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ERIE COUNTY LEGISLATURE

HON. LINDSAY R. LORIGO
10TH DISTRICT LEGISLATOR

July 21, 2026

Legislator Lawrence Dupre
Chair, Health & Human Services Committee
92 Franklin Street, 4th Floor
Buffalo, NY 14202

Re: Opioid Settlement Fund Expenditures

Dear Chair Dupre:

Following up on comments made during the Health Department's mid-year budget hearing presentation, I am requesting that the Health Department appear before the Health & Human Services Committee for a formal discussion regarding the status and use of Erie County's opioid settlement funds.

It has been some time since the Legislature received a formal update on these funds. The Legislature must remain informed about how this money is being spent and whether it is being effectively utilized to address the opioid crisis.

According to the Health Department's website, Erie County anticipates receiving nearly \$77 million in opioid settlement funding through 2040. As of December 2025, the County had already received \$32,779,684, with an additional \$6,121,726 expected during the 2026 fiscal year. However, only \$6,989,784 had been spent as of December 2025.

While overdose deaths have declined since 2023, these funds remain an important resource for supporting programs and initiatives that address the ongoing impacts of addiction in our community. The County must ensure these funds are being used effectively and in accordance with their intended purpose.

The Health Department should participate in a committee discussion to provide an update on the programs and initiatives supported by opioid settlement funds, explain why a significant portion of the funds received remains unspent, and identify any challenges or roadblocks affecting the County's ability to utilize these resources.

Thank you for your consideration of this request. I look forward to discussing this matter with the Committee.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Lindsay Lorigo". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Lindsay" and last name "Lorigo" clearly distinguishable.

Lindsay Lorigo
Erie County Legislator, District 10

CC: Gale Burstein, Commissioner of Health