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[00:00:06] **Speaker 1** I'm not trying to push the. I don't like what I call a 1310 meeting of the Advanced Order. It is 11:00. The secretary will call the roll. Senator mark line. There is trouble here going to moscow, asking for near all we heard from back here. Johnson. Representative born here. I'm back here. Katzman Here. Zimmerman here. Rodriguez Groups here. Cookie here. Myers Here. We have 15 members. President Quorum is present. I'd like to remind the audience to silence your cell phones, please, if you haven't already and take any conversations out to the hallway. This is a meeting of the Joint Committee on Finance. Today, the committee will meet under Section 13.1 of the statutes to consider requests from the Department of Justice and the Department of Health Services. First item on the agenda today is a request from the Department of Justice, Medicaid Fraud Control Unit Investigators Fiscal Bureau. Can you please explain the request?

[00:01:32] **Speaker 2** The Department of Justice is requesting two additional investigators for the Medicaid fraud control unit. Each position will be split. Funded. .25.75 Fed. The new positions are assumed to start in January 2023, and no additional funding for these positions is requested at this time.

[00:02:03] **Speaker 1** Thank you. Any questions of fiscal bell? If not, I would move alternative one seconded by board discussion on the motion. Hearing. No discussion. The secretary will call the roll. Senator Mark Lynn, I. Struble going up those Koski, Bernier, BOLLING, ERPENBACH. All right. Johnson. A born. Brownback. That's Mom Zimmerman. Rodriguez. KURTZ Hi, Ricky. MEYERS Senator Johnson.

[00:02:52] **Speaker 3** You should close. Yeah. She's close.

[00:02:58] **Speaker 1** The. All right. Motion passes 15. Oh. Next on the agenda is a request from the Department of Health Services Opioid Settlement Plan Fiscal Bureau. Could you please explain the request? Sure.

[00:03:17] **Speaker 4** The Department of Health Services is required under a provision of two 2021 Act 57 to submit a plan to the to the Finance Committee allocating funds that the state receives under opioid settlement agreements. And in this case, in the in this fiscal year, the state will receive 31 million of those settlement funds. And the department's proposal allocates those funds in the paper that was distributed to the to the committee and to the public as a table on page three that describes or that shows the allocation of of all those funds.

[00:04:03] **Speaker 1** Thank you. Are there questions of fiscal burial and this? Am I doing the most? If not? Does the party have a motion?

[00:04:15] **Speaker 3** Yeah, I'd like to move.

[00:04:15] **Speaker 1** Alternative one, please. Senator Bachmann's alternative one sent in by Representative Gokey to the motion. Represented Myers.

[00:04:31] **Speaker 2** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I want to thank DHS and the governor for recognizing the importance of this funding to tribal nations. Tribes in Wisconsin, unlike counties, were not included in the original opioid settlement, despite the statistics showing an extreme need in those communities. While communities across Wisconsin have been impacted by the an increase in opioid deaths, none more so than tribal nations. Since 2014, there have been drastic increases in deaths in Native American communities related to opioids. So much so that two tribes within the 74th District, the Bad River Band, and the Lakota Flambeau Band declared a state of emergency in their communities because of this epidemic. The allocation of $6 million to tribal nations will allow for prevention, harm reduction, treatment and recovery to be implemented. I will continue to advocate for the tribes of Wisconsin to receive the funding they deserve. And again, I would like to thank the Department of Health Services, along with the governor, for this allocation. Thank you.

[00:05:58] **Speaker 1** There is no one else in the queue. The Secretariat.

[00:06:01] **Speaker 3** I'm sorry. I'm sorry. Yeah. Thanks, Mr. Co-Chair. I was going to speak a lot about this, but this. This really hits home personally. So right now, I've got a daughter who's homeless, addicted sepsis from dirty needles has overdosed, at least on one occasion that I know of, to the point where I had an arcade in my house. She's obviously not staying with me. And it's to the point now that as a parent, you're driving around town, you're looking for you're going to tent cities, you're doing all sorts of stuff like that. You're going to the the the diverse hotels and motels that are out there just looking for your child. She's 27, has been in and out of the hospital numerous times. I know she was administered Narcan at least once that I know of. My guess is probably more. And the idea that we sat on this money, because I know how important Narcan is in certain situations, the fact that we sat on this money and didn't get it out the door. To me, there's no explanation for it whatsoever. I didn't want to say anything because I want to pass this, get the money out the door today. Just get it to where it needs to be. I hope that this has not touched your family. And if it hasn't, I hope that it never will. But odds are we know we all know somebody. We all know somebody whose son or daughter or their mom or dad might be off the rails with this stuff. It grabs you. It takes over your life. The drugs don't love you. They take you away from people who do love you. So I would hope we pass this. If we don't pass this, I would hope that it is something very close to this because if it's not closed, I think what we need to do and what the department has recommended, we've failed. So I really hope this won't pass, but I hope that what you're about to hand out comes really close to what the department is asking for.

[00:08:06] **Speaker 1** There's no one else in the queue. The secretary will call her old senator mark line. No trouble, no going home, no notes, Koski. No furniture, no going back. All right. Johnson has just been born. No Lundbeck. No Katzman. No. Zimmerman. No. Rodriguez. No. Cookie Myers? Yes. Alternative one fails. Florida 12 motion number 11 is being distributed. I would. Well, first of all, fiscal bureau, could you walk us through. Motion number 11, please?

[00:08:56] **Speaker 4** Sure, I can. I can do that. And and maybe before I begin the end of this motion and in the note has a comparison of the department's plan. And this motion in terms of the dollar amount changes. So you can refer to that as I go along. The first item allocates $3 million to expand Narcan direct and requires DHS to expand program eligibility in prior prioritized distributions to law enforcement agencies and first responders. Second item allocates $2 million of settlement funds to establish a fentanyl strip purchase program similar to Narcan director and directs DHS to make it available and prioritize distributions to law enforcement agencies and responders. The third item is $10 million allocations to fund capital projects and expand prevention, harm reduction, treatment and recovery services, construction of new facilities or renovation of existing facilities. And DHS, under this item required to allocate funding, is for expansion of bed capacity for treatment of pregnant and postpartum women in a family centered treatment environment, and then require the partners distribute 30% of the remaining funds in counties or municipalities of fewer than excuse me, in counties of fewer than 500,000 residents. The fourth would allocate $6 million to federally recognized tribes and require the tribes to identify the strategies that they're using for use of those funds. The number fifth, the fourth item would allocate 500,000 to establish a central alert system for overdose incidents and authorize the permitted use of funding to upgrade the prescription monitoring program administered by DSPs. The sixth item would allocate 250,000 school districts, independent charter schools and private choice schools to implement prevention programing and would require them to be distributed for grants and not for state support or think of operations. Number seven would allocate $10 million to expand medication assisted treatment services. Number eight would allocate two and a half million for room and board costs for residential treatment services, costs that aren't covered by Medicaid. And number nine would allocate $3 million for grants for law enforcement agencies for a couple of purposes. First, training and awareness for medication assisted treatment. Community drug disposal programs. Jail inmate treatment. And supporting pre-arrest and pre arrangement. Diversion programs. And any other permissible uses under the agreements. And also specify that at least 1 million would be reserved for grants for law enforcement agencies and counties or municipalities with 770,000 or fewer residents. Number ten would provide a grant of 750,000 for a statewide community based organization that serves after school youth for implementing opioid prevention programs, and that the organization must use law and local law enforcement partnerships in this effort. And number 11 would allocate $1 million to expand hub and spoke health home pilot. Project seven spoke as a treatment model that is currently being piloted in the Medical Assistance Program. This would facilitate expansion of two more pilot areas. And finally, number 12 would would establish a reporting requirement or on a quarterly basis that the department would be required to report to the committee the amount of funds received to the amount that's been allocated and spent, and a listing of individual recipients and program metrics. Accomplishments associated with with the grants.

[00:13:18] **Speaker 1** Thank you. Their questions are fiscal barrow and motion number 11. And I guess before we move too far, I would move adoption of motion number 11, seconded by Representative Bourne of Question for Fiscal Year.

[00:13:33] **Speaker 3** I hope that no questions will.

[00:13:37] **Speaker 1** Okay. To the motion. Senator Brownback.

[00:13:41] **Speaker 3** Thank you, Mr. Co-Chair, on the motion. I'm I'm pleased. Obviously, with fennel strips and and Narcan and some other things in here. But I have got to point something out. The family centers, that was the money was cut. And I've obviously moved over to the the the law enforcement side of things. I can tell you it may and the amount of questions a family has when somebody is going through the struggles of addiction and it doesn't matter if it's if it's alcoholism more or opioids or whatever the case may be. There are a million places to turn to, but there aren't any to turn to. Families don't know where to go. You get different advice from different doctors, from different counselors, from different county workers. There isn't a place that's going to have everything under one roof and families need that. I mean, the amount of questions I have right now, I mean, some, you know, and talking to law enforcement officers in Madison have some great advice, great information and dealing with with counselors, great advice, great information. But I don't even know what questions to ask. I don't know. My ex-wife doesn't know what to ask when it comes to our daughter. So the family resource centers aren't so much for the victim of the addiction as it is for the victims in the family. That addiction, you know, I'm a victim. Not to the extent my daughter is, but I'm a victim and I don't even know what to ask. I, you know, I don't know what to do aside from get in the car and drive around. So the idea that they were coming up with these pilot projects I thought was a great idea and we're not going to do it today. I'm telling you, hopefully at some point down the road because I'm out of here and soon this is our last year and I'm done. But you guys will be around. Look into this, because in the more role you are in this state, the tougher it is to get answers. So these are really important. These will help the stability of the family unit. These will help the family members deal and better understand the addiction. These will help the family members want to say no when it comes to what the addicted person is asking for all the time, which is money. So I would really hope on a bipartisan way, everybody just takes a look at this and works with DHS and other other family members who have been affected by this, that we need these things. I think we need in every county, to be honest with you, but I don't think that's possible right now. But we need this. So I would hope that in the future, in the next budget that that is put together, that that some pilot programs are put out there. And again, not just in Madison or Milwaukee or the really populated, concentrated population part of the state. Meth opioids crack all of it in rural Wisconsin man in its rippin our cities like portage apart and they don't have the resources to deal with this and the family members in Portage would would benefit greatly from something like this for the the idea of something like this. So I hope moving forward, you guys, you do something about it. Families need just as much help.

[00:17:17] **Speaker 1** Representative Zimmerman.

[00:17:19] **Speaker 5** Amen to that. You know, this subject is near and dear to me as well. I, too, have had a front row seat. In many ways, I wish we weren't here today. I so wish we weren't here today because the reason that we're here and the settlement monies are a reminder. It's a monetary reminder of the hell that these drugs have imposed on the great people of Wisconsin and those in our nation. I wish I didn't know people personally who have lost children to drug overdoses, but I do. And I wish I didn't know personally and have a family member who I know for years lived in a vehicle because she had knee surgery, which started with oxy, which led to, you know, heroin. And it's been a difficult ride ever since. And you're right. Resources and where to get information is ridiculous. I have spoke I tried to help my sister. I have spoken with county representatives in the various counties that she would occupy while she was moving around trying to find the next fix. I guess we can do better. This isn't a partizan issue. You know, I would love to believe we're America the beautiful, but when it comes to this subject, we're America, the medication. We use drugs to soothe and remedy every ache and pain we have mental, physical or other. And that needs to stop. Correction, the back end is exponentially more difficult than trying to prevent it on the front end. And I look back on this past budget session. And to your point, Senator Erpenbach, about resources. I don't remember. Maybe the co-chair has a better memory than I do, but I know we put monies towards an application of software application meant to provide informational resources to people like you and I who don't know where to go. Now, the other families in Wisconsin who don't know where to go because they're without hope in that situation, you know, the time, the extra time during the press conference, the question of why it took an extra three and a half weeks, I think it's negligent in this situation if we don't speak with law enforcement. I called the sheriff of Saint Croix County, the sheriff of Pierce County, and every chief and law enforcement leader that I knew in my district and asked them the questions about what's happening on the front line. And they shared with me all that they're doing and what they needed. And the adjustments that were made are going to provide some level of relief. The hope agenda is something that, you know, I know Representative John Nygren started before I was a part of this body and I applaud him for do it. And I applaud everybody who has voted to support. I think it's 30 bill, 30 plus bills now that have been passed to try and bring some level of resolution. But we're not done. And prevention is important. Harm reduction and treatment all very important. I visited a methadone clinic on the hour on East Washington Avenue. I've been every center again. Let's not forget in this budget we increased the money to care. I know it's important to a lot of my colleagues on here. It's effective and it works. Math, medication, assisted treatment. I mean, we heard from one of the speakers in the press conference. Exponential improvement in the reduction of fatalities when these things are employed. So, you know, we're excited today because we're able to direct some money towards a good cause. But let's not forget, go upstream. We've got to stop throwing these things out like Tic Tacs and making it so easy to get these things. So we've done a lot, but there's one area that I'm going to present legislation. I hope this this group will fall on me at some point. If there's another area that we miss horribly, it's what I'm calling reintegration. So you go through prevention, harm reduction, you go through treatment, and then you wear the scarlet letter. Try and get a job. I have watched my sister be turned down again and again because, you know, is it drugs that lead to crime or crime or lead to drugs or both? But that's an area that I think we have an opportunity here to do a better job, and I'm going to be committed to carrying that forward. So the people in the district I represent, western Wisconsin, the sheriff of Sinclair County, tells me the number one drug now people think they're buying heroin or that's what they're buying. No, they're buying fentanyl coming in from Mexico. And I can't fix the border situation, but whatever we do there and let's let's get the immigration situation figured out. But let's stop the fentanyl from coming across the border because it's killing people in Saint Croix County and in all of your counties as well. And it has to stop. So I think this is a thoughtful package. I hope, sincerely hope that it delivers great results. And let's not make this the last time that we do something on this very important subject.

[00:22:06] **Speaker 1** Representative Myers.

[00:22:07] **Speaker 2** Thank you, Mr. Co-Chair. I want to thank the representative from the 30th for continuing to use the word prevention in your speech. I look at item number six on this document, and when I'm finished, may the fiscal bureau or one of the co-chairs can answer my question. But we're putting $250,000 into evidence based substance abuse prevention curriculum or programs, $250,000 throughout the state of Wisconsin. It's almost like we're saying we're going to open up Pandora's box and we're going to allow you to do prevention programs in the schools in Wisconsin. And now you have to fight and literally fight over $250,000. So my question either to the fiscal bureau or to my co-chairs, how many school districts will receive grants that will actually allow them to succeed with that amount of money in the allocation?