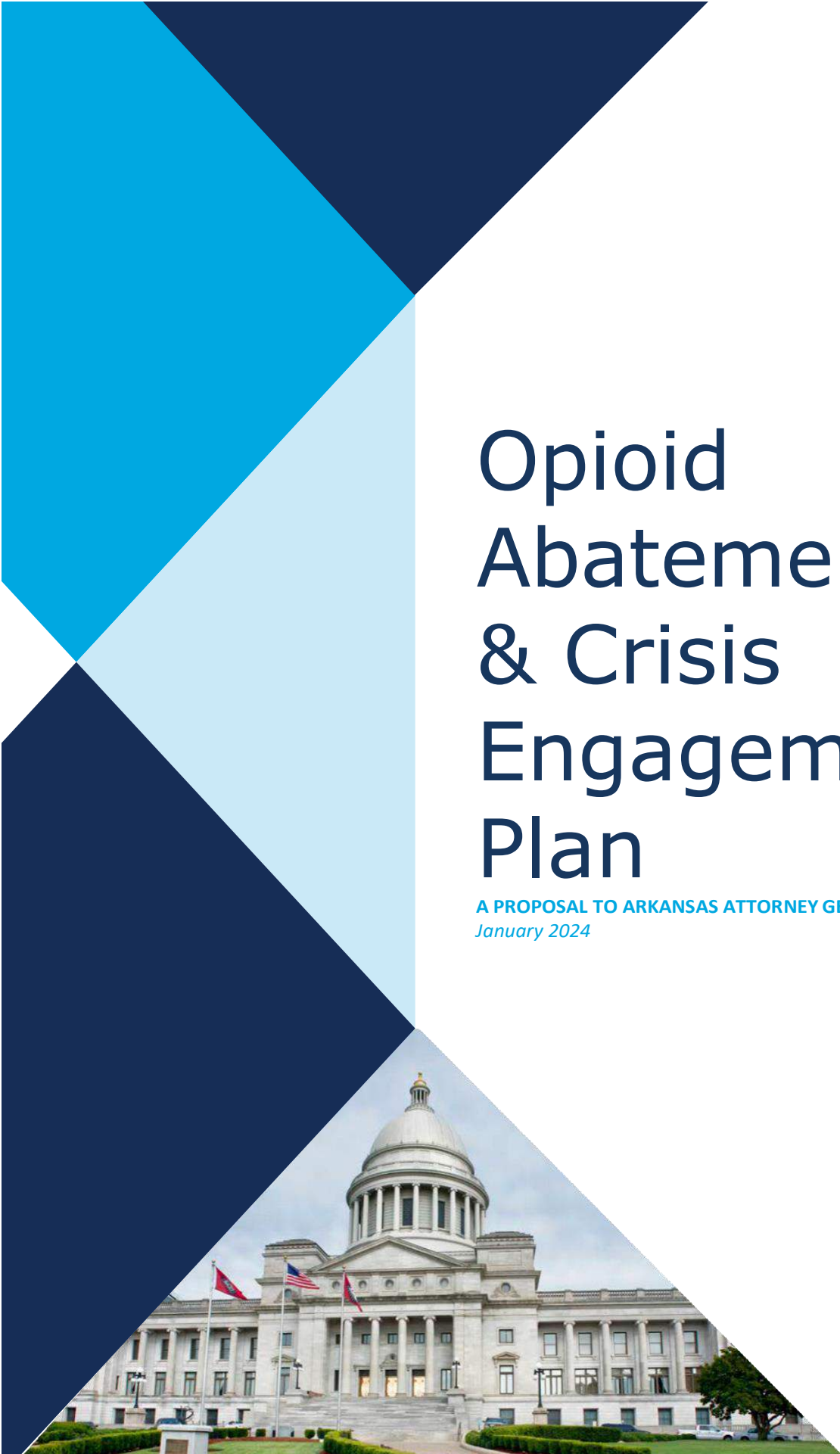


Opioid Abatement & Crisis Engagement Plan

A PROPOSAL TO ARKANSAS ATTORNEY GENERAL TIM GRIFFIN
January 2024



Beyond Rhetoric to Results: A Community-based & Wraparound Crisis Engagement Plan

Understanding that opioid abatement and remediation requires a comprehensive, compassionate, and contextual approach by providers with well-established trust, relationships, and longevity in a specific community, develop a 10,000 sq. ft. **Hope Center** that effectively and efficiently targets underserved, under-resourced and unsheltered people subsisting in the urban center of Little Rock by leveraging existing facilities, expanding proven initiatives, collaborating with key partners, measuring KPI, and tracking data.

PROPOSED DESIGN

To fully demonstrate, evaluate, and report opioid abatement and remediation outcomes via a well-designed, effectively executed, and transferrable (to other cities) community-based & wraparound crisis engagement plan, build, staff, and establish a **Primary Care and Mental Health Clinic** (2,500 sq. ft.); **Personal Hygiene & Self-care Facilities** (500 sq. ft.); **Peer Support & Recovery Coaching**; a **Life-skills, Healthy Habits & Job Training Pod** (1,500 sq. ft.); a **Food Acquisitions, Storage & Crisis Intervention Hub** (5,500 sq. ft.); and **Afterschool & Summer Family Support Services** focused on at-risk children living in the *Impact Zone* (see p. 6). Formal program evaluation reports will be issued at the one-, two-, and three-year marks.

COMMUNITY-BASED/WRAPAROUND ENGAGEMENT

- 1. Community-based:** Tailoring interventions to the contextual needs of a specific inner-city population is crucial for long-term effectiveness. Prospects of programming success are greatly enhanced by the collaboration of healthcare professionals, social service agencies, and faith-based organizations working shoulder-to-shoulder in the same space.
- 2. Wraparound Engagement:** By partnering to address the root causes of addiction — challenges such as food and housing insecurity, joblessness, lack of educational resources, and unmet mental health needs — wraparound crisis engagement helps support long-term individual life-change and reduce opioid relapse while being cost-effective and efficient.

PLANNED INITIATIVES

The following 6 strategies are widely recognized and considered among the most effective for opioid abatement and remediation.

1. DIVINE MERCY HEALTH CLINIC (DHMC)

DHMC, a nonprofit of faith-based physicians and nurses, mental health professionals, social workers & recovery specialists will operate the clinic on a daily basis, providing medical and mental health services to opioid users and others predisposed to use and/or addiction in the *Impact Zone*, erasing transportation barriers for urgent and ongoing care while easing strain on ER personnel, costs & capacity, etc.

2. PERSONAL HYGIENE & SELF-CARE

Engaging in personal hygiene activities such as showering, brushing teeth, laundry tasks, and changing clothes promotes self-care, boosts self-esteem, and establishes routine that can help individuals recovering from opioid addiction develop healthy coping mechanisms that are beneficial for managing cravings and reducing the likelihood of relapse.

3. PEER SUPPORT & RECOVERY COACHING

Empower individuals with lived experience in recovery as peer supporters and recovery coaches has proven impactful. Peers provide understanding, empathy and practical guidance to those struggling with opioid addiction by fostering a sense of hope and connection.

4. LIFE-SKILLS, HEALTHY HABITS & JOB TRAINING

To encourage and equip individuals for life-change by providing classes in culinary arts and healthy eating; job-training and opportunities for employment in local restaurants, etc., while providing access to affordable facilities for community-minded partners to likewise bring additional expertise, passion, and programming.

5. NUTRITION, STORAGE & CRISIS INTERVENTION

Expand capacity to acquire and provide nutrient-rich food as well as crisis support to promote physical withdrawal and recovery, which studies have shown to be crucial for individuals undergoing rehabilitation. A well-nourished body is better equipped to withstand the challenges of recovery, reducing the risk of relapse.

6. EARLY INTERVENTION

Columbia University finds that the more often children eat dinner with significant adults the less likely they are to smoke, drink, or use illicit drugs. As a host site for the USDA's a) At-Risk Afterschool Meals Program & b) Summer Food Service Program, children and teens can find the food security and personal affirmation they'll need to someday avoid opioid use as a coping mechanism of physical or emotional pain or neglect.

ADDITIONAL CONSIDERATIONS

Economics, Efficiency & Effectiveness

All six (6) planned initiatives have been determined to produce sizable cost savings, maximize efficiency, and position providers for effective outcomes.

Existing Space, Collaboration & Credibility

All six (6) planned initiatives leverage

- a) a single building and location in an area of high need, opioid abuse and death
- b) existing organizational partnerships and collaboration
- c) more than twenty years of credible community engagement in the urban center of Little Rock, where Vine & Village is concerned.

Relational Connections, Proximity & Ownership

Compared to start-ups or otherwise isolated approaches by providers working independently in various locations of the city that lack

- a) existing partnerships (see below)
- b) a history of collaboration, relational connection, and proximity to opioid users
- c) access to or ownership of a large facility

this plan mitigates all such concerns. The synergistic approach will significantly impact outcomes and increase positive results.

Critical & Synergistic Partnerships

In addition to its own efforts, Vine & Village has established two critical partnerships to provide enhanced services in support of the Opioid Abatement and Crisis Engagement Plan:

a) Restore Hope Arkansas (100 Families)

In 2021, 100 Families established its *Pulaski County Resource Center* in the Vine & Village facility. The center houses various staff, programs, and support services. 100 Families helps families move from crisis to career, provides ongoing assistance to the incarcerated (both pre- and post-release), and offers job training through via a Commercial Driver's License (CDL) Academy.

b) Divine Mercy Health Clinic

DHMC utilizes medical professionals, social workers, & community connections to help the most disadvantaged improve their quality of life by achieving their best physical, mental, and emotional health. In 2024, DMHC will establish a permanent clinic in the Vine & Village facility featuring six consultation (exam) rooms as well as offices for mental health providers and social workers to access, serve, and provide diagnosis, treatment, and ongoing care for opioid users seeking help and recovery in the *Impact Zone*.

c) City of Little Rock

In 2023, Vine & Village was awarded a \$180,000 grant by the City of Little Rock to help homeless individuals and families receive health and social services by coordinating services and housing within the *Impact Zone*. Since August 2023, Vine & Village has personally engaged, interviewed, and collected data on more than 140 unique unsheltered individuals.

Urgency, Trauma, and Death from Overdose

It's estimated that 85% of the unsheltered population living on or adjacent to Vine & Village's property (some 40-50 on any given day) wrestle with substance-abuse and/or addiction, with the majority of these using opioids. Since 2022, there have been 17 deaths among: 12 of these deaths were determined to have occurred from opioid use/abuse.

Exhibit A: Self-care, Life-skills & Job Training Pod

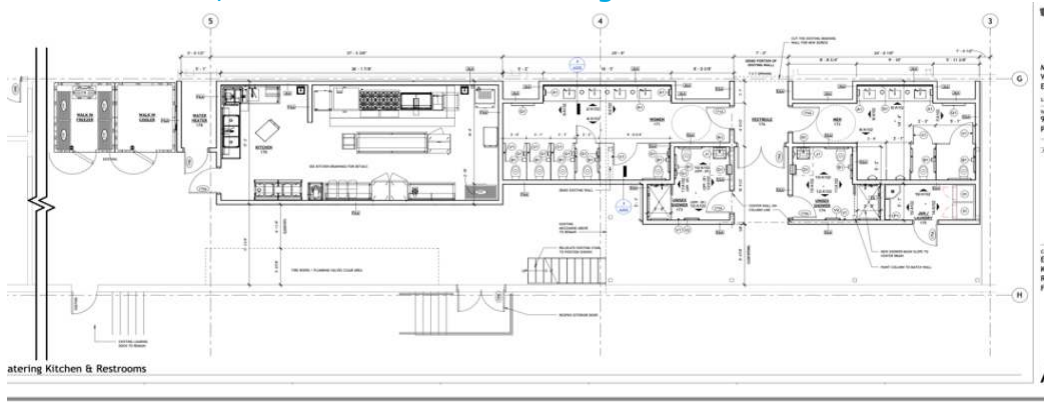


Exhibit B: DHMC Medical & Mental Health Clinic



Exhibit C: Nutrition, Storage & Crisis Intervention Hub



VINE & VILLAGE

Vine & Village is already a well-established, “one-stop shop” providing, housing and/or otherwise aggregating multiple service providers and programming in a single location, helping those addicted to opioids, drugs, and alcohol, at-risk children, the unhoused or inadequately sheltered living on or adjacent to its property, and families subsisting in poverty, etc., through community-based efforts such as emergency sheltering, health screening and monitoring, life-skills coaching, counseling, education, workforce preparation and training, day-labor employment opportunities, and more. Scores of volunteers serve in one or more of its eight (8) programs on a monthly basis. Beyond that, Vine & Village has received over \$4M in local, state, and federal grant funding through the years, a further validation of its credibility and impact.

The Opioid Abatement & Crisis Engagement Plan will significantly scale Vine & Village’s existing efforts and exponentially increase its impact on those currently abusing opioids or otherwise seeking to quit while opening new avenues for proactive prevention.

PUBLIC SECTOR REFERENCES

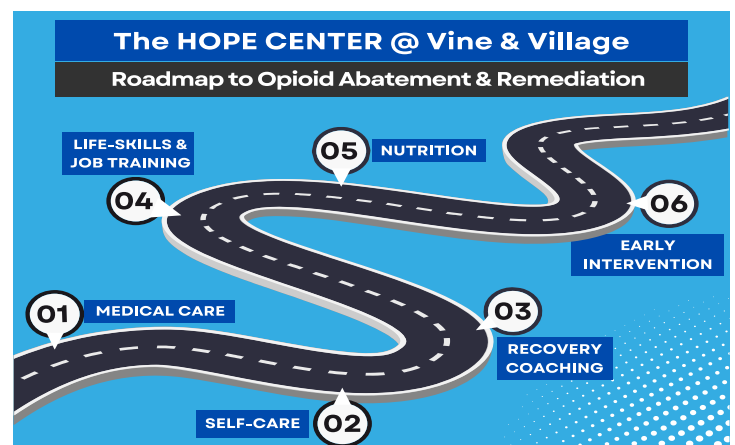
Vine & Village has the respect of numerous organizations in the city & maintains ongoing partnerships with numerous agencies including **Baptist Health**, the **Arkansas Food Bank**, **Arkansas Hunger Relief Alliance**, **The Van**, **Goodwill Industries**, **University of Arkansas at Little Rock**, **Restore Hope Arkansas**, **Episcopal Collegiate School**, **10 Fitness**, and **Immerse Arkansas** (a program begun under the nonprofit status of Vine & Village where it was housed, in our facility, and operated for more than ten years prior to becoming a separate 501(c)(3), acquiring its own building, etc.), to name a few.

PUBLIC & PRIVATE SECTOR REFERENCES

- Ron Cameron (Mountaire Corporation)
- Ralph Hudson (Director of Labor, AR)
- Dr. Joni Lee (Vice-Chancellor, UALR)
- Dr. Jamie Griffin (Episcopal Collegiate)
- Paul Chapman (Restore Hope AR)

INTENDED MEASURABLE OUTCOMES

- **YEAR 1**
 - Complete Intended Construction
 - Determine Measurable KPIs
 - Hire & Train Staff
 - Open Medical Clinic
 - Launch Hygiene & Self-care Initiative
- **YEAR 2**
 - Launch Peer Recovery Coaching
 - Establish Crisis Intervention Team
 - Start Life-skills/Healthy Choices Classes
 - Launch Job Training Initiatives
 - Launch Afterschool Meal Program
- **YEAR 3**
 - Launch Summer Meal Program
 - Launch Mentoring Initiatives
 - Expand Partnerships & Services
 - Expand Job Training Initiatives
 - Measure, Evaluate & Report 3-year KPIs





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