

# **ONE ARIZONA OPIOID SETTLEMENT MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING**

## **General Principles**

- The people of the State of Arizona and Arizona communities have been harmed by the opioid epidemic, which was caused by entities within the Pharmaceutical Supply Chain.
- The State of Arizona, *ex rel.* Mark Brnovich, Attorney General (the “State”), and certain Participating Local Governments are separately engaged in litigation seeking to hold the Pharmaceutical Supply Chain Participants accountable for the damage they caused.
- The State and the Participating Local Governments share a common desire to abate and alleviate the impacts of the Pharmaceutical Supply Chain Participants’ misconduct throughout the State of Arizona.
- The State and the Participating Local Governments enter into this One Arizona Opioid Settlement Memorandum of Understanding (“MOU”) to jointly approach Settlement negotiations with the Pharmaceutical Supply Chain Participants.
- This MOU has been drafted collaboratively to maintain the Parties’ existing or potential legal claims (to the extent legally cognizable) while allowing the Parties to cooperate in exploring all possible means of resolution.
- Nothing in this MOU binds the Parties to a specific outcome. Any resolution under this MOU will require a subsequent acceptance by the State and the Participating Local Governments of a final opioid Settlement plan.
- Nothing in this MOU should alter or change the right of the State or any Participating Local Government to pursue its own claim. The intent of this MOU is to join the Parties to seek a Settlement or Settlements with one or more Pharmaceutical Supply Chain Participants.

## **A. Definitions**

As used in this MOU:

1. “Approved Purpose(s)” shall mean those uses identified in the agreed Opioid Abatement Strategies attached as Exhibit A.
2. “Litigation” means existing or potential legal claims against Pharmaceutical Supply Chain Participants seeking to hold them accountable for the damage caused by their misfeasance, nonfeasance, and malfeasance relating to the unlawful manufacture, marketing, promotion, distribution, or dispensing of prescription opioids.

3. "Opioid Funds" shall mean monetary amounts obtained through a Settlement as defined in this MOU.
4. "Participating Local Government(s)" shall mean all counties, cities, and towns within the geographic boundaries of the State that have chosen to sign on to this MOU. The Participating Local Governments may be referred to separately in this MOU as "Participating Counties" and "Participating Cities and Towns" (or "Participating Cities or Towns," as appropriate).
5. "Parties" shall mean the State and the Participating Local Governments.
6. "Pharmaceutical Supply Chain" shall mean the process and channels through which licit opioids are manufactured, marketed, promoted, distributed, or dispensed.
7. "Pharmaceutical Supply Chain Participant" shall mean any entity that engages in or has engaged in the manufacture, marketing, promotion, distribution, or dispensing of licit opioids.
8. "Settlement" shall mean the negotiated resolution of legal or equitable claims against a Pharmaceutical Supply Chain Participant when that resolution has been jointly entered into by the State and the Participating Local Governments.
9. "Trustee" shall mean an independent trustee who shall be responsible for the ministerial task of releasing the Opioid Funds that are in trust as authorized herein and accounting for all payments into or out of the trust.

#### **B. Intrastate Regions**

1. The State of Arizona will be divided into regions, each of which will be referred to as a "Region" and will consist of: (1) a single Participating County and all of its Participating Cities and Towns; or (2) all of the Participating Cities and Towns within a non-Participating County. If there is only one Participating City or Town within a non-Participating County, that single Participating City or Town will still constitute a Region. Two or more Regions may at their discretion form a group ("Multicounty Region"). Regions that do not choose to form a Multicounty Region will be their own Region. Participating Cities and Towns within a non-Participating County may not form a Region with Participating Cities and Towns in another county.
2. The LG Share funds described in Section C(1) will be distributed to each Region according to the percentages set forth in Exhibit B. The Regional allocation model uses three equally weighted factors: (1) the amount of opioids shipped to the Region; (2) the number of opioid deaths that occurred in that Region; and (3) the number of people who suffer opioid use disorder in that Region. In the event any county does not participate in this MOU, that county's percentage share shall be reallocated proportionally amongst the Participating Counties by applying this same methodology to only the Participating Counties.
3. In single-county Regions, that county's health department will serve as the lead agency responsible for distributing the LG Share funds. That health department, acting as the

lead agency, shall consult with the cities and towns in the county regarding distribution of the LG Share funds.

4. For each Multicounty Region, an advisory council shall be formed from the Participating Local Governments in the Multicounty Region to distribute the collective LG Share funds. Each advisory council shall include at least three Participating Local Government representatives, not all of whom may reside in the same county. Each advisory council shall consult with the Participating Local Governments in the Multicounty Region regarding distribution of the collective LG Share funds.
5. For each Region consisting of the Participating Cities and Towns within a non-Participating County, an advisory council shall be formed from the Participating Cities and Towns in the Region to distribute the LG Share funds. Each advisory council shall include at least three representatives from the Participating Cities and Towns in the Region, or a representative from each Participating City and Town if the Region consists of fewer than three Participating Cities and Towns. In no event may more than one individual represent the same city or town. To the extent any Participating Cities or Towns in the Region are not represented on the advisory council, the advisory council shall consult with the non-represented Participating Cities and Towns regarding distribution of the collective LG Share funds.

### **C. Allocation of Settlement Proceeds**

1. All Opioid Funds shall be divided with 44% to the State (“State Share”) and 56% to the Participating Local Governments (“LG Share”).<sup>1</sup>
2. All Opioid Funds, regardless of allocation, shall be utilized in a manner consistent with the Approved Purposes definition, as ultimately memorialized in a Settlement that becomes an order of the court. Compliance with this requirement shall be verified through reporting, as set out in Section F.
3. The LG Share will be distributed to each Region as set forth in Section B(2). Participating Counties and their constituent Participating Cities and Towns may distribute the funds allocated to the Region amongst themselves in any manner they choose. If the county and its cities and towns cannot agree on how to allocate the funds, Exhibit C reflects a default allocation that will apply. The default allocation formula uses historical federal data showing how the specific county and the cities and towns within it have made opioids-related expenditures in the past. If the county or any cities or towns within a Region do not sign on to this MOU and subsequent Settlement, and if the Participating Local Governments in the Region cannot agree on how to allocate the funds amongst themselves, they shall reallocate the funds proportionally amongst themselves by applying this same methodology to only the Participating Local Governments in the Region.

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<sup>1</sup> This MOU assumes that any opioid settlement for Native American Tribes and Third-Party Payors, including municipal insurance pools, will be dealt with separately.

4. If the LG Share for a given Participating Local Government is less than \$500, then that amount will instead be distributed to the county in which the Participating Local Government is located to allow practical application of the abatement remedy. If the county did not sign on to the Settlement as defined herein, the funds will be reallocated to the State Share.
5. The State Share shall be paid by check or wire transfer directly to the State through the Trustee, who shall hold the funds in trust in a Qualified Settlement Fund (QSF) for the benefit of the State to be promptly distributed as set forth in C(1) herein. The LG Share shall be paid by check or wire transfer directly to the Participating Local Governments through the Trustee, who shall hold the funds in trust in a QSF for the benefit of the Participating Local Governments to be promptly distributed as set forth in B(2), C(1), C(3), and C(4) herein.
6. The State Share shall be used only for (1) Approved Purposes within the State or (2) grants to organizations for Approved Purposes within the State.
7. The LG Share shall be used only for (1) Approved Purposes by Participating Local Governments within a Region or Multicounty Region or (2) grants to organizations for Approved Purposes within a Region or Multicounty Region.
8. The State will endeavor to prioritize up to 30% of the State Share for: opioid education and advertising related to awareness, addiction, or treatment; Department of Corrections and related prison and jail opioid uses, and opioid interdiction and abatement on Arizona's southern border, including grants to assist with the building, remodeling and/or operation of centers for treatment, drug testing, medication-assisted treatment services, probation, job training, and/or counseling services, among other programs.

#### **D. Participation of Cities and Towns**

1. By virtue of signing on to the MOU and Settlement, each Participating County will receive 60% of its available LG Share. The Participating County will receive up to an additional 40% of its available LG Share by securing the participation of its constituent cities and towns as signatories to this MOU and the Settlement. The sliding scale attached as Exhibit D will determine the share of funds available to the Participating County.
2. If a Participating County does not achieve 100% participation of its cities and towns within the period of time required in a Settlement document for subdivision participation, the remaining portions of the LG Share that were otherwise available to the Participating County will be reallocated to (i) the State Share and (ii) the LG Share for the Participating Counties which have achieved 100% participation of their cities and towns in accordance with the percentages described in Sections B(2), C(1), and C(3), and set forth in Exhibits B and C.

#### **E. Payment of Counsel and Litigation Expenses**

1. The Parties anticipate that any national Settlement will provide for the payment of all or a portion of the fees and litigation expenses of certain state and local governments.

2. If the court in *In Re: National Prescription Opiate Litigation*, MDL No. 2804 (N.D. Ohio) or if a national Settlement establishes a common benefit fund or similar device to compensate attorneys for services rendered and expenses incurred that have benefited plaintiffs generally in the litigation (the “Common Benefit Fund”), and requires certain governmental plaintiffs to pay a share of their recoveries from defendants into the Common Benefit Fund as a “tax,” then the Participating Local Governments shall first seek to have the settling defendants pay the “tax.” If the settling defendants do not agree to pay the “tax,” then the “tax” shall be paid from the LG Share prior to allocation and distribution of funds to the Participating Local Governments.<sup>2</sup>
3. Any governmental entity that seeks attorneys’ fees and expenses from the Litigation shall seek those fees and expenses first from the national Settlement. In addition, the Parties agree that the Participating Local Governments will create a supplemental attorney’s fees and costs fund (the “Backstop Fund”).
4. The Backstop Fund is to be used to compensate counsel for Participating Local Governments that filed opioid lawsuits by September 1, 2020 (“Litigating Participating Local Governments”). Payments out of the Backstop Fund shall be determined by a committee consisting of one representative from each of the Litigating Participating Local Governments (the “Opioid Fee and Expense Committee”).
5. The Backstop Fund shall be funded as follows: From any national Settlement, the funds to be deposited in the Backstop Fund shall be 14.25% of the LG Share of each payment (annual or otherwise) to the State of Arizona for that Settlement. No portion of the State Share shall be used for the Backstop Fund or in any other way to fund any Participating Local Government’s attorney’s fees and costs.
6. The maximum percentage of any contingency fee agreement permitted for compensation shall be 25% of the portion of the LG Share attributable to the Litigating Participating Local Government that is a party to the contingency fee agreement, plus expenses attributable to that Litigating Participating Local Government. Under no circumstances may counsel collect more for its work on behalf of a Litigating Participating Local Government than it would under its contingency agreement with that Litigating Participating Local Government.
7. Any funds remaining in the Backstop Fund in excess of the amounts needed to cover private counsels’ representation agreements shall revert to the Participating Local Governments according to the percentages set forth in Exhibits B and C, to be used for Approved Purposes as set forth herein and in Exhibit A.

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<sup>2</sup> This paragraph shall not apply to any Settlement with distributors McKesson, Amerisource Bergen, and Cardinal Health or manufacturer Johnson & Johnson.

## **F. Compliance Reporting and Accountability**

1. The Trustee shall provide an up-to-date accounting of payments into or out of the trust and/or its subaccounts upon written request of the State or a Participating Local Government.
2. The State, Regions, and Participating Local Governments may object to an allocation or expenditure of Opioid Funds solely on the basis that the allocation or expenditure at issue (1) is inconsistent with provision C(1) hereof with respect to the amount of the State Share or LG Share; (2) is inconsistent with an agreed-upon allocation, or the default allocations in Exhibits B and C, as contemplated by Section C(3); or (3) violates the limitations set forth in F(3) with respect to compensation of the Trustee. The objector shall have the right to bring that objection within two years of the date of its discovery to a superior court in Maricopa County, Arizona.
3. Out of the Opioid Funds, reasonable expenses up to 0.005% shall be paid to the Trustee.
4. The Parties shall maintain, for a period of at least five years, records of abatement expenditures and documents underlying those expenditures, so that it can be verified that funds are being or have been utilized in a manner consistent with the Approved Purposes definition.
5. At least annually, each Region or Multicounty Region shall provide to the State a report detailing for the preceding time period (1) the amount of the LG Share received by each Participating Local Government within the Region or Multicounty Region, (2) the allocation of any awards approved (listing the recipient, the amount awarded, the program to be funded, and disbursement terms), and (3) the amounts disbursed on approved allocations. In order to facilitate this reporting, each Participating Local Government within a Region or Multicounty Region shall provide information necessary to meet these reporting obligations to a delegate(s) selected by the Region or Multicounty Region to provide its annual report to the State.
6. At least annually, the State shall publish on its website a report detailing for the preceding time period (1) the amount of the State Share received, (2) the allocation of any awards approved (listing the recipient, the amount awarded, the program to be funded, and disbursement terms), and (3) the amounts disbursed on approved allocations. In addition, the State shall publish on its website the reports described in F(5) above.
7. If it appears to the State, a Region, or a Multicounty Region that the State or another Region or Multicounty Region is using or has used Settlement funds for non-Approved Purposes, the State, Region, or Multicounty Region may on written request seek and obtain the documentation underlying the report(s) described in F(5) or F(6), as applicable, including documentation described in F(4). The State, Region, or Multicounty Region receiving such request shall have 14 days to provide the requested information. The requesting party and the State, Region, or Multicounty Region receiving such request may extend the time period for compliance with the request only upon mutual agreement.

8. Following a request made pursuant to F(7) and when it appears that LG Share funds are being or have been spent on non-Approved Purposes, the State may seek and obtain in an action in a court of competent jurisdiction in Maricopa County, Arizona an injunction prohibiting the Region or Multicounty Region from spending LG Share funds on non-Approved Purposes and requiring the Region or Multicounty Region to return the monies that it spent on non-Approved Purposes after notice as is required by the rules of civil procedure. So long as the action is pending, distribution of LG Share funds to the Region or Multicounty Region temporarily will be suspended. Once the action is resolved, the suspended payments will resume, less any amounts that were ordered returned but have not been returned by the time the action is resolved.
9. Following a request made pursuant to F(7) and when it appears to at least eight Participating Counties that have signed on to this MOU and a subsequent Settlement that the State Share funds are being or have been spent on non-Approved Purposes, the Participating Counties may seek and obtain in an action in a superior court of Maricopa County, Arizona an injunction prohibiting the State from spending State Share funds on non-Approved Purposes and requiring the State to return the monies it spent on non-Approved Purposes after notice as is required by the rules of civil procedure. So long as the action is pending, distribution of State Share funds to the State temporarily will be suspended. Once the action is resolved, the suspended payments will resume, less any monies that were ordered returned but have not been returned by the time the action is resolved.
10. In an action brought pursuant to F(8) or F(9), attorney's fees and costs shall not be recoverable.

#### **F. Settlement Negotiations**

1. The State and the Participating Local Governments agree to inform each other in advance of any negotiations relating to an Arizona-only settlement with a Pharmaceutical Supply Chain Participant that includes both the State and the Participating Local Governments and shall provide each other the opportunity to participate in all such negotiations.
2. The State and the Participating Local Governments further agree to keep each other reasonably informed of all other global settlement negotiations with Pharmaceutical Supply Chain Participants. Neither this provision, nor any other, shall be construed to state or imply that either the State or the Participating Local Governments (collectively, the "Arizona Parties") are unauthorized to engage in settlement negotiations with Pharmaceutical Supply Chain Participants without prior consent or contemporaneous participation of the other, or that either party is entitled to participate as an active or direct participant in settlement negotiations with the other. Rather, while the State's and the Participating Local Government's efforts to achieve worthwhile settlements are to be collaborative, incremental stages need not be so.
3. The State or any Participating Local Government may withdraw from coordinated Settlement discussions detailed in this Section upon 10 business days' written notice to the other Arizona Parties and counsel for any affected Pharmaceutical Supply Chain

Participant. The withdrawal of any Arizona Party releases the remaining Arizona Parties from the restrictions and obligations in this Section.

4. The obligations in this Section shall not affect any Party's right to proceed with trial or, within 30 days of the date upon which a trial involving that Party's claims against a specific Pharmaceutical Supply Chain Participant is scheduled to begin, reach a case-specific resolution with that particular Pharmaceutical Supply Chain Participant.

**G. Amendments**

1. The Parties agree to make such amendments as necessary to implement the intent of this agreement.

ACCEPTED by the undersigned and executed this 16 day of October, 2020.

ARIZONA ATTORNEY GENERAL

  
Mark Brnovich

APACHE COUNTY

\_\_\_\_\_  
Michael B. Whiting

COCHISE COUNTY

\_\_\_\_\_  
Brian McIntyre

COCONINO COUNTY

\_\_\_\_\_  
William P. Ring

GILA COUNTY

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Bradley B. Beauchamp

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**G. Amendments**


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ACCEPTED by the undersigned and executed this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2020.

ARIZONA ATTORNEY GENERAL

\_\_\_\_\_  
Mark Brnovich

APACHE COUNTY

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Michael B. Whiting

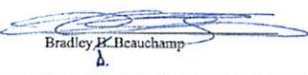
COCHISE COUNTY

 10/5/20  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Brian McIntyre

COCONINO COUNTY

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Elizabeth C. Archuleta, Chair

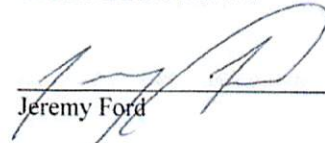
GILA COUNTY

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Bradley B. Beauchamp

GRAHAM COUNTY

  
Kenny Angle

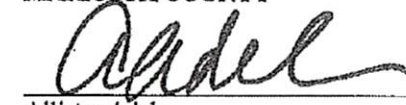
GREENLEE COUNTY

  
Jeremy Ford


LA PAZ COUNTY

  
Tony Rogers

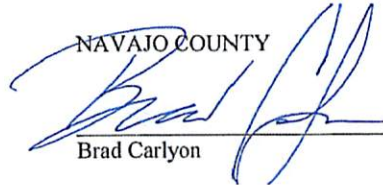
MARICOPA COUNTY

  
Allister Adel

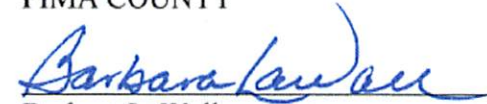
MOHAVE COUNTY

  
Matthew J. Smith

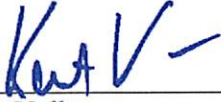
NAVAJO COUNTY

  
Brad Carlyon

PIMA COUNTY

  
Barbara LaWall

PINAL COUNTY




Kent Volkmer

SANTA CRUZ COUNTY



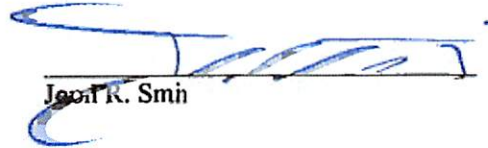
George Silva

YAVAPAI COUNTY



Sheila Polk

YUMA COUNTY



Jenni K. Smith

**YUMA COUNTY CITIES & TOWNS**

SAN LUIS CITY

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
Its: \_\_\_\_\_

SOMERTON CITY

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
Its: \_\_\_\_\_

WELLTON TOWN

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
Its: \_\_\_\_\_

YUMA CITY

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
Its: \_\_\_\_\_