



CHATHAM COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Jim Crawford, Chairman
Diana Hales, Vice Chair
Mike Dasher
Karen Howard
Walter Petty

COUNTY MANAGER

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Resolution of the Chatham County Board of Commissioners

DECLARING THE OPIOID CRISIS A PUBLIC NUISANCE

WHEREAS, the Chatham County Board of Commissioners has the authority to take action to protect the public health, safety, and welfare of the residents and citizens of Chatham County; and

WHEREAS, in recent years Chatham County has seen an increase in opioid overdoses, and is determined to take proactive measures to mitigate further increases; and

WHEREAS, the Sheriff's Office, Public Health Department, and community partners have already joined together to form the Chatham County Sheriff's Prevention Partnership on Controlled Substances, which is working to address community safety and public health concerns related to substance abuse; and

WHEREAS, in 2016, 39% of the children placed in custody of Chatham County DSS were the result of substance abuse, however unfortunately, by 2017 this number has increased to 74%; and

WHEREAS, in 2016, there were 45.7 outpatient pills dispensed per person in Chatham County, or a total of 3,300,637 pills; and

WHEREAS, on October 19, 2017, the North Carolina Department of Health reported that 27 deaths from unintentional opiate poisoning have occurred in Chatham County since 1999 averaging 1.5 deaths per year, and one (1) death was reported as recently as 2016; and

WHEREAS, between 2015 and mid-2017, area hospitals saw a total of 21 Chatham County residents suffering from opioid overdose; and

WHEREAS, since December 2016, local law enforcement has been equipped and trained to administer naloxone and has done so in suspected opiate overdose cases; and

WHEREAS, the violation of any law of the State of North Carolina, or the United States of America, controlling the distribution of a controlled substance is inimical and harmful to the public welfare of the residents and citizens of Chatham County and constitutes a public nuisance; and

WHEREAS, the Chatham County Board of Commissioners has the authority to abate, or cause to be abated, any public nuisance, including those acts which unreasonably interfere with rights common to the general public of Chatham County and/or involve a significant interference with the public health, safety, and welfare of citizens and residents of Chatham County; and

WHEREAS, Chatham County has expended, and is expending, and will continue to expend in the future substantial County funds to respond to the serious public health and safety crisis involving all types of substance misuse, addiction, morbidity, and mortality in Chatham County;

NOW, THEREFORE, the Chatham County Board of Commissioners hereby declares the opioid crisis a public nuisance which must be abated for the benefit of Chatham County and its residents and citizens.

Adopted, this 20th day of November, 2017

James G. Crawford, Chairman
Chatham County Board of Commissioners

ATTEST:

Lindsay K. Ray, NCCCC
Clerk to the Board
Chatham County Board of Commissioners