

# BOARD OF SUPERVISORS AGENDA LETTER

Agenda Number:



**Clerk of the Board of Supervisors**  
105 E. Anapamu Street, Suite 407  
Santa Barbara, CA 93101  
(805) 568-2240

**Department Name:** Behavioral Wellness  
**Department No.:** 043  
**For Agenda Of:** August 23, 2016  
**Placement:** Departmental  
**Estimated Time:** .5 hours  
**Continued Item:** No  
**If Yes, date from:**  
**Vote Required:** Majority

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**TO:** Board of Supervisors  
**FROM:** Department Alice Gleghorn, PhD, Director  
Director(s) Department of Behavioral Wellness 805-681-5220  
Contact Info: Pam Fisher, Deputy Director, Chief of Clinical Operations,  
805-681-5220  
John Doyel, Alcohol and Drug Program (ADP) Manager  
805-681-4907

**SUBJECT:** Behavioral Wellness - Overdose Prevention and Reversal Program

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**County Counsel Concurrence**

As to form: Yes

**Other Concurrence:**

As to form: NA

**Auditor-Controller Concurrence**

As to form: NA

**Recommended Actions:** That the Board of Supervisors:

- A. Receive and file a report from the Department of Behavioral Wellness staff for informational purposes regarding progress to date on a new policy and procedure for the Overdose Prevention and Reversal Program; and
- B. Determine that these activities are exempt from California Environmental Quality Act review per CEQA Guidelines Section 15378(b)(5) since the recommended actions are government administrative activities which do not involve commitment to any specific project which may result in potentially significant physical impact on the environment.

**Summary Text:**

The County of Santa Barbara Behavioral Wellness Department has developed an Overdose (OD) Prevention and Reversal Program and related policies and procedures to address the current opioid abuse problem in our county. The new policy discussed in this presentation includes the distribution of the opioid antidote, Naloxone, to reverse opioid overdoses and save lives, in accordance with AB 635. We are asking that the Board of Supervisors receive and file the report regarding the efforts taken by the Behavioral Wellness to ensure measures are taken to decrease the number of deaths in the county due to an opioid overdose.

**Background:**

The nation is in the midst of an opioid epidemic. Opioids include prescription pain pills and heroin. Santa Barbara reflects this trend. In 2014, over thirty percent (30%) of all clients entering the County of Santa Barbara alcohol and other drug treatment system reported opioids as their drug of choice, over a three-fold increase from eight percent (8%) in 2006. Overdose (OD) deaths have climbed dramatically as a result. Forty Five (45) individuals in Santa Barbara County died of an OD in 2014. The vast majority of these deaths involve opioids. Nationally, opioid OD deaths have now surpassed deaths from automobile accidents. A robust response to this epidemic by Behavioral Wellness was necessary.

County Behavioral Wellness staff began addressing opioid abuse in 2010. As evidence of prescription pain killer abuse began being published nationally, Alcohol and Drug Program (ADP) began to notice an increase in opioid abuse, ADP staff and the ADP Advisory Board acted swiftly. Behavioral Wellness increased funding for opioid treatment and organized town hall meetings and forums on the dangers of prescription drug abuse. We contributed to media publications, including a series of articles by Noozhawk, on prescription painkiller and heroin abuse. We included prescription drug abuse as one of our four (4) top priorities in our Strategic Prevention Plan (SPP) 2012 – 2017. We began exploring medication-assisted treatment options and training all contracted treatment providers to address opioid abuse, regardless of any client's drug of choice (DOC).

Behavioral Wellness also worked with our Public Health Department (PHD) and Sheriff's Departments to track and analyze overdose deaths. In August 2015 we contracted with the Los Angeles Community Health Project, a national leader in opioid overdose prevention and reversal protocols, to provide a formal "training for trainers" to selected individuals and agencies. Forty five (45) representatives from around the county including the Sheriff's Department, Families Act, residential providers, HIV/AIDS clinicians, public health staff and Narcotic Treatment Program (NTP) providers were trained to train others to recognize and prevent opioid overdoses. Included in the training was the administration of the opioid antidote, naloxone.

Shortly thereafter County ADP developed a formal written policy and procedure (P & P), with tracking and outcome measurements, to prevent and reverse opioid OD. The P & Ps were modeled after the California Drug Overdose Treatment Liability Act, AB 635, signed into law on January 1, 2014 (Civil Code § 1714.22). This law was designed to encourage health care providers and community programs to widely distribute naloxone to treat opioid overdose incidents. The legislature protects doctors and other licensed health professionals who prescribe and distribute Naloxone to those who need it, including drug users and potential bystanders. Naloxone is a Federal Drug Administration approved opioid antagonist, which is used to reverse the effects of an opioid overdose. The drug negates or neutralizes, in whole or part, the effects of opioids in the body.

Also, building on the work of Dr. Gleghorn, with San Francisco Public Health Department's highly successful Drug Overdose Prevention and Education (DOPE) project, Behavioral Wellness developed OD recognition and prevention brochures and distributed them throughout the County. Included in all ADP treatment provider contracts was OD awareness and prevention requirements. We collaborated with the Santa Barbara County PHD to spread awareness on drug take back initiatives in order to restrict the availability of narcotic pain killers. We supported the recent PHD recommendations to enact an extended producer responsibility ordinance to hold opioid manufacturers responsible for the safe disposal of their products.

Three hundred (300) intra-nasal naloxone kits were purchased with a standing order from the Medical Director, in accordance with AB 635, and assembled by Behavioral Wellness. To date 250 overdose prevention kits have been distributed, and 85 individuals or agencies that are most likely to witness an OD have been trained by ADP staff. Educational brochures included in the kits have been distributed separately throughout our prevention and treatment systems of care, as well as through schools and other agencies. Forty five (45) individuals have been trained to train individuals and groups of individuals on the opioid problem, how to recognize an opioid OD, and how to administer the antidote.

These individuals and agencies that received education and distribution of the kits include but are not limited to:

- Jail discharge planners
- Needle exchange programs
- Residential service providers
- Shelters
- Family service providers
- ADP treatment programs
- Narcotic Treatment Program providers
- Isla Vista Foot Patrol

We have budgeted funding for another five hundred (500) kits. At the same time we have developed an expanded Medication Assisted Treatment (MAT) program to provide increased access and different medications to opioid abusing community members.

In summary, we have taken evidenced based proactive steps to address the opioid epidemic in Santa Barbara. We hope the OD reversal kits and additional education efforts will reduce the opioid OD death rate in Santa Barbara County.

**Performance Measure:**

The OD Policy & Procedures have several performance outcome and goals identified to measure success of the program. The information collected includes but is not limited to the following:

1. Number of Prevention and Reversal trainings conducted - As of August 2015 10 took place.
2. Number of individuals educated about the epidemic and opioids in general - As of August 2015 eighty five (85) individuals were educated;

3. Number of individuals trained to train targeted individuals to reverse an OD - As of August 2015 eighty five (85) individuals trained to train others;
4. Number of Naloxone kits distributed – As of February 2016 250 Naloxone kits were distributed; and
5. Number of successful OD reversals – In the process of gathering the information.

**Fiscal and Facilities Impacts:**

Budgeted: Yes

**Fiscal Analysis:**

<b><u>Funding Sources</u></b>	<b><u>Current FY Cost:</u></b>	<b><u>Annualized On-going Cost:</u></b>	<b><u>Total One-Time Project Cost</u></b>
General Fund			
State	\$75,000		
Federal			
Fees			
Other:			
Total	\$ 75,000	\$ -	\$ -

Narrative:

Funds of \$75,000 for additional Naloxone kits have been budgeted for FY 16-17.

**Key Contract Risks:** There are no contract changes or risks associated with this action.

**Staffing Impacts:** There are no staffing impacts associated with this action.

**Legal Positions:**      **FTEs:**

**Special Instructions:**

Please return one (1) scanned copy of the minute order to: [admhscontractsstaff@co.santa-barbara.ca.us](mailto:admhscontractsstaff@co.santa-barbara.ca.us).

**Attachments:**

Attachment A: Overdose Prevention and Reversal Program FY 16-17 PowerPoint

**Authored by:**

John Doyel/Denise Morales

**cc:**