

Opioid-Related News and the Courts

Weekly Review

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Florida

[Opioid settlement to aid Indian River County mental health, drug courts](#)

Hometown News

At the request of County Attorney Dylan Reingold, Indian River County Commissioners approved on June 6 a spending plan for money the county has received and will receive from the state of Florida due to the settlement of various opioid legal cases.

An estimated \$437,604, the county's portion of the settlements, will be provided to the "alternative courts" such as the mental health court and drug court for activities that respond to the opioid crisis.

Idaho

[Millions of dollars coming to Idaho to fight opioid epidemic. Where is money going?](#)

Idaho Statesman

At first blush, it may seem like a lot of money, but the way the money is rolling out and being spent, it's questionable how much it really will help.

The money is so spread out among the state, counties, cities, and public health districts, it's like a garden hose set on mist. And once the money trickles down to everyone, the amounts can be so small, its effectiveness is questionable.

For example, Southwest District Health expects to receive no less than \$3.2 million in opioid settlement funds – over the next 16 years. It gets some money upfront, but on average, that's just \$200,000 a year. The district's total annual budget, by comparison, is about [\\$11 million](#).

"There's a perception that there's like \$80 million sitting in a fund that can be spent, and that's not accurate," Sara Omundson, co-chair of the Idaho Behavioral Health Council, told me in a phone interview. "That's not how it has played out."



Indiana

[Region programs benefit from \\$76M in funding for mental health, recovery services](#)

Northwest Indiana Business Magazine

Thirty local units of government will receive part of \$19 million in one-time funding from the DMHA in partnership with the office of Gov. Eric Holcomb. This funding is a result of the National Opioid Settlement and supports prevention, treatment, and recovery services, along with expansion of the behavioral health workforce and other initiatives.

- The Community Foundation of Pulaski County Inc.: \$402,800 to hire a prevention coordinator, establish a drug court and expand Intrepid Phoenix paramedicine services

Utah

[Summit County stands to receive chunk of \\$17 billion opioid settlement](#)

Park Record

The shorter time frame will bring more money to Summit County up front, though [Walter Mason, outside counsel for the county] was unable to provide specific figures because the payout calendar hasn't been released yet. The County Courthouse is expected to receive around [\\$70,000 per payout as part of the first settlement](#).

Half of the new \$209 million settlement will remain with the state and the rest of it will go to the counties that accepted the deal. Mason estimates that nearly all of Utah's 29 counties participated in the agreement and the shares are determined by opioid use risk, which often mirrors population.

Washington

[Harrell Vows to Pass New Drug Law, Creates Work Group to Find Solutions to the Fentanyl Crisis](#)

PubliCola

When pre-booking or pre-trial diversion don't work or aren't appropriate, [Seattle City Council member Andrew Lewis] said he would support a new therapeutic court "where there would basically be a court-supervised check-in treatment regime—which is basically [King County Drug Court](#)." Participants in drug court, which lasts a minimum of 10 months, must check in frequently, stay sober, and meet other court-mandated requirements in order to have their charges dropped.