

# PROPOSED

## RESOLUTION NO. 2019-

A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF BROWARD COUNTY, FLORIDA, URGING THE FLORIDA LEGISLATURE AND FLORIDA GOVERNOR TO CREATE AND PROVIDE FUNDING FOR A STATEWIDE OPIOID ADDICTION TASK FORCE; DIRECTING THE COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR TO TRANSMIT A COPY OF THIS RESOLUTION TO THE FLORIDA GOVERNOR AND ALL FLORIDA LEGISLATORS REPRESENTING BROWARD COUNTY RESIDENTS; AND PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY AND AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

(Sponsored by Commissioner Lamar P. Fisher)

WHEREAS, opioids, a class of drugs that includes heroin and prescription pain relievers such as oxycodone, hydrocodone, codeine, morphine, and fentanyl, are highly addictive;

WHEREAS, individuals, families, communities, and the health care system are struggling to cope with opioid misuse and abuse;

WHEREAS, opioid misuse and abuse can result in severe clinical impairment or distress and can severely interfere with individuals' obligations at work, school, and home;

WHEREAS, the 2016 U.S. Surgeon General report titled "Facing Addiction in America: The Surgeon General's Report on Alcohol, Drugs, and Health" states that opioid overdose incidents and deaths pose a serious threat to public health and represent one of the most pressing public health crises of our time;

WHEREAS, since 1999, the rate of opioid overdose deaths, including prescription opioid pain relievers and heroin, has nearly quadrupled, with prescription opioid overdoses causing the deaths of over 165,000 people;

1           WHEREAS, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention estimates that the  
2 total economic burden in the United States of prescription opioid misuse alone is  
3 \$78.5 billion per year;

4           WHEREAS, in Florida, opioid misuse and overdoses have become an increasingly  
5 alarming public safety and health crisis;

6           WHEREAS, Florida ranks fourth in the nation for total health care costs attributed  
7 to opioid abuse and eleventh in the nation for deaths resulting from drug overdoses, with  
8 the state's drug mortality rate doubling since 1999;

9           WHEREAS, although several counties, including Broward County, have created  
10 task forces and developed plans to address opioid addiction within their communities, a  
11 statewide approach is critical to making a measurable impact in the fight against the opioid  
12 epidemic;

13           WHEREAS, several states across the nation have also created task forces to  
14 address the opioid epidemic;

15           WHEREAS, through the application of routine practices, a Florida statewide task  
16 force could collectively and aggressively help affected communities in Florida mitigate  
17 and curtail damage caused by the opioid epidemic; and

18           WHEREAS, the Broward County Board of County Commissioners supports the  
19 creation of a statewide task force to tackle the opioid epidemic, NOW, THEREFORE,

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21           BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF  
22 BROWARD COUNTY, FLORIDA:

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1 Section 1. The Board hereby encourages the Florida Legislature and Florida  
2 Governor to create a statewide task force to address the opioid epidemic.

3 Section 2. The Board hereby directs the County Administrator to transmit a copy  
4 of this Resolution to the Florida Governor and all Florida legislators representing Broward  
5 County residents.

6 Section 3. Severability.

7 If any portion of this Resolution is determined by any court to be invalid, the invalid  
8 portion will be stricken, and such striking will not affect the validity of the remainder of this  
9 Resolution. If any court determines that this Resolution, in whole or in part, cannot be  
10 legally applied to any individual, group, entity, property, or circumstance, such  
11 determination will not affect the applicability of this Resolution to any other individual,  
12 group, entity, property, or circumstance.

13 Section 4. Effective Date.

14 This Resolution is effective upon adoption.

**PROPOSED**

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16 ADOPTED this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2019.

17 Approved as to form and legal sufficiency:  
18 Andrew J. Meyers, County Attorney

19 By /s/ Rocio Blanco Garcia 01/09/19  
20 Rocio Blanco Garcia (date)  
Assistant County Attorney

21 By /s/ Danielle W. French 01/09/19  
22 Danielle W. French (date)  
Deputy County Attorney

23 RBG/mm  
01/09/19  
24 Opioid Task Force Resolution  
99264-2016