

1 **A RESOLUTION TO APPROPRIATE NINE HUNDRED SEVENTY-FIVE THOUSAND**
2 **DOLLARS AND ZERO CENTS (\$975,000.00) TO THE ATLANTA VOLUNTEER**
3 **LAWYERS FOUNDATION TO SUPPORT SERVICES PROVIDED TO SURVIVORS OF**
4 **INTIMATE PARTNER ABUSE AND THEIR FAMILIES; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.**

5
6 **WHEREAS**, the Fulton County Board of Commissioners is responsible for
7 appropriating County funds to support the effective administration of justice and the
8 operation of the criminal justice system within Fulton County; and

9 **WHEREAS**, the Fulton County Board of Commissioners recognizes the
10 importance of protecting its residents from intimate partner abuse, and guiding residents
11 toward safety, stability, and justice; and

12 **WHEREAS**, the Atlanta Volunteer Lawyers Foundation, a 501(c)(3) non-profit
13 founded in 1979, is the largest provider of pro bono legal services in Fulton County; and

14 **WHEREAS**, the Atlanta Volunteer Lawyers Foundation provides consultation and
15 legal assistance to survivors of intimate partner abuse and families impacted by intimate
16 partner abuse; and

17 **WHEREAS**, the Atlanta Volunteer Lawyers Foundation operates Safe Families
18 Office inside of the Fulton County Courthouse serving Fulton County residents who are
19 survivors of intimate partner abuse and their families; and

20 **WHEREAS**, the Safe Families Office is staffed by compassionate attorneys, social
21 workers, paralegals, and law students, to make the legal system more accessible and
22 less overwhelming for survivors of intimate partner abuse and their families; and

23 **WHEREAS**, the Atlanta Volunteer Lawyers Foundation and the Safe Families
24 Office assist over 3,000 survivors each year, providing them with legal consultations,
25 safety planning, and referrals to critical community resources; and

26 **WHEREAS**, the Atlanta Volunteer Lawyers Foundation and the Safe Families
27 Office provide direct representation for temporary protective orders, which are the
28 strongest legal safeguard for survivors and their families; and

29 **WHEREAS**, the Atlanta Volunteer Lawyers Foundation and the Safe Families
30 Office spends on average 6.5 hours with each survivor who comes through the door at
31 the Fulton County Courthouse, removing a significant burden on courthouse personnel
32 and contributing extensively to judicial efficiency inside the courtroom; and

33 **WHEREAS**, the Atlanta Volunteer Lawyers Foundation and the Safe Families
34 Office have lost Federal funding for the services provided to survivors of intimate partner
35 abuse and their families; and

36 **WHEREAS**, the Fulton County Board of Commissioners recognizes that
37 navigating the legal system can be overwhelming for many families and that lack of legal
38 knowledge, financial barriers, and fear of retaliation make it hard to seek safety and
39 justice; and

40 **WHEREAS**, the Fulton County Board of Commissioners wants to help break down
41 barriers to safety and justice and ensure that survivors are not alone as they navigate the
42 justice system; and

43 **WHEREAS**, the Fulton County Board of Commissioners believe that with the right
44 support, survivors can secure safety, reclaim stability, and rebuild their future with
45 confidence; and

46 **WHEREAS**, the Fulton County Board of Commissioners desires to support AVLF
47 using an available funding source that is not derived from tax revenue.

48 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Fulton County Board of
49 Commissioners hereby appropriates nine hundred seventy-five thousand dollars and zero
50 cents (\$975,000.00) to the Atlanta Volunteer Lawyers Foundation to support services
51 provided to survivors of intimate partner abuse and their families; and

52 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that to the extent possible, funding will come from
53 the various opioid settlements in which the county has participated, to be disbursed in
54 accordance with the limitations set forth in those settlements regarding approved opioid
55 remediation uses of the settlement funds; and

56 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the County Manager and the Department of
57 Finance are authorized and directed to allocate and administer the appropriated funds;
58 and


59 **BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED**, that this Resolution shall become effective upon
60 adoption by the Fulton County Board of Commissioners.

61 **PASSED AND ADOPTED** by the Board of Commissioners of Fulton County,
62 Georgia this 1 day of April, 2026.

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FULTON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

SPONSORED BY:


Khadijah Abdur-Rahman, Vice Chair
(District 6)

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Tonya R. Grier, Clerk to the Commission

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

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Y. Soo Jo, County Attorney

**MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN
FULTON COUNTY, GEORGIA AND THE ATLANTA VOLUNTEER LAWYERS
FOUNDATION, INC.**

THIS MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING (“MOU”) is made and entered into as of the ____ of April 2026, (the “Effective Date”), by and between **Fulton County, Georgia**, a political subdivision of the State of Georgia (“**Fulton County**”), through its **Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities (“BHDD”)**, and **Atlanta Volunteer Lawyers Foundation, Inc. (“AVLF”)**, (hereinafter collectively referred to as the “Parties”).

WHEREAS, emerging evidence demonstrates a strong correlation between intimate partner abuse (IPA), trauma exposure, housing instability, and opioid misuse, particularly among women and families; and

WHEREAS, legal instability, such as lack of protective orders, eviction risk, and custody disputes, serves as a significant barrier to treatment access, recovery retention, and overdose prevention; and

WHEREAS, addressing legal instability is a necessary upstream intervention in the opioid crisis continuum; and

WHEREAS, AVLF, a 501(c)(3) non-profit founded in 1979, is the largest provider of pro bono legal services in Fulton County; and

WHEREAS, AVLF provides consultation and legal assistance to survivors of intimate partner abuse and families impacted by intimate partner abuse; and

WHEREAS, AVLF operates the Safe Families Office inside of the Fulton County Courthouse serving Fulton County residents who are survivors of intimate partner abuse and their families; and

WHEREAS, the Safe Families Office is staffed by compassionate attorneys, social workers, paralegals, and law students, to make the legal system more accessible and less overwhelming for survivors of intimate partner abuse and their families; and

WHEREAS, AVLF and the Safe Families Office assist over 3,000 survivors each year, providing them with legal consultations, safety planning, and referrals to critical community resources; and

WHEREAS, AVLF and the Safe Families Office provide direct representation for temporary protective orders, which are the strongest legal safeguard for survivors and their families; and

WHEREAS, AVLF and the Safe Families Office spends on average 6.5 hours with each survivor who comes through the door at the Fulton County Courthouse, removing a significant

burden on courthouse personnel and contributing extensively to judicial efficiency inside the courtroom; and

WHEREAS, AVLF and the Safe Families Office provide a courthouse-to-community opioid recovery stabilization initiative for survivors, providing targeted legal services to survivors of intimate partner abuse who are experiencing or at risk of opioid misuse; and

WHEREAS, this initiative is fully aligned with opioid settlement allowable uses, including treatment access, recovery support, and prevention of opioid misuse; and

WHEREAS, the Fulton County Board of Commissioners is responsible for appropriating County funds to support the effective administration of justice and the operation of the criminal justice system within Fulton County; and

WHEREAS, the Fulton County Board of Commissioners recognizes the importance of protecting its residents from intimate partner abuse, and guiding residents toward safety, stability, and justice; and

WHEREAS, the Fulton County Board of Commissioners desires to support AVLF using an available funding source that is not derived from tax revenue; and

WHEREAS, funding for AVLF is authorized pursuant to O.C.G.A. § 36-1-19.1, which allows Fulton County to appropriate money for, and the making of grants or contributions to, any corporation, association, institution, or individual for purely charitable purposes, provided that the activities funded by any such grants or contributions shall take place within the county making such grant or contribution and is in the form of contracts for services; and

WHEREAS, O.C.G.A. § 36-1-19.1(d) defines “purely charitable purposes” to include charitable contributions for health and social welfare purposes.

WHEREAS, on April 1, 2026, pursuant to Agenda Item 26-0171, the Fulton County Board of Commissioners appropriated Nine Hundred Seventy-Five Thousand Dollars and Zero cents (\$975,000.00) to AVLF to support services provided to survivors of intimate partner abuse and their families with funding coming from the various opioid settlements in which the County has participated, to be disbursed in accordance with the limitations set forth in those settlements regarding approved opioid remediation uses of the settlement funds; and

WHEREAS, the Parties deem it to be in the best interest of Fulton County citizens to enter into this MOU for the funding referenced above under the terms and conditions expressed herein.

NOW, THEREFORE, in consideration of the mutual benefits to both parties, it is hereby agreed as follows:

ARTICLE I. PURPOSE AND INTENT

The purpose of this MOU between AVLFL and Fulton County, acting through the County's BHDD, is to establish and formalize the obligations and responsibilities of the Parties. Fulton County shall pay to AVLFL an amount not to exceed \$975,000.00 to fund the following Core Services:

1. Conduct trauma-informed identification of Survivors seeking services from AVLFL who are experiencing or at risk of opioid misuse.
2. Conduct coordinated outreach with and to relevant Fulton County treatment partners to ease access to AVLFL's services for Survivors pursuing treatment for opioid misuse.
3. Establish and utilize bidirectional coordinated referral pathways to and from Behavioral Health Crisis Centers (BHCCs) and Fulton County Behavioral Health Network.
4. Developing partnerships and coordinated referral pathways with health plans to better identify and serve Survivors experiencing or at risk of opioid misuse.
5. Secure Temporary Protective Orders (TPOs) and safety planning, through programming both within the courthouse and the in the community.
6. Provide housing stabilization services offered both within the courthouse and in the community (eviction defense, lease termination for safety).
7. Provide related family law services for Survivors supporting recovery stability.

The above-referenced Core Services are broken out in more detail in Exhibit "A".

ARTICLE II. FUNDING AND USE OF THE FUNDS

- 2.1 Upon approval by the Fulton County Board of Commissioners, Fulton County, through its County Department of BHDD, shall make payments to AVLFL in a total amount not to exceed **Nine Hundred Seventy-Five Thousand and 00/100 Dollars (\$975,000.00)** (the "Funding Amount") to provide the Core Services referenced above in Exhibit "A". Payment shall be made on a sixty (60) day basis and based on services rendered. The Funding Amount shall be allocated from the various opioid settlements in which the County has participated, to be disbursed in accordance with the limitations set forth in those settlements regarding approved opioid remediation uses of the settlement funds.
- 2.2 AVLFL shall use the Funding Amount provided by Fulton County solely for the items described above. AVLFL shall provide the Department of BHDD with accompanying documentation upon request.
- ~~2.3 AVLFL is aware that the Funding Amount allocated from the various opioid settlements in which the County has participated must be used for Approved Purposes¹ as defined in the State of Georgia and Local Governments: Memorandum of Understanding Concerning National Distributor and Johnson & Johnson Opioid Settlements.~~

¹ "Approved Purposes" shall mean those uses identified in the List of Opioid Remediation Uses, attached as Exhibit E to the National Distributor Settlement, and those uses identified as "Approved Opioid Abatement Uses" in Schedules A and B to Exhibit G to the Notice of Filing of Eighth Plan Supplement Pursuant to the Fifth Amended Joint Chapter 11 Plan of Reorganization of Purdue Pharma L.P. and its Affiliated Debtors, In re: Purdue Pharma L.P., et al., Case No. 19-23649-RDD, Dkt. 3121 (Bankr. S.D. N.Y. July 8, 2021).

2.4 AVL F is aware that the Funding Amount allocated from the various opioid settlements in which the County has participated must be used future abatement purposes or the Funding Amount may be subject to a federal clawback or recoupment.

2.5 In no event shall Fulton County be obligated for funding in excess of the Funding Amount.

ARTICLE III. REPORTING AND COMPLIANCE RESPONSIBILITY OF AVL F

To ensure compliance with opioid settlement requirements, and in consideration for the Funding Amount, AVL F shall have the following reporting and other responsibilities:

3.1 Population Targeting: Serve individuals directly impacted by opioid misuse or at elevated risk and prioritize survivors with co-occurring trauma and substance use indicators.

3.2 Data Tracking and Reporting, Performance Metrics, and Establishing Baselines: As this is the inaugural year of a first-of-its-kind program, much of the data tracking and reporting work will be used to establish baselines for future key performance indicators (KPIs) and to test and refine various screening protocols.

3.3 Quarterly Reporting: While thousands of Fulton County residents at risk of misuse will be screened for specialized services and critical referrals, it is difficult to know how many individuals will self-identify. Those limitations notwithstanding, the program will report quarterly on the:

- a. The number of individuals screened for experiencing or being at risk of misuse
- b. The number of individuals served who are experiencing or at risk of misuse
- c. The number of protective orders secured (overall and for target population)
- d. The number of housing stabilizations achieved (overall and for target population)
- e. The number of related family-law services provided (overall and for target population)
- f. The number and percentage of clients referred to treatment, and
- g. The number of direct referrals received from Fulton County and other relevant partners.

3.4 Goals: More quantitative KPIs will be established based on the data collected in year one, but even in this "baseline" year, AVL F will strive to meet the following goals:

- a. Screen at least 1,250 residents for experiencing or being at risk of misuse.
- b. Establish formal, bi-directional referral protocols with at least five health providers or health plans.
- c. Establish identification and service baselines and corresponding KPIs for year two that include goals for the following:
 1. The number of protective orders secured (for target population)
 2. The number of housing stabilizations achieved (for target population)
 3. The number of related family-law services provided (for target population)

4.The number and percentage of clients referred to treatment.

ARTICLE IV. TERM OF AGREEMENT

This MOU shall have an initial term of twelve (12) months from the Effective Date, and shall automatically renew for the next one (1) year term, subject to appropriation of funding by Fulton County from any source. If the MOU is not funded for this successive year, the MOU shall terminate immediately. Notwithstanding anything contained herein, AVLF's reporting obligations as set forth in Article III above shall survive the expiration or termination of this MOU. Failure to abide by the reporting obligations may subject AVLF to not qualify for any future funding at the sole discretion of Fulton County.

ARTICLE V. TERMINATION/SUSPENSION OF WORK

- 5.1 Termination without Cause. Notwithstanding anything contained herein to the contrary, Fulton County may terminate this MOU without cause by providing AVLF with 60 (sixty) days' written notice.
- 5.2 Upon termination of the MOU under this Article, the Parties shall arrange for a proper accounting and work plan for any obligations remaining under the terms of this MOU.
- 5.3 Nothing herein shall prevent Fulton County from immediately suspending AVLF's performance of the work upon written notice.

ARTICLE VI. MODIFICATIONS

This MOU may be modified at any time by written agreement of the Parties, with such modification being subject to approval by the governing bodies of the Parties.

ARTICLE VII. NOTICES

For purposes of this MOU, any notices required to be sent to the Parties shall be hand delivered or sent by certified mail to the addresses provided below:

Fulton County BHDD
Attn: LaTrina Foster, LPC
141 Pryor Street, SW
Suite 1031
Atlanta, Georgia 30303

With a concurrent copy to:
Fulton County Attorney
Office of the Fulton County Attorney

141 Pryor Street, S.W.
Suite 4038
Atlanta, GA 30303

Atlanta Volunteer Lawyers Foundation, Inc.
Attn: Larry Bracken
352 University Ave., N1118
Atlanta, Georgia 30310

ARTICLE VIII. GENERAL PROVISIONS

- 8.1 If any part of this MOU is found to be invalid or unenforceable, or is otherwise stricken, the rest of this MOU shall remain in full force and effect.
- 8.2 This MOU constitutes the entire MOU between the Parties. It supersedes any prior oral understandings between them with respect to the matters addressed herein.
- 8.3 Waiver of any term or condition of this MOU shall require an amendment that is subject to the approval of the Parties' respective governing bodies, and shall not be construed as a waiver of any subsequent breach or waiver of the same term or condition, or a waiver of any other term or condition of this MOU. Nothing herein shall constitute or be considered a limitation upon or waiver of the Parties' rights under applicable law.
- 8.4 This MOU is entered into for the exclusive benefit of the undersigned Parties and is not intended to create any rights, powers, or interests in any third-party. Fulton County, including its respective officers, officials, employees, or agents, shall not be liable to third parties by any act or omission of the other party.
- 8.5 Nothing herein shall be construed as a waiver of Fulton County's sovereign immunity or any governmental immunity available to its officials, officers, employees, and agents.
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- 8.6 This MOU shall be governed by the laws of the State of Georgia.
- 8.7 This MOU may be executed in any number of counterparts, each of which when so executed and delivered shall be deemed to be an original without the production of any other counterpart. Any signature delivered via facsimile or other electronic means shall be deemed an original signature hereto.


[SIGNATURES ON FOLLOWING PAGE]

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the parties have set their hands and affixed their seals this the 1st day of April 2026.

FULTON COUNTY, GEORGIA

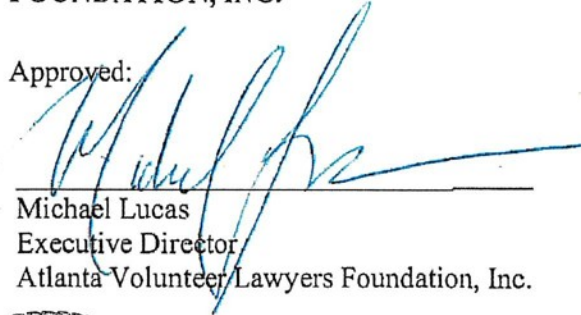
ATLANTA VOLUNTEER LAWYERS
FOUNDATION, INC.

Approved:



Robert L. Pitts, Chairman
Fulton County Board of Commissioners

Approved:



Michael Lucas
Executive Director
Atlanta Volunteer Lawyers Foundation, Inc.


Attest:




Tonya R. Grier
Clerk to the Commission



Approved as to Content:


LaTrina Foster, LPC, Director
Fulton County BHDD

Approved as to Form:


Office of the County Attorney

ITEM # 26-0171 FRM 04 / 01 / 26
FIRST REGULAR MEETING

Exhibit "A"

CORE SERVICES (Detail)

1. Conduct trauma-informed identification of Survivors seeking services from AVL F who are experiencing or at risk of opioid misuse.

AVLF will integrate trauma-informed questions into its intake process for services both at its Fulton County Courthouse-based Safe Families Office and its community-based services to Survivors (Standing with Survivors, Mobile Advocacy, etc.) to identify individuals who are experiencing or at risk of opioid misuse. All related "identification" activities will be developed and conducted according to the following principles (see attached Exhibit A for further guidance).

2. Conduct coordinated outreach efforts with relevant Fulton County partners to ease access to AVL F's legal services for Survivors pursuing treatment for opioid misuse.

AVLF's Standing with Survivors (SwS) mobile outreach team, in coordination with AVL F's Medical Legal Partnership Plus (MLP+) team will work to identify provider-partners within the Fulton County ecosystem, including but not limited to health clinics, treatment providers, and community-based programs who also identify and serve individuals who are experiencing or at risk of opioid misuse. Where appropriate these teams will establish outreach partnerships, including:

- Joint mobile outreach initiatives with health providers who also operate mobile outreach and treatment units.
- Onsite "pop-up" clinics and "office hours" at provider-partner locations.
- Joint attendance at relevant community outreach events.

Where needed, AVL F's SwS and MLP+ teams can educate and share screening "best practice" protocols with provider-partners so that they can better identify individuals for referral who are experiencing or at risk of opioid misuse who also are experiencing IPV, housing instability, or both.

3. Establish and utilize bidirectional coordinated referral pathways to and from Behavioral Health Crisis Centers (BHCCs) and Fulton County Behavioral Health Network.

A key component of this initiative will be a commitment to "inverting the burden" on Survivors who are pursuing or wish to pursue treatment, whether it is the burden of finding and securing needed legal services while in the midst of treatment and recovery or, for those Survivors whose initial "entry point" for the initiative are AVL F's courthouse- and community-based programs, the burden of locating and securing treatment and recovery services. This commitment will take the form of warm hand-off protocols between AVL F and relevant behavioral health partners and technical assistance to partners to improve identification of legal needs and make appropriate referrals.