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[00:00:02] **Speaker 1** Yes. I. There is no. Well said. Welcome. Thank you for joining us today. Today we will be voting to improve. The DHS is planned to spend $31 million in opioid settlement funds. We agreed with 85% of the plan, but we felt that there were several important stakeholders and considerations that DHS did not include. Our plan folds these into our state's response to this terrible epidemic. The legislature's improvements make investments in proven programing organizations and initiatives that have made a difference. We think that increasing investments in these areas will expand our ability to address the opioid issues in Wisconsin and are our meaningful investment of the settlement funds by investing in existing programs and organizations. The settlement funds will be applied to the problem immediately. Today we'll hear from a couple of stakeholders who are ready to apply these funds directly to the battle against opioid abuse in our communities. I am honored to introduce Grant County Sheriff Nate Druckman, who is from the best Senate district in the state and also serves as president of the Badger State Sheriffs Association. Sarah. Near dolls from Comprehensive Treatment Centers, which provides medication assisted treatment or mat services for those battling addiction. Representative Jesse Rodriguez, who will tell us about Madhouse, which serves mothers and babies during pregnancy and postpartum who are battling opioid addiction. And finally, Karen DeSanto, president of the Boys and Girls Club of Wisconsin, as well as CEO of the Boys and Girls Club of West Central Wisconsin to talk about an innovative program to reach our kids. Each of these stakeholders are ready to take our investments and put them to work in the fight against opioid abuse and addiction. Chef Druckman, take it away. Thank you, Senator Mark Lynn. As I said, my name is Nate Druckman. I'm the sheriff of GREENE County, also the president of the Badger State Sheriffs Association, which represents all 72 sheriffs here in Wisconsin. I want to thank the Joint Finance Committee, all the members, Senator Mark Lange, Representative Bourne, for all your work on this law enforcement as part of the frontlines in dealing with the opioid epidemic in Wisconsin. As I stand here representing all of law enforcement here in Wisconsin, I want to focus specifically on the office of sheriff. One of our primary duties is the care and custody of the GMC. And we have a very high percentage of inmates that come into the jails with some type of substance use disorder, whether it's opioids or other substance abuse. It's this grant program that's being put forth is going to allow law enforcement to take steps to help those that come into our care. So now from a prevention standpoint through Medicaid assisted treatment, but also education as well. I would also like to recognize the fact that this grant program specifically identifies smaller agencies as targets for some of the funds from this grant. And we can't forget about those small counties such as Putnam County and Forest County and even Grant County down in southwest Wisconsin, that we have the same issues as some of the larger metropolitan areas have as well. So again, thank you to the committee members for recognizing and supporting law enforcement in our battles against the opioid epidemic. And thank you for allowing me to come here and speak today. So at this time, I will turn it over to Sara.

[00:04:27] **Speaker 2** Hello. My name. Is there anybody else? I'm from Acadia Health Care, the C Division. Currently we have 13 facilities, medication assisted treatment facilities in Wisconsin. They range from Beloit, Racine, multiple in Madison, Milwaukee. And then we have more rural facilities in Claire and Wausau. We currently have 4500 people that we treat every single day in our facilities, and we have more looking for services every day. On a day to day basis. Some of the problems that our patients experience is they have limited access to treatment, especially in rural areas. Some drive in 90 minutes, two and 90 minutes home daily to access their services, which can be a huge barrier. This additional opiate money for medication assisted treatment can really help us to close the gap and offer more services to people, which, as we know with the pandemic, opioid dependance get significantly worse. Medication assisted treatment is a highly, highly regulated treatment modality, and we work very close in partnering with Wisconsin, DHS and the DEA. On a typical basis. The patients that come in every single day and receive either methadone, Suboxone, Vivitrol or aid. And we pair that with individual counseling and group counseling as well to make sure that we're making the full spectrum of changes for our patients. Some impressive information about about MDT is in six months, 87% of our patients test negative for illicit opiates, which is a huge thing. And then in when people are outside of med, the risk of mortality or the mortality rate is eight times greater. So it's pretty significant. The proof is in the pudding that M80 works and we're just really, really excited for the additional opiate fans so that we can start to really expand the services and help more people in need. Thank you. And now we are handing it off to Jesse Rodriguez. Representative Jesse Jackson. Thank you, Sarah, and good morning, everyone. We are proud to be moving forward today with a proven plan that will strategically deploy settlement proceeds to high impact initiatives. The plan we will approve today will ensure that quality services are accessible for Wisconsin residents and that quality service providers across the state are are supported in the work that they do. I'm excited to have the opportunity to tour an established substance use treatment provider tomorrow. Madhouse House is a nonprofit organization that is doing great work in our region to end the generational cycle of addiction by healing women and strengthening families. For nearly 60 years, made a house has been at the forefront of addiction treatment for vulnerable women and families in my region and beyond who are struggling with substance use disorder providers like me. A house will have the opportunity to benefit from the various strategic objectives included in the plan JFC approves today. Made a house has proven that they are effective in helping women recover from substance use disorder. In 2021, 100% of manor house babies were born free of alcohol and illegal drugs and all 100% were also born with no serious health concerns made. A house provides wraparound services that help women not only recover but improve their lives. With 88% of women who stayed in recovery housing for 90 or more days being employed or having made progress towards employability, such as enrolling in school. By providing funding for the expansion, we will support made a house to carry out their shovel ready plan to double the capacity of their inpatient program and further build on their programs to build to provide support and promote long lasting recovery. Up next is Karen DeSanto, president of the West Central Boys and Girls Club.

[00:09:03] **Speaker 3** Hi. Good morning. My name is Karen Atlanta, and I'm the CEO of the Boys and Girls Clubs of West Central Wisconsin and the former president of the Wisconsin State Alliance of our clubs. Wisconsin has 28 club organizations and 164 clubs sites across 65 cities, serving over 144,000 youth since 2019. Opioid abuse is not limited to the big cities. It's a rural problem that follows our interstates and affects every community across Wisconsin. With the funding of smart moves by the Joint Finance Committee today, we can help to stop this problem across rural communities before it occurs. This is personal to me and to many of you. It's because I live and I work and I raise my family. In rural Wisconsin, my Boys and Girls Club organization has sites in Tomah, Greensburg, Baraboo and coming this January, the city of Portage across the state. Our most recent club additions are in places like Kiel, New Holstein, Manitowoc, Shawano and Redcliffe in Rhinelander rural communities where smart programs can have a huge impact at our clubs. Substance abuse prevention is part of our core work. Our clubs are uniquely positioned to disrupt the cycle of addiction and abuse by providing a high quality youth experience that employs key evidence informed prevention strategies. We work together every week with local law enforcement procedure on prevention programs. In my clubs in particular, the chief of police in Reid's burg, Tomah and Portage serve on our board leadership with the school resource officers serving in our volunteer boards and committees. Collaboration with law enforcement will be crucial to our implementation of our nationally acclaimed prevention and education programs. Smart Moves. Smart Move stands for Skills, Mastery and Resilience Training. Put simply, we have young people ages seven through 18 engage in discussion and role playing. They practice resilience and refusal skills. We give them the confidence to develop assertiveness and say, no, we help them strength and decision making skills and critically analyze media and peer influence. We do this work using our mentors, staff and through personal and group engagements. Our ultimate goal is to promote abstinence from opioid and substance abuse through the practice of responsible behavior. And we know our programs work. Prescription drug use. Absentee abstention is higher among club members compared to their peers. Nationally, 16% of all teenagers in 11th grade have reported using opioids, compared to 5% of 11th graders at clubs. Nationally, 80% of all 12th graders report abstaining from opioids, compared to 93% of club 12th graders. Clubs achieve these outcomes by providing safe settings and healthy mentoring relationships with positive adult role models. We also know the return on investment for prevention is colossal. The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration conducted a cost benefit benefit analysis of substance abuse prevention and found that $18 is saved for every $1 invested in these programs. And think of the ROI right here in Wisconsin. It costs $1,154 per person per day to send a youth to Lincoln Hills, or about $415,000 per individual spending money early on. Opioid use prevention on youth mental health on mentoring is a proven strategy to keep youth out of detention centers and rehab facilities, ultimately saving the state money. Secretary of State Colin Powell spoke at the opening of our two hour 2000 club. That's hard to say. And he shared, whether invest in our kids or we invest more money in jails, spending a little money upfront, save so much more down the line. So again, I want to thank the members of the Joint Finance Committee for steering the funding for our Smart Moves programing. We run prevention programs at my sites, and this will allow us to focus on opioid abuse, save more money for the state through prevention, and have a greater impact across the rural areas of our youth across the state. So thank you. And now I turn it over to a co-chair of our forum.

[00:13:27] **Speaker 4** Thank you. Thank you to our speakers. This is a good day for Wisconsin. Legislative Republicans are leading on an issue today that we've been the union for ten years with our hope agenda. This work today builds on that. We knew as these funds were coming into the state this earlier this year when we passed legislation and how to govern, how these funds would be planned for and used, that this was really important to our state. And that's why that bill, signed by the governor, included this opportunity for legislative oversight. We wanted to make sure that the department was working with the whole state, with stakeholders like we heard from today and with legislators, because this is too important not to. And unfortunately, once again, we saw that Evers administration, in particular, the Department of Health, failed with a half baked plan. There was a lack of details. There was a lack of clear working with stakeholders like the ones here today and others on what's important to this state as we deal with this opioid epidemic that challenges all of our communities. So we did our work and brought forward this plan that works with partners. That's important. The Department of Health might say that was their intent, but that was not clear in the plan. And it was also clear in their plan that their intent was not to work with some of these important partners. There was no direct work with our public safety partners. We know as legislative Republicans that law enforcement and our public safety folks are the boots on the ground, as the sheriff talked about, that are key in this. So we are proud to add that today. Unfortunately, Josh Paul and Tony Evers continues to turn their back on. Law enforcement does not want to work with these key people in public safety in our communities. Legislative Republicans will always stand with them, and that's an important part of today's plan. With that, Senator Marco and I can take questions. Today's efforts in the threat of the changes. The detail changes will be available on the committee meets. But you heard from some of the stakeholders here today that are included in this plan that were not included. So there are grants to law enforcement. There's additional money for Mapp, as we heard from the rider, how beneficial that Medicaid assistance treatment is. There are a lot of the things still in the plan that are also important. Like some money for the residential care was certainly a higher component and the details will be discussed further in committee and will be made available. So well, the biggest challenge that these proposals would offer, Campbell price to build new treatment centers around the state, especially underserved areas, and 6 million poor tribal nations that want to stay in the tribal nations are an important partner in this, and that money stays in the plan. There's also money for capital projects, staying in the plan by the House that Representative Rodriguez talking about is one of those key partners, and that.

[00:16:17] **Speaker 1** Is the Narcan and federal testing strips that 5 million combined. Is that still intact?

[00:16:22] **Speaker 4** And both those are still in the plan, both fentanyl strips and the Narcan. So which parts were either completely removed or reduced funding in order.

[00:16:33] **Speaker 1** To provide for these existing agencies and for public safety.

[00:16:36] **Speaker 4** Organizations? I'm not going to be able to tell you every specific part of the plan that is in or out off the top of my head. But we will roll out. We will have all that available. So 55% what the governor proposed, 23 and at least the proposals, as we just said, because there were important partners that were not part of it. And so we want to make sure that these discussions were held across the state. And there are partners here today that were not included in those discussions. And it was very clear to us early on that the administration was not talking to these folks. So we talked to a lot of people and some of those things are specifically incorporated and some of them are generally incorporated, and there are differences in the planning. As I said, Governor Evers refuses to work with law enforcement and public safety. There was nothing targeted for that in this plan. There is something very specifically targeted for that. And as the sheriff talked about, they can and will be great work with that. They talked to you guys. You empowered before they proposed their proposal through the department? Yes, we've met with the department, but as I said, there was a few details in the plan. And then when we talked with them, there was no answers for those sorts of details. So that was when we decided it was important for the legislature to use the oversight that was put into the law governing the settlement funds and make sure that this plan had greater impact. All state senator, everything on that and, you know, have taken a lot for another year.

[00:18:05] **Speaker 1** I would characterize the the plan that we originally received from the Department of Health Service was a unilateral plan. They did what they thought was the best without communication in response to the question regarding timeframe. It takes time to communicate, and we spent that time communicating with the stakeholders.

[00:18:28] **Speaker 2** All right. All right.

[00:18:30] **Speaker 4** Thank you. Thank. Sure? Nothing.