Cass County

Opioid Settlement Funding Plan

Recommended by Cass County

Opioid Settlement Advisory Committee, 2/2/24

Approved by the BOC on 3/7/24

1. Overview

a. Cass County's Board of Commissioners esablished an Opioid Settlement Advisory Committee on 8/10/23 to plan for spending of the Opioid Settlement Funds directed to Cass County.

b. Cass County's Opioid Settlement Advisory Committee is comprised of:

(1) Chair, Carol Montavon Bealor, Chief Judge, Cass County Courts;
(2) Vice Chair, Bob Weber, SUD Director, Woodlands Behavioral Healthcare Network;
(3) Commissioner Marchetti;
(4) Commissioner Lee;
(5) Sheriff Behnke;
(6) Matthew Newton, County Administrator;
(7) Jennifer Rentfrow, County Finance Director;
(8) Danielle Persky, Director, Cass Van Buren Health Department;
(9) Mary Middleton, CEO, Cassopolis Family Clinic Network;
(10) Dr. James Wierman; and,
(11) Prosecutor Victor Fitz.

c. Impact of Substance Abuse in Cass County:

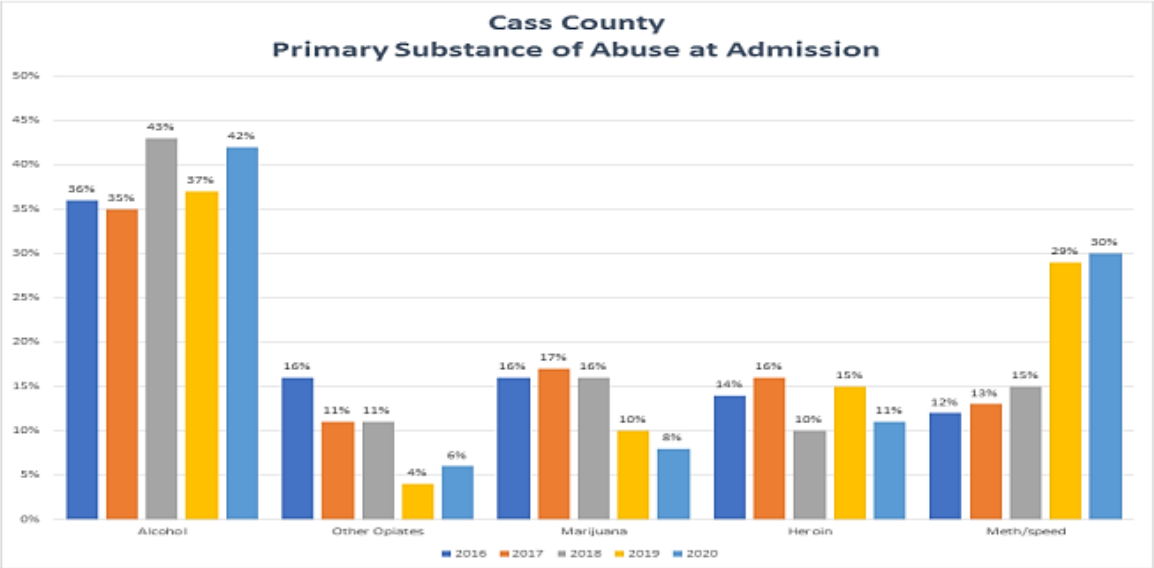
(1) Opioid-related deaths in Michigan increased by more than 300% starting in 2013.

(2) Opioid-related deaths accounted for over 80% of all drug related deaths in the state in 2017, and prescription opioids were involved in over 70% of those deaths.

(3) Approximately 17% of Cass County Residents smoke or use tobacco which is slightly less than state average (18%).

(4) Alcohol and marijuana use/abuse continue to have the highest negative impacts on Cass County residents, but heroin and other drug use were 6-12% of hospital admissions in 2020 and disproportionately high in the court system.

(5) Cass County Primary Substance Abuse at Admission per Woodlands' 2023 Community Needs Assessment is set forth in the graph below:



d. This funding plan provides a mechanism to request funding proposals from organizations, groups, or individuals addressing or providing services related to opioid use prevention, harm reduction, treatment, recovery, and wrap around community supports to apply for funding to serve individuals and families impacted by opioid use who also have a connection to Cass County. This includes services focused on or related to substance use disorders, polysubstance use, and co-occurring mental health and substance use disorders.

e. There are several funding tracks:

(1) Emergency or crisis response funding to address issues that are emergent and time-sensitive with a total cost of more than $5,000;
(2) Emergency or crisis response funding to address issues that are emergent and time-sensitive with a total cost of $5,000 or less;
(3) Funding for non-emergency and non-crisis response services or interventions with a total cost of $5,000 or less; and,
(4) Funding for non-emergency and non-crisis services or interventions with a total cost of more than $5,000.

f. The amount of funds available for awards will differ annually as a budget will be established each fiscal year and then proposals will be accepted annually beginning October 1st for each fiscal year.

g. This funding plan and recommendation is approved and recommended by the Cass County Opioid Settlement Advisory Committee as of 2/2/24.

2. Background on Opioid Litigation & Settlement Funds

a. In 2021, a $26 billion nationwide settlement was reached to resolve all Opioids litigation brought by states and local political subdivisions against the three largest pharmaceutical distributors: McKesson, Cardinal Health and AmerisourceBergen ("Distributors"), and manufacturer Janssen Pharmaceuticals, Inc. and its parent company Johnson & Johnson (collectively, "J&J").

b. The state of Michigan is slated to receive approximately $776 million over 18 years. Fifty percent (50%) of the settlement amount will be sent directed to county and local governments. The national agreement also requires significant industry changes that will help prevent this type of crisis from ever happening again.

c. In 2022, additional settlements with pharmacies and manufacturers were announced, including CVS, Walmart, Allergan and Teva. These four settlements are expected to bring in around $450 million to Michigan, divided with fifty percent (50%) directed to local governments.

d. Michigan can also expect additional funds received through companies Purdue Pharma, Mallinckrodt PLC and Endo, which are pursuing bankruptcy plans that include funding opioid abatement trusts. Currently, Cass County has received opioid settlement funds totaling $276,769.06. Projections are changing as more settlements are made with current projections of funding of at least $50,000 per year for the next 15 years.

3. Goal & Spending Plan

a. Cass County's goal is to spend the Opioid Settlement Funds in a way that addresses the unique needs of individuals and families impacted by opioid use who have a connection to Cass County by:

(1) using the money to save lives;
(2) using evidence to guide spending;
(3) investing in youth prevention;
(4) focusing on racial equity; and,
(5) using a fair and transparent process for deciding what funding requests to spend opioid settlement funds on.

b. The Advisory Committee formulated a plan for spending prioritizing:

(1) Agile and informed decision making: The Committee recognized the need to be agile in considering urgent or critical needs (since we have money available to spend to address those needs) balanced against informed decision making that takes into account diverse community perspectives (to preserve these funds for the intended uses);

(2) Streamlined Application/Administration and Accountability for Awarded Funds: The Committee wanted to create an application and administration process that doesn't discourage individuals, groups, and organization from

seeking funds and also provide accountability for awarded funds to ensure that funds awarded are used for proper purposes and that the impact of the funds used is measured;

(3) Fund Use that has wider community impact and Fund Use that meets particular individual/family needs: The Committee wanted to create mechanisms to fund initiatives that have a wider community impact as well as providing a means for individuals/families to apply for smaller awards to meet particular needs drive by the opioid crisis; and,

(4) Need for a Plan Now and the need for the Plan to Evolve over time as more funds are received and we learn from the initiatives funded.

4. The Cass County Opioid Settlement Advisory Committee recommends that the Board of Commissioners adopt a Motion Approving this Opioid Settlement Funding Plan, including the administration provisions set forth herein, and more specifically which:

a. Maintains Cass County's Opioid Settlement Funds in a separate fund;

b. As part of the regular budgeting process, establish a budget for expenditure through awards for non-emergency and non-crisis response funding of $50,000, or an amount equal to the projected annual allocation, whichever is greater;

c. For FY 2024, establish a budget for expenditure through awards for non-emergency and non-crisis response funding of $50,000;

d. As part of the regular budgeting process, establish a budget for expenditure through awards for emergency or crisis response funding of up to an amount equal to 1/3 of the total fund balance;

e. For FY 2024, establish a budget for expenditure through awards for emergency or crisis response funding of $100,000;

f. Adopt the funding application and administration process set forth in this Funding Plan including the application and administration process and specifically:

(1) The Eligibility criteria set forth in 5. Below
(2) The Availability of Funds details set forth in 6. Below
(3) The Funding Priorities and Requirements set forth in 7. Below
(4) The Reporting requirements set forth in 8. Below
(5) The Allowable Uses of Funding and Funding Restrictions set forth in 9. Below
(6) The Selection and Awards Process set forth in 10. Below including using a Scoring Rubric created by the Advisory Committee
(7) Direct Questions as set forth in 11. Below
(8) Utilize the Cass County Opioid Settlement Funds Request for Funding Application set forth below or as otherwise updated by the Cass County Opioid Settlement Advisory Committee

g. Continue operation of the Cass County Opioid Settlement Advisory Committee so long as Opioid Settlement Funds are on deposit with Cass County with a Chair and Vice Chair elected from the Committee's membership at the first meeting after the start of each fiscal year, with the current members as appointed by the Cass County Board of Commissioners after recommendation by the appointments committee and future members added as appointed by the Cass County Board of Commissioners after recommendation by the appointments committee.

5. Eligibility

a. Organizations, groups, or individuals addressing or providing services related to opioid use prevention, harm reduction, treatment, recovery, and wrap around community supports are eligible to apply for funding to serve individuals and families impacted by opioid use who have a connection to Cass County. This includes services focused on or related to substance use disorders, polysubstance use, and co-occurring mental health and substance use disorders.

b. There are several funding tracks:

(1) Emergency or crisis response funding to address issues that emergent and time-sensitive with a total cost of more than $5,0000;

(2) Emergency or crisis response funding to address issues that emergent and time-sensitive with a total cost of $5,0000 or less;

(3) Funding for non-emergency and non-crisis services or interventions with a total cost of $5,000 or less; and,

(4) Funding for non-emergency and non-crisis services or interventions with a total cost of more than $5,000.

c. Organizational applicants must be a governmental entity or a 501(c)(3) entity.

6. Availability of Funds

a. The number of awards will be dependent on the amount of funds available for annual allocation. The amount of funds available will differ annually.

b. Proposals for non-emergency and non-crisis response funding will be accepted annually between October 1st through July 1st.

c. Proposals for emergency or crisis response funding will be accepted year-round.

d. Funds must be utilized during that fiscal year (from October 1st through September 30th) of the year in which the award is made unless otherwise approved and agreed upon.

7. Funding Priorities and Requirements

a. Funding Priorities:

(1) Serving individuals and families impacted by opioid use with a connection to Cass County leveraging wrap around community supports
(2) Investing in youth prevention
(3) Focusing on racial equity
(4) Impacting underserved populations
(5) Addressing unmet community needs
(6) Partnering with other counties or other county service providers to leverage a greater outcome impact

b. Funding Requirements:

(1) Plan to utilize funds within the associated fiscal year
(2) Plan to ensure utilization of funds supplements, rather than supplants, existing funding
(3) Plan to ensure all funds are used in alignment with Exhibit E and the definition of opioid remediation
(4) Ensure indirect costs, if any, do not exceed 5%
(5) Provide data on funded outcomes and impacts as directed by Cass County
(6) Complete required expenditure report(s)
(7) Timeline for your expenditure of funds

8. Reporting Requirements

a. Reporting Requirements for awards of $5,000 or less, unless otherwise approved and agreed upon:

(1) Initial Report within 30 days of award by email to cassopioidsettlementfunds@cassco.org

(2) Final Report by September 1st during the year in which the funds are awarded by email to cassopioidsettlementfunds@cassco.org

b. Reporting Requirements for awards of more than $5,000

(1) Initial Report within 30 days of award by email to cassopioidsettlementfunds@cassco.org

(2) Mid-project Report mid-way between receipt of funding and September 1st of the year in which the funds are awarded by email to cassopioidsettlementfunds@cassco.org

(3) Final Report by September 1st during the year in which the funds are awarded by email to cassopioidsettlementfunds@cassco.org

c. Minimum Reporting Contents for all awards:

(1) Names of individuals involved
(2) Community partners involved, if any
(3) Challenges and barriers experienced within the reporting period
(4) Successes experienced within the reporting period
(5) Amount of funds expended during reporting period with details on expenditures
(6) Anticipated next steps
(7) Reporting topics agreed upon at the time of funding
(8) For Final Reports, data on funded outcomes and impacts as directed by Cass County and at a minimum to include number of people and/or families served

9. Allowable Uses of Funds & Funding Restrictions

a. Specific to the J&J, Distributor, CVS, Teva, Allergan and Walmart settlements,
(1) funds must be spent on opioid remediation. Opioid Remediation is defined as,[1]

1. Care, treatment, and other programs and expenditures (including reimbursement for past such programs or expenditures except where this Agreement restricts the use of funds solely to future Opioid Remediation) designed to (1) address the misuse and abuse of opioid products, (2) treat or mitigate opioid use or related disorders, or (3) mitigate other alleged effects of, including on those injured as a result of, the opioid epidemic.

(2) Activities must meet the definition of opioid remediation[2], be evidence-based strategies[3] or promising practices and align with allowable uses outlined by Exhibit E.[4]

10. Selection and Award Process

a. All funding requests must include:

(1) the completed Cass County Opioid Settlement Funds Request for Funding Application document below which includes budgetary details including both itemized financial breakdown as well as narrative details describing all fund usage;

(2) additional documentation available to support the funding request

[1] https://nationalopioidsettlement.com/
[2] https://www.lac.org/assets/files/TheOpioidEbatement-v3.pdf
[3] https://www.cdc.gov/drugoverdose/pdf/pubs/2018-evidence-based-strategies.pdf
[4] https://www.attorneygeneral.gov/wp-content/uploads/2021/12/Exhibit-E-Final-Distributor-Settlement-Agreement-8-11-21.pdf

b. Proposals must be submitted by email to cassopioidsettlementfunds@cassco.org

c. Proposals for non-emergency and non-crisis response funding are accepted each fiscal year from October 1st through July 1st

d. Proposals for emergency and crisis response funding are accepted year round

e. Review of Proposals:

(1) Proposals will be reviewed and scored by the County Administrator, the Finance Director, the Opioid Settlement Advisory Committee Chair, and the Opioid Settlement Advisory Committee Vice-Chair within 14 days of submission of a funding application request using a scoring rubric created by the Advisory Committee after which a recommendation will be presented at the next Board of Commissioners' Committee of the Whole Meeting with the Board of Commissioners then either: (1) approving the recommended action and scheduling a special meeting or moving the matter to the next scheduled Board of Commissioners Meeting, as appropriate; denying the recommended action; or (3) taking other action as determined appropriate by the Board of Commissioners.

(2) If any of the initial reviewers identified in (1) above have a conflict of interest due to being a part of or affiliated with any funding request, then the following persons shall be contacted to replace such persons as an initial reviewer on a rotating basis as an alternate reviewer:

1. Cass County Sheriff

2. Director, Cass Van Bruen Health Department

(3) In the event that the initial reviewers determine that the approval process for a funding request should be expedited because the funding request is for emergency or crisis response funding, the initial reviewers may take appropriate steps to expedite consideration by the Board of Commissioners of such a funding request so that the approval process can also be expedited.

f. Once a determination has been made by the Board of Commissioners, the County Administrator shall promptly notify the applicant as to the action taken by the Board of Commissioners. If an award is made, a meeting will be scheduled within 14 days to discuss the specific terms of the funding awarded.

11. Questions:

a. Questions regarding Opioid Settlement Funds Requests for Funding may be submitted by email to cassopioidsettlementfunds@cassco.org or by telephone to the County Administrator, ~~Matthew Newton,~~ at 269-445-4420.

Cass County Opioid Settlement Funds
Request for Funding
Application

To Be Completed by Applicant

(attach additional sheets of paper in response to any question as necessary):

1. Applicant Information	
Applicant Name	
Street Address	
Email Address	
Phone Number	
If Organization is the Applicant, the Name of the Project Director	
If Organization is the Applicant, the Name of the Authorized Representative (who signs the application and award contract)	
Signature of Authorized Representative (if Organization is the Applicant)	
Date	
2. Applicant Description	
3. Is this funding request for an emergency or crisis response or a regular request? (attach details as to the exact nature of the emergency/crisis)	
4. Description of what the funding is sought for including details of the need for the funds and what outcome is being sought with the use of the funds (use attachments as necessary)	

5. Populations Served/Target Population and Geographic Area Served

6. Data to Support Need for Project (if available)

7. Proposed timeline (use attachments as necessary)

8. Details regarding Funded Activities (use attachments as necessary)

Activity/Activities	**Desired Outcomes**	**Timeline**
e.g. media campaign about Naltrexone	Increase awareness	2 months

9. Success – How will success be measured?

10. Sustainability – How will the project be sustained after funding cycle?

11. Budget – Total amount requested	**$**

12. Budget Documentation—attach a breakdown of exactly how the requested funds will be used.

13. If new, is the project evidence-based or based on promising practices? (Check one and provide link to information on evidence base)	__ - Yes __ - No Link: _____

14. Attachments – Supporting Documents	• Resume and/or biography of project director • Budget itemization with narrative of details regarding each expenditure • Any other attachments that will provide a more complete picture of the funding requested • Letters of support from partner organizations (optional) • Materials demonstrating experience, organizational impact and/or commitment to addressing the drug overdose epidemic (optional)

Resources

- Principles for Spending
  - Principles for the Use of Funds From the Opioid Litigation
- Evidence-Based Strategies and Promising Practices
  - Evidence Based Strategies for Abatement of Harms from the Opioid Epidemic
  - Evidence-Based Strategies for Preventing Opioid Overdose: What's Working in the United States
- Local data
  - Michigan Overdose Data to Action Dashboard
    - Data on overdose deaths, emergency department visits and emergency medical services (EMS) calls and Substance Use Vulnerability Index
  - Michigan Department of Health and Human Services Opioids Webpage - EMS Responses
    - "Public Use Dataset EMS Responses to Probable Opioid Overdose", found under "Overdose Reports"
  - Michigan Substance Use Disorder Data Repository (SUDDR) and Data Visualizations
    - Suspected fatal overdoses and emergency medical services naloxone administration data
  - University of Michigan Injury Prevention Center System for Opioid Overdose Surveillance (SOS)
    - County-level data on overdose deaths, emergency department visits and emergency medical services (EMS) calls
  - Overdose Detection Mapping Application Program (ODMAP)
    - Near real-time tracking of fatal and non-fatal overdoses and naloxone administration by public health and public safety
  - Wayne State University's School of Social Work Center for Behavioral Health and Justice Dashboard
    - Customizable dashboard that shows multiple topics including, behavioral health, public health, criminal justice, housing, demographic and other data
  - Data and information may also be accessed through local communities within health departments, prevention coalitions, harm reduction providers, behavioral health providers, recovery support providers and other groups.

1st Addendum to
3/7/24 Cass County Opioid Settlement Funding Plan
Approved by the BOC on 2/6/2025

1. **Background**

    a. Cass County's Board of Commissioners esablished the Cass County Opioid Settlement Advisory Committee on 8/10/23 to plan for spending of the Opioid Settlement Funds directed to Cass County.

    b. Cass County's Board of Commissioners adopted the Cass County Opioid Settlement Funding Plan on 3/7/24 [hereinafter "3/7/24 Cass County Opioid Settlement Funding Plan"].

    c. A goal of the 3/7/24 plan was to allow for agile decision making as well as streamlined application process to effectively respond to the opioid crisis.

    d. Now that the 3/7/24 Cass County Opioid Settlement Funding Plan has been administered for more than 9 months, the Cass County Opioid Settlement Advisory Committee unanimously recommends that the Cass County Board of Commissioners adopts this Addendum to the 3/7/24 Cass County Opiod Settlement Funding Plan to allow for more agile decision making and a more streamlined application approval process for administration of the opioid settlement funds as set forth herein.

2. **Addendum Terms**

    a. Replace Item **10. Selection and Award Process** in the 3/7/24 Cass County Opioid Settlement Funding Plan with an updated Item 10, as set forth herein (new language is in italics):

10. Selection and Award Process

    a. All funding requests must include:

        (1) the completed Cass County Opioid Settlement Funds Request for Funding Application document below which includes budgetary details including both itemized financial breakdown as well as narrative details describing all fund usage;

        (2) additional documentation available to support the funding request

b. Proposals must be submitted by email to cassopioidsettlementfunds@cassco.org

c. Proposals for non-emergency and non-crisis response funding are accepted each fiscal year from October 1st through July 1st

d. Proposals for emergency and crisis response funding are accepted year round

e. Review of Proposals:

(1) Proposals will be reviewed and scored by the *Review/Scoring Sub-Committee comprised of the* County Administrator, the Finance Director, the Opioid Settlement Advisory Committee Chair, and the Opioid Settlement Advisory Committee Vice-Chair within 14 days of submission of a funding application request using a scoring rubric created by the Advisory Committee *with possible decisions as follows: (1) more information is needed in order to make a decision; (2) approval of the proposal; or (3) denial of the proposal. If more information is needed on the proposal or the proposal is denied, the Chair of the Opioid Settlement Advisory Committee shall promptly contact the applicant and advise them of the Review/Scoring Sub-Committee's determination.*

1. *For funding requests up to $19,999.99*

   a. *Upon approval by the majority of the Review/Scoring Sub-Committee, the proposal may be formally approved by the County Administrator (in recognition of the authority already granted to the County Administrator in Cass County's Purchasing Policy); and*

   b. *The County Administrator shall promptly notify the applicant of the approval.*

   c. *The County Administrator shall promptly notify the Board of Commissioners of the approval.*

2. *For funding requests of $20,000 or more*

   a. *The County Administrator shall cause t*he recommendation *to be* presented at the next Board of Commissioners' Committee of the Whole Meeting.

   b. *The* Board of Commissioners *shall* then either:

      i. Approve the recommended action and schedule a special meeting or move the matter to the next scheduled Board of Commissioners Meeting, as appropriate;

ii. Deny the recommended action; or

iii. Take other action as determined appropriate by the Board of Commissioners.

c. *The County Administrator shall promptly notify the applicant of the Board of Commissioners' decision.*

(2) If any of the initial reviewers/*scorers* identified in (1) above have a conflict of interest due to being a part of or affiliated with any funding request, *or if any of them is unavailable for any other reason,* then the following persons shall be contacted to replace such persons as a reviewer/*scorer* on a rotating basis:

1. Cass County Sheriff

2. Director, Cass Van Buren Health Department

(3) In the event that the initial reviewers*/scorers* determine that the approval process for a funding request should be expedited because the funding request is for emergency or crisis response funding, the initial reviewers may take appropriate steps to expedite consideration by the Board of Commissioners of such a funding request so that the approval process can also be expedited.

f. Once an award is made, the County Administrator shall take steps to effectuate the award including promptly scheduling a meeting with the applicant as necessary to discuss the specific terms of the funding awarded.

g. Annual Report- on an annual basis, the Committee Chair and the County Administrator shall work together to create an annual report to submit to the Board of Commissioners providing an update regarding opioid settlement fund activity for the year including settlement funds on hand, awards made, and impact of awards.

11. Questions:

a. Questions regarding Opioid Settlement Funds Requests for Funding may be submitted by email to cassopioidsettlementfunds@cassco.org or by telephone to the County Administrator, 269-445-4420.

2ND Addendum to
3/7/24 Cass County Opioid Settlement Funding Plan
Approved by the BOC on July 16, 2026

1. **Background**

    a. Cass County's Board of Commissioners esablished the Cass County Opioid Settlement Advisory Committee on 8/10/23 to plan for spending of the Opioid Settlement Funds directed to Cass County.

    b. Cass County's Board of Commissioners adopted the Cass County Opioid Settlement Funding Plan on 3/7/24 [hereinafter "3/7/24 Cass County Opioid Settlement Funding Plan"].

    c. The 3/7/24 Cass County Opioid Settlement Funding Plan was amended by way of the 1st Addendum to 3/7/24 Cass County Opioid Settlement Funding Plan (Approved by the BOC on 2/6/25).

2. **Need for an Addendum**

    a. There have been changes in the composition of the advisory committee members.

    b. There have been changes in persons identified as points of contact as well as their respective contact information.

3. **Addendum Terms**

    The 3/7/24 Cass County Opioid Settlement Funding Plan should be updated as indicated herein:

    a. Any questions regarding applications or administration of the Cass County Opioid Settlement Funds should be addressed to the attention of the Chair of the Advisory Committee and directed by email to: cassopioidsettlementfunds@cassco.org or by telephone to the County Administrator, 269-445-4420.

    b. Unless otherwise determined by the Cass County Board of Commissioners, notice of which shall be provided, Cass County's Opioid Settlement Advisory Committee is comprised of the following persons or the successor holding the position:

        (1) Chair, Carol Montavon Bealor, Chief Judge, Cass County Courts;
        (2) Vice Chair, Bob Weber, SUD Director, Woodlands Behavioral Healthcare Network;

(3) Commissioner Marchetti;
(4) Commissioner Lee;
(5) Sheriff Roach;
(6) Jennifer Rentfrow, County Administrator;
(7) Rachel Sheeley, County Finance Director;
(8) Danielle Persky, Director, Cass Van Buren Health Department;
(9) Joseph Gavin, CEO, Cassopolis Family Clinic Network;
(10) Dr. James Wierman; and,
(11) Prosecutor Sarah E. Scoggin.

Note: the Chair and Vice-Chair will be determined on a yearly basis, as the first order of business at the first meeting each year, by majority vote of the members of the Advisory Committee.