



mosaic
opioid recovery partnership

Breaking Down Silos: Why Opioid Abatement Demands New Kinds of Partnerships

April 15, 2026



Welcome

Welcome to Mosaic's learning opportunity webinar!

Today's session will focus on municipal, regional, and community partnership strategies to maximize opioid abatement fund impact.

Agenda:

- Welcome and Housekeeping
- Towns of Shrewsbury and West Bolyston
- City of Lynn
- Rich Mucci, Esq., Mass. Association of Health Boards
- Dukes County
- Q&A
- Closing

Housekeeping

- This session is being recorded and will be available at mosaic.rizema.org on the Municipal TTA Events page.
- Please submit questions anytime through **Zoom's chat feature**. We will address them during the Q&A portion at the end.
- The Q&A portion of today's meeting will not be recorded.
- At the end of today's session, please fill out the feedback survey.

Learning Objectives

- **Learn** how municipal leadership shifted internal roles, responsibilities, and power dynamics related to opioid abatement fund decision-making
- **Examine** the process to develop pooled funding approaches, highlighting key decision points, timeliness, and legal and fiscal considerations
- **Explore** stakeholder and community engagement strategies used to inform planning and decision-making and to increase transparency and communication



The goal of the **Mosaic Opioid Recovery Partnership** is to create a pathway of access to apply for funds for both municipalities and community-based organizations, particularly those based in communities that are historically underserved and have experienced a disproportionately high rate of opioid-related overdose deaths.



Funded by MA Department of Public Health, Bureau of Substance Addiction Services and Powered by RIZE



mosaic
opioid recovery partnership

**Community
Grantmaking**

**Municipal Training
and Technical
Assistance (TTA)**

Mosaic Website Memory Wall

Remembering Those We've Lost

Mosaic is grounded in hope, optimism, and opportunity. It is also grounded in the recognition that the settlement funding results from the loss of life and devastation our communities have experienced because of the opioid overdose crisis. In every action we take and every decision we make, we carry the memories of those who have been affected, ensuring their stories guide our work.

Memory Wall



mosaic
opioid recovery partnership

Meet the TTA Team

RIZE



Liz Whynott
Senior Program Officer/
Western Regional Coordinator



Stephanie Son
Program Coordinator



Haleigh Schultz
Northeast
Regional Coordinator



Ally Gittens Dias
Southeast
Regional Coordinator



Ethan Melad
Central/MetroWest
Regional Coordinator

Mass. Association of Health Boards



Jenn Robertson



Cheryl Sbarra

Presenters



Alison Turner
Regional Public Health
Coordinator,
Shrewsbury and West Boylston



Annette Garcia
Regional Public Health
Coordinator,
Shrewsbury and West Boylston



Candice McClory
SUD Coordinator &
Community Liaison,
City of Lynn



Rich Mucci
Legal Consultant, MAHB



Sarah Toste
Assistant Health Agent,
Dukes County



Central MA
Regional Health
Department

Fostering Stakeholder and Community Involvement for Opioid Settlement Funding

Alison Turner, MBA/MA, Regional Public Health Coordinator
Annette Garcia, MPH, Regional Health Director

Towns of Shrewsbury, Grafton and West Boylston

April 15, 2026

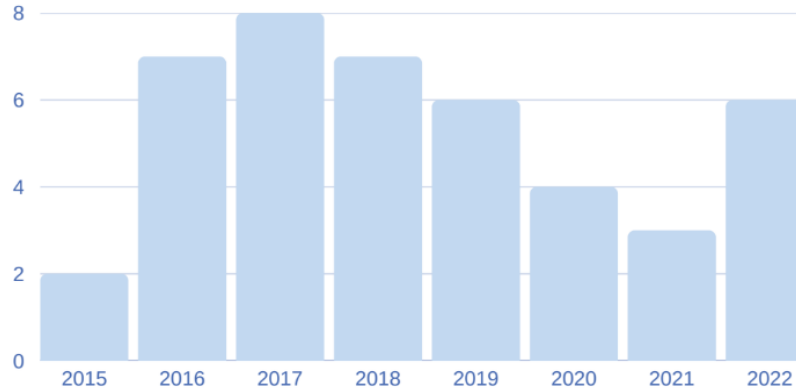
Background



- New **Regional Health Department** formed in summer of 2025, fully staffed in Jan. 2026
 - Engaged trusted partner to leverage community relationships (Coalition for a Healthy Greater Worcester)
- **Opioid Workgroup** formed in each community with representatives from Town Departments and community organizations
 - Responsible for collaboratively developing priorities and interventions for funding
 - Committed to engaging people with lived experience and ensuring funds reflect real community needs/priorities
 - Ensuring strategic investments in sustainable programs with lasting impact

Context

Opioid-related Overdose Deaths in Shrewsbury



Source: MA Department of Public Health

Shrewsbury Opioid Abatement Fund Allocation

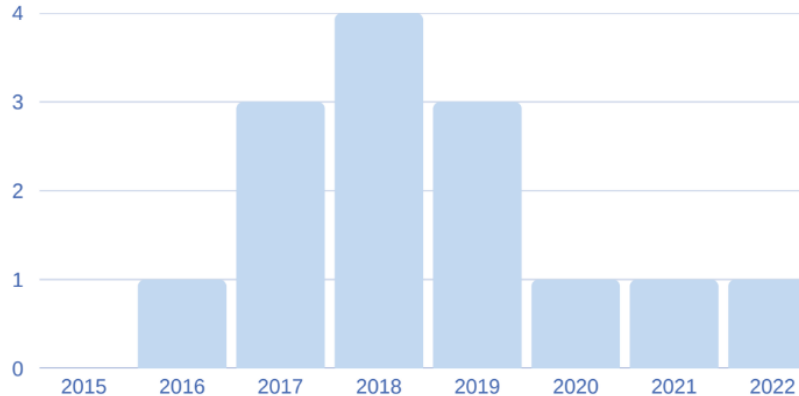
Total Allocation (to be received by 2039):

\$2,439,539

Payments to date:

\$877,529

Opioid-related Overdose Deaths in West Boylston



Source: MA Department of Public Health

West Boylston Opioid Abatement Fund Allocation

Total Allocation (to be received by 2039):

\$460,948

Payments to date:

\$165,808

Methodology

Goal: Gather community input on priorities for opioid settlement funds to ensure investments reflect community needs.

Approach:

1. Community Listening Sessions:
 - **14** participants for Shrewsbury
 - **12** participants for West Boylston
 2. Online/Printed Survey:
 - **10** responses for Shrewsbury
 - **7** responses for West Boylston
-

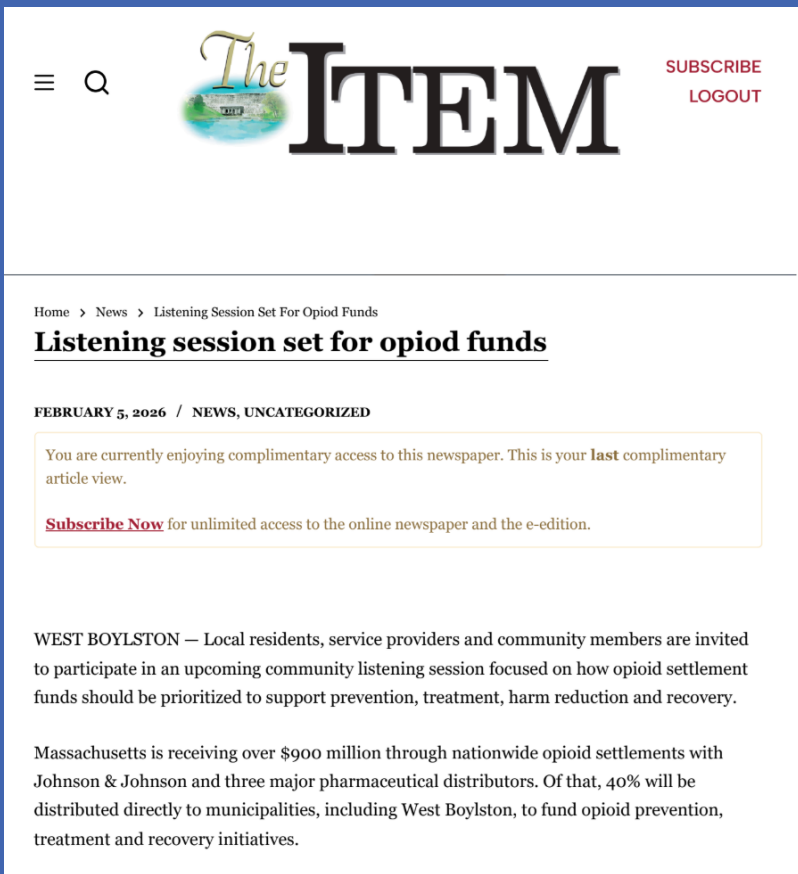
Outreach Summary

- Libraries
- Senior Centers
- Town Select Board
- Public Schools
- Churches/faith-based organizations
- Group homes/shelters
- Recovery Centers
- Support Groups
- Veterans Organizations
- Advocates
- Shrewsbury Youth and Family Services
- Central MA Regional Planning Commission (CMRPC)

Other outreach:

- Press release (The Item, Feb 5)
- Social media
- Town website
- Printed/distributed flyers to local businesses

Getting the word out!



The screenshot shows the top navigation of 'The ITEM' website. It includes a menu icon, a search icon, the logo 'The ITEM' with a small image of a building, and links for 'SUBSCRIBE' and 'LOGOUT'. Below the header is a breadcrumb trail: 'Home > News > Listening Session Set For Opioid Funds'. The main article title is 'Listening session set for opioid funds'. The date is 'FEBRUARY 5, 2026 / NEWS, UNCATEGORIZED'. A yellow box contains a message: 'You are currently enjoying complimentary access to this newspaper. This is your last complimentary article view. [Subscribe Now](#) for unlimited access to the online newspaper and the e-edition.' The article text begins with 'WEST BOYLSTON — Local residents, service providers and community members are invited to participate in an upcoming community listening session focused on how opioid settlement funds should be prioritized to support prevention, treatment, harm reduction and recovery.' A second paragraph states: 'Massachusetts is receiving over \$900 million through nationwide opioid settlements with Johnson & Johnson and three major pharmaceutical distributors. Of that, 40% will be distributed directly to municipalities, including West Boylston, to fund opioid prevention, treatment and recovery initiatives.'



Opioid Settlement Funds Listening Session

Beaman Memorial Public Library
8 Newton Street
West Boylston, MA 01583

Date: March 3, 2026

Time: 5-7pm

Register:



*This Listening Session is intended to gather
input on best use of Opioid Settlement funds
and to foster regional collaboration*

RSVP: <https://forms.gle/w75B213gwFAH4QLq6>

For more information contact:

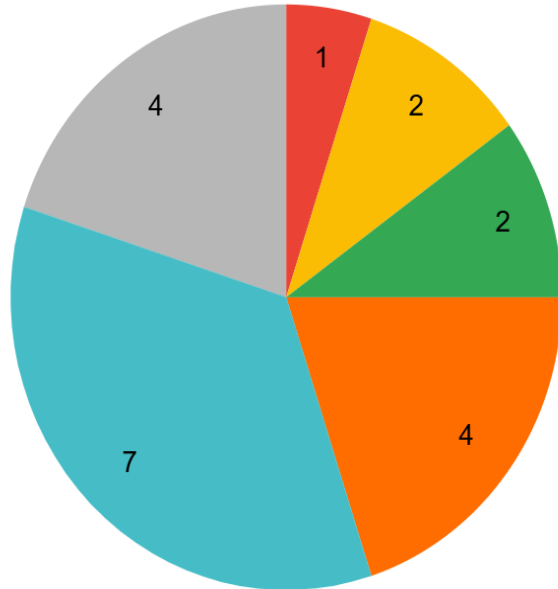
Casey at casey@healthygreaterworcester.org



Demographic Information

Shrewsbury

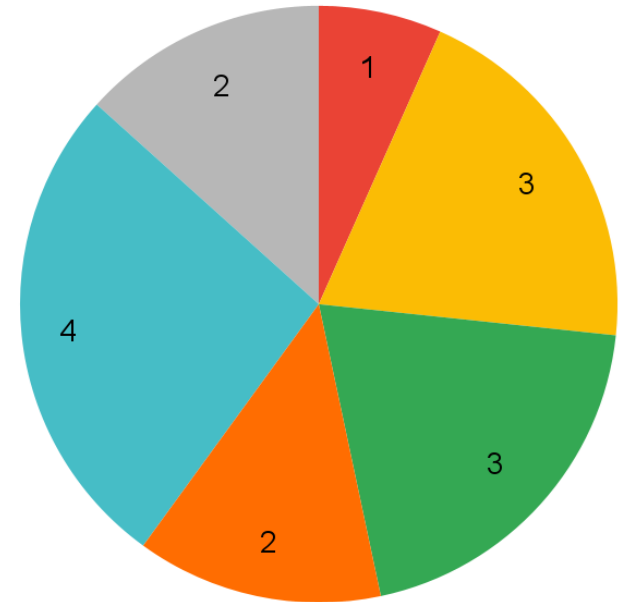
n = 20



- I am in active recovery for a SUD
- A loved one has a diagnosed SUD
- A loved one is in active recovery for a SUD
- A loved one experienced an overdose
- Work for an org. that provides treatments and/or supports for those with SUD
- Other

West Boylston

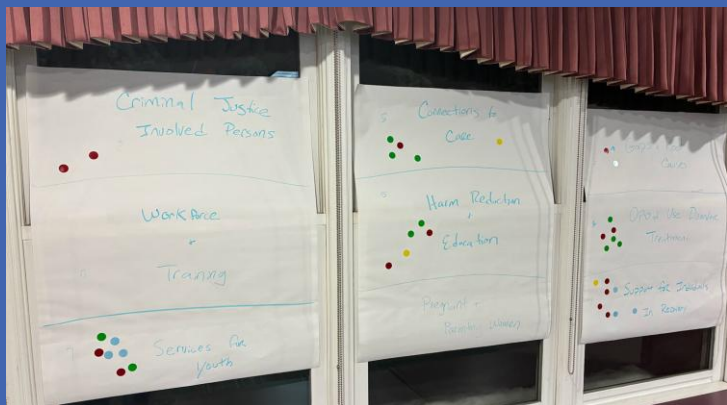
n = 15



Shrewsbury Listening Session – Feb 26, 2026



West Boylston Listening Session – March 3, 2026



Survey responses

“My son died of an overdose when he was just 25. We tried so many times to get help for him but the help that was out there didn't know how to really help with this addiction and when people found out about it **they treated him and us differently**”

“**Very little support or treatment or prevention** in Shrewsbury -- more in Worcester but also more substance use issues there. Dealers stalk treatment programs for vulnerable people”

“**Educating youth in the school is imperative** to help stop experimentation young. Bringing in speakers to the school would be a great option that they connect with”

“I would like to see more **stakeholder engagement and strategic planning efforts** in the future to guide the community spending strategies. **Pooling resources** with neighboring communities would help the money go further”

Key Takeaways

The system is fragmented, but the need is continuous

- People experience SUD and recovery as ongoing, but services are episodic and disconnected.

Access requires trust, simplicity, and proximity

- Without these three elements, services—even if available—go unused.

Recovery is fundamentally social

- Connection, belonging, and human relationships are as critical as treatment itself.

Investment Priorities

- Resource navigators/recovery coaches
 - Transportation support
 - Community-based recovery spaces
 - Youth prevention programs
 - Public education and stigma reduction
 - Housing support
-

Fostering Transparency and Communication

Provide regular updates on programming on each town's website



[Shrewsbury](#)



[West Boylston](#)

Public dissemination of full listening session report



Looking Forward

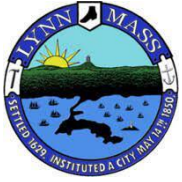
1. Implement proposal to pool funds across two communities based on needs/interest
2. Form Regional Opioid Task Force
3. Continue to increase community awareness about substance use prevention and harm reduction
4. Develop shared grant program to provide substance use prevention, education, and treatment services or mental health supports to residents
5. Host annual listening sessions to gather community input and foster transparency and accountability

Keys to Success

- Leverage existing relationships in the community
- Provide multiple avenues and opportunities for input
- Engage local leaders for support (Select Board, elected representatives)
- Multiple rounds of targeted/individualized outreach
- Maintain flexibility and adaptability throughout
- Commitment to ongoing engagement of community members on programming/funding decisions
- Provide regular updates on programming on each town's website to foster transparency and accountability

City of Lynn – Opioid Working Group

Candice McClory, SUD Coordinator & Community Liaison, City of Lynn



City of Lynn - Opioid Working Group

"When lived experience meets professional expertise, we move from treating issues to truly understanding issues and that's where meaningful change begins"

The Opioid Working Group is a volunteer group of community members responsible for making recommendations to the City of Lynn on the allocation of abatement funds.

Who are we ?

- Public Health
- First responders
- Harm reduction
- People in recovery
- People with lived experience
 - Outreach workers
 - Judicial representative
 - Youth services
 - City Council
 - Mayoral representative



Successes	Challenges
Strengthening collaboration between vulnerable populations and local government officials	Addressing barriers to participation, including loss of members, personal life challenges, and competing work demands.
Incorporating frontline perspectives on evolving trends and challenges to shape effective initiatives.	Balancing stakeholder expectations while maintaining project goals and timelines
Navigating change while respectfully integrating diverse perspectives.	Familiarity with procurement processes and procedures

Inter-Municipal Agreements for Collaboration

Rich Mucci, Esq., Mass. Association of Health Boards

MA State Subdivision Agreement Encourages Collaboration

- Specifically encourages inter-municipal collaboration.
- EOHHS and DPH through its **Office of Local and Regional Health (OLRH)** “**will support municipal [opioid] abatement initiatives by providing strategic guidance** to help Massachusetts municipalities select and implement [opioid] abatement strategies and **effectively pool their resources** through inter-municipal Shared Service Agreements, as well as other technical assistance.”
(Massachusetts Abatement Terms).
- State support for municipal abatement and inter-municipal collaboration.

Inter-Municipal Agreements

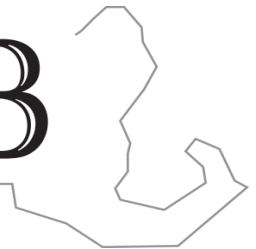
G.L. c. 40, s. 4A

- Authorizes Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of a city or town to enter into agreements with one or more municipalities and other governmental units to jointly perform services and share costs which any one of them is authorized to perform.
 - CEO – Select Board, Mayor or another as designated by Select Board, Mayor or Municipal Charter
 - City/Town Manager, Administrator
- **Public Health Excellence Collaboratives**
 - Lead municipality



MAHNB

Assisting Massachusetts Boards of Health through training, technical assistance and legal education



Inter-Municipal Agreements (IMA) Options

- Amend current Public Excellence Collaborative IMA.
 - MAHB has a sample template that is being amended to reflect new law.
- Create separate IMA for Use and Expenditure of Certain Opioid Abatement Funds.
 - MAHB has a sample template that is being amended to reflect new law.



OPTION ONE

- **PHE Collaborative agrees to pool ALL of combined opioid abatement funds**
 - Collaborative pools all of their funds into the existing Host Municipality.
 - Funds spent based on decisions made by existing Advisory Board.
 - Individual cities and towns would not have to file an expense report because all of the funds are with the PHE collaborative.
 - PHE IMA would need to be amended to include opioid abatement pooling.

PHE Collaborative Agrees to Pool SOME of Each Municipality's Funds

- Collaborative decides to pool **some** of their funds to implement common opioid abatement strategies for the entire collaborative.
 - Advisory board decides how to spend these funds.
- Cities and towns would retain a percentage of their funds.
- Host agent files expense report for funds spent on behalf of PHE collaborative.
- IMA could be amended to reflect this agreement.

OPTION TWO

- **Two or more Municipalities Agree to Pool ALL/SOME of Their Opioid Abatement Funds to Create an OAC.**
 - One municipality would act as host municipality.
 - Participating municipalities would send funds to host municipality.
 - Participating municipalities would decide together how to spend the funds.
 - There should be a written IMA between the municipalities
 - Host agent would file expense report for all participating municipalities.
 - No individual expense reports would need to be filed.

WHAT DOES A HOST MUNICIPALITY NEED TO DO?

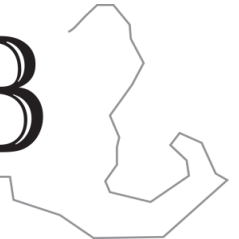
- **Administrative Fee**
 - Typically a percentage of the monies pooled and should be included in the budget.
- **Collect and Hold all Funds in a Special Revenue Account**
 - The town would invoice the municipalities for the cost of the program.
- **Implement the Program and Pay the Program Costs from the Special Revenue Account**
- **If Shared Staff then they are Host Municipality Employees**
 - All costs (benefits, salary and OPEB) could be included in budget and paid from collected pooled funds.
- **Host agent would file expense report for all participating municipalities**

Governance or Advisory Board

- **Part of Inter-Municipal Agreement**
 - One member appointed by each municipality.
 - Each municipality gets one vote.
 - Equal voice in determining shared priorities and services provided.
 - **Roles and Responsibilities:**
 - Develop annual and long-term goals.
 - Advise collaborative on staff priorities.
 - Adopt collaborative-wide policies.
 - Build program/budget.
 - Evaluate shared services program.
- Renew annually.

MAHIB

Assisting Massachusetts Boards of Health through
training, technical assistance and legal education



WHERE TO START...

- **External Dialogue**
 - PHE Participants
 - Surrounding Municipalities
- **Internal Dialogue**
 - Town Managers/Town Administrators
 - Stakeholders
 - Those with lived experiences
- **RIZE/MAHB**



Disclaimer

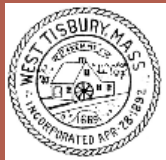
- This information is provided for educational purposes only and is not to be construed as legal advice.
- City and town attorneys provide legal advice to municipalities.





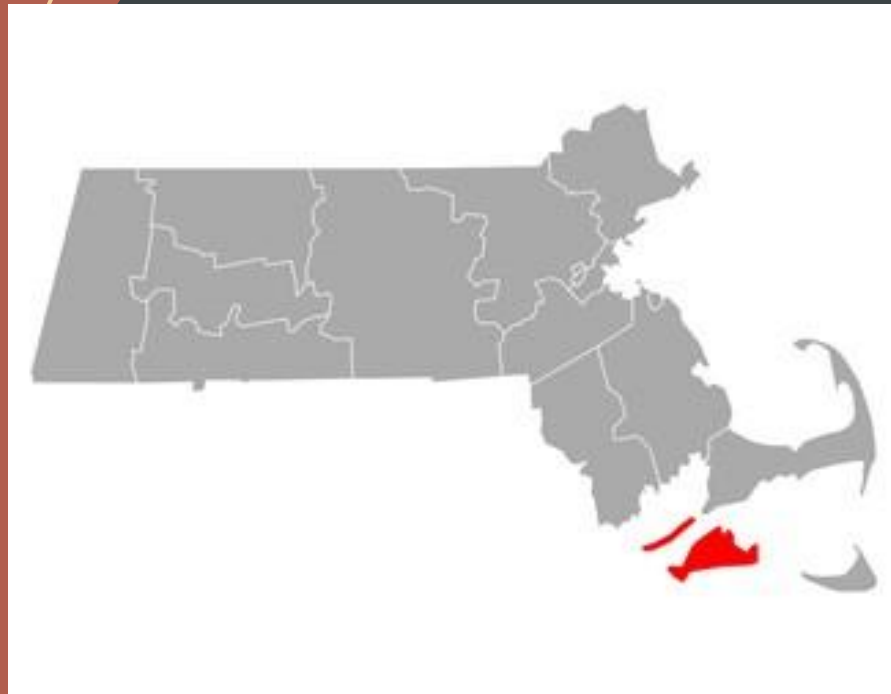
Opioid Abatement Municipal Pooling

A perspective from the West
Tisbury Board of Health in
Dukes County



Town of West Tisbury

- Dukes County is a 100 square-mile island off Cape Cod, MA composed of 7 towns with a year-round population of approximately 20,000; Seasonal population approx. 94,600
- West Tisbury has a year-round population of approximately 3,500 residents;
- November 2023 town vote for Opioid Settlement Stabilization Fund to be established under Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 40, Section 5B;
- Town vote to dedicate 100% of all opioid settlement funds received by the Town to the Opioid Settlement Stabilization Fund established under Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 40, Section 5B, effective for fiscal year 2025 beginning on July 1, 2024 or take any other action relative thereto



Municipal Leadership

West Tisbury Board of Health

- IMA Pooling placed on BoH agenda for board approval vote;
- Focus on history of AGO legal action against companies who contributed to the nationwide opioid crisis
- Subdivision agreement:
 - Prevention & Education
 - Treatment Access
 - Harm Reduction
 - Specific Populations

West Tisbury Select Board

- Approved BoH meeting minutes provided to Town Administrator for adding IMA to the select board agenda for approval and vote
- Comprehensive minutes provide a full picture of the source of the funding and the scope of work to be completed for use and expenditure of OAF
- Fiscal Agent/Administrative Fee
- Advisory Board members chosen by BoH

Shared Responsibility

- “West Tisbury participates in a regional approach to opioid abatement funding, pooling its resources with other towns in Dukes County to maximize impact. This process is managed through a regional Advisory Board, which makes decisions on how to allocate the funds for prevention, harm reduction, treatment, and recovery.”
- Identify champion (s)!
- Other towns in Dukes County -
- Consistent outreach to health agents to determine status of IMA, advisory board appointees, and transfer of funds to fiscal agent
- Convene advisory board
- Consider state reporting requirements

Q & A

Resources & Ongoing Support

Today's Resources available at mosaic.rizema.org

Recording | Slide Deck | Webinar Resource

Requests for Training & Technical Assistance?

Submit online or email munitta@rizema.org

The image shows a slide from a webinar resource. At the top, there is a decorative border with colorful triangles. Below it is the Mosaic logo, which consists of a stylized map of Massachusetts made of colorful triangles, followed by the text "mosaic" in a bold, sans-serif font and "opioid recovery partnership" in a smaller font below it. The main heading of the slide is "Mosaic Municipal Training and Technical Assistance" in bold. Below this is the subtitle "April 2026 Webinar Resource: Practical Approaches for Municipal Decision-Making Structures and Pooled Funding Strategies". The slide contains two main text blocks. The first is titled "Breaking Down Silos: Why Opioid Abatement Demands New Kind of Partnerships" and discusses how local leaders are reshaping internal roles and decision-making structures to guide the use of opioid abatement funds. It mentions that municipalities often choose to collaborate through pooled funding structures to reduce administrative burdens, leverage shared expertise, and support larger scale or more comprehensive programming. The second text block is titled "This webinar resource provides additional practical information related to intermunicipal governance and agreements, funding structures, budgeting, cash flow, financing, reporting, and staffing for program implementation." and notes that these are important planning and partnership elements to consider. Below this is another heading: "Sample Municipal Governance Structure and Scope for Intermunicipal Agreements". This section mentions that the MA Attorney General's Office and the MA Department of Public Health, Bureau of Substance Addiction Services encourage municipalities to enter into formalized agreements to pool resources. It also states that as discussed during the webinar, a sample Opioid Abatement Collaborative (OAC) governance structure may include the following elements: Intermunicipal Agreement (IMA) and Existing Public Health Excellence (PHE) collaborations. At the bottom of the slide, there is a callout box with a circular icon containing the number 1, stating: "Existing Public Health Excellence (PHE) collaborations may amend their current IMAs to include an OAC program through a simple amendment." The slide is partially obscured by a vertical sidebar on the right side, which contains some text and icons, and a horizontal bar at the bottom with the number 2.

Key Updates

March 11

BSAS Opioid Settlement Funds Data [Dashboard](#) Press Release

May 13

Municipal TTA Quarterly Newsletter Release

Save the Date!

June 17, 2:00-3:30 PM

Next Learning Opportunity: *Best Practices in Engaging PWLLE to Inform Funding Decisions*

**Please fill out
our survey!**



mosaic
opioid recovery partnership

Thank You

mosaic.rizema.org



Join the communityhub

<https://communityhubma.org/>

