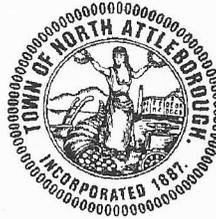


Michael Borg  
Town Manager



TOWN OF NORTH ATTLEBOROUGH  
43 South Washington Street  
North Attleborough MA 02760  
508-699-0100

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**INTEROFFICE MEMORANDUM**

**DATE:** Wednesday, December 13, 2023  
**TO:** Town Clerk  
**FROM:** Michael Borg *MB* 13 DEC 23  
**CC:** Linda Catanzariti Town Accountant  
Chris Sweet Tax Collector/Treasurer  
**RE:** Measure 2024-043- Allocation of \$23,000.00 of the Opioid Settlement Funds for the INTERFACE Referral Contract with William James College.

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Town Council Meeting- President Justin Paré  
Measure 2024-043- Allocation of \$23,000.00 of the Opioid Settlement Funds for the INTERFACE Referral Contract with William James College.

**Purpose and Justification:**

**Purpose:**

This measure seeks to have the Town Council approved the use of \$23,000.00 of the Opioid Settlement Funds to secure the services for a one-year contract with INTERFACE Referral Service provided by William James College. This is a joint effort between the Town and School Department and would provide coverage for all residents of North Attleborough.

INTERFACE Referral Service is an Initiative of William James College (WJC). The primary goal of INTERFACE Referral Service is to promote and facilitate access to outpatient mental health services for individuals within subscribing towns and cities who are permanent residents of such town or city and/or who are full-time students in the public school system of such town or city (the foregoing individuals, collectively, "Eligible Individuals.")

The opioid crisis has significantly impacted communities across the nation, including North Attleborough. The settlement funds provide an opportunity to address this crisis holistically, recognizing the intrinsic link between opioid abuse and mental health issues.

Research consistently shows a strong correlation between mental health disorders and substance abuse, including opioid addiction. Individuals struggling with mental health issues are more susceptible to opioid misuse as a form of self-medication. Therefore, addressing mental health is a proactive step in tackling the opioid crisis.

**PREVENTITIVE:** The William James Interface Referral Service can serve as a preventative measure. By providing early intervention and mental health support, we can potentially reduce the likelihood of individuals turning to opioids as a coping mechanism for untreated mental health issues.

**COMPREHENSIVE:** Many individuals battling opioid addiction also face mental health challenges. The referral service offers a comprehensive approach, ensuring that these individuals receive not only addiction treatment but also care for underlying or co-occurring mental health conditions.

**RESILIENCE:** Investing in mental health services strengthens community resilience. A community better equipped to handle mental health issues is more prepared to combat and recover from the opioid crisis, creating a healthier environment for all residents.

**Fulfilling the Intent of the Settlement:** The use of opioid settlement funds for this purpose aligns with the intent behind these funds – to remediate the harm caused by the opioid epidemic. Enhancing mental health services directly addresses one of the root causes and consequences of this crisis.

During the first term of this collaboration, **INTERFACE** will establish a dedicated webpage for North Attleborough on their current website. This page will be overseen by our appointed liaison. It will feature tailored information for the residents of North Attleborough and the public-school students, providing detailed guides on how to navigate mental health services. Additionally, it will include links to local resources aimed at facilitating access to mental health and wellness services in the area.

**Therefore, I respectfully request that \$23,000.00 of the Opioid Settlement Funds be allocated to the INTERFACE Referral Contract with William James.**

The Town Council met on November 27, 2023, and on behalf of the Council, Vice-President Simmons made a motion to refer Measure 2024-043- Allocation of \$23,000.00 of the Opioid Settlement Funds for the INTERFACE Referral Contract with William James College to the Finance Sub-Committee for further review and consideration.

Councilor Donovan seconded the motion.

**Motion carried 9-0.**

The Finance Sub-Committee met on December 4, 2023, and on behalf of the Sub-Committee a motion was made by Councilor Donovan to refer back to the Full Town Council Measure 2024-043- Allocation of \$23,000.00 of the Opioid Settlement Funds for the INTERFACE Referral Contract with William James College with a favorable recommendation.

Councilor Costello seconded the motion.

**Motion carried 6-0. UNANIMOUS**

The Town Council met on December 11, 2023, and on behalf of the Council, a motion was made by Councilor Slobogan to approve Measure 2024-043- Allocation of \$23,000.00 of the Opioid Settlement Funds for the INTERFACE Referral Contract with William James College

The motion was seconded by Councilor Donovan.

**Motion carried. 6-0. UNANIMOUS**