3264 to PUBLIC HEALTH SPECIALST IN PUBLIC HEALTH MADISON & DANE COUNTY

The opioid crisis is a public health emergency threatening the wellbeing and lives of individuals who use drugs and impacts communities, first responders, the criminal justice system, child welfare and foster care, and behavioral health systems. In 2018, Dane County experienced 85 opioid-involved deaths, 478 opioid-related hospital visits, and 501 ambulance runs for suspected opioid overdoses.

The U.S Department of Justice established a Comprehensive Opioid Abuse Site-Based Program (COAP) to reduce opioid abuse and the number of overdose fatalities by supporting a comprehensive, collaborative approach. The Madison Police Department (MPD), in partnership with Public Health Madison Dane County (PHMDC), Dane County Department of Human Services, Madison Fire Department (MFD), and the University of Wisconsin Population Health Institute applied for and were awarded a COAP grant for \$1,200,000 to create a new "Pathways to Recovery Madison & Dane County" initiative.

Pathways to Recovery will support data-driven solutions to promote treatment and recovery, and support individuals, families, and communities throughout Dane County by developing and implementing protocols to deflect individuals struggling with a substance use disorder away from the criminal justice system into social supports and/or treatment services.

The initiative will create an Addiction Resource Team (MPD addiction resource officer, MFD community paramedic, and certified peer specialist) and support a project coordinator and a project evaluator. The Addiction Resource Team will facilitate the delivery of harm reduction messaging and distribution of naloxone/Narcan as well as provide a direct link to an assessment and treatment referrals to individuals struggling with a substance use disorder through a combination of pre-arrest diversion programming, outreach efforts, and a coordinated overdose response. Law enforcement agencies will be able to request active outreach and prevention visits by the Addiction Resource Team to people within their community known to be struggling with a substance use disorder.

The Pathways to Recovery initiative will expand the existing MPD MARI pre-arrest diversion to become the Madison Area Addiction Recovery Initiative (MAARI) which allows law enforcement to hold low-level, addiction-driven offenses in abeyance for six months of engagement with a treatment program. In addition, Pathways to Recovery will create Safe Stations, at fire stations and other public service facilities, to provide a safe, accessible location for individuals to approach when seeking help for substance use disorder.

PHMDC will provide their expertise as a community convener and in systems change through the project coordination of Pathways to Recovery. The County Board approved the creation of project position #3264, P10 Project Coordinator to lead this work on January 24, 2020. Originally, the position was going to specialize in project evaluation, data collection and analysis. Due to changes in the scope of the duties to project management, PHMDC requested an audit of the position to reclassify #3264 to P7 Public Health Specialist. This position is currently vacant and the Department of Administration – Employee Relations has recommended approval of this request.

45 Pathways to Recovery aims to reduce opioid fatalities in Dane County by 25%, as well as
46 reduce opioid-involved EMS calls and hospital encounters by 25%.

47 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Dane County Board of Supervisors does
48 hereby support and authorize reclassification of the Project Coordinator - Project (P10, position
49 #3264) in Public Health Madison & Dane County to a Public Health Specialist (P7),
50 commensurate with the Department's request and approval of the Department of Administration
51 – Employee Relations Division.

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53 **BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED** that position #3264, which will have been vacant for more than six
54 months on July 24, 2020, is authorized to be filled pursuant to Dane County Ordinance
55 29.52(15), which requires the Personnel and Finance Committee to approve filling positions that
56 are vacant for more than six months.
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