



Waukesha County

Department of Health and Human Services

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PUBLIC LIBRARY DIRECTORS THROUGHOUT WAUKESHA COUNTY TO BE TRAINED TO ADMINISTER NALOXONE

(WAUKESHA, WI) – Library Directors from public libraries throughout Waukesha County will be trained on Friday, July 14 on how to administer the drug naloxone, commonly known by its brand name Narcan, to help reverse opioid and heroin overdoses. Staff from the Clinical Services Division of the Waukesha County Department of Health and Human Services will conduct the non-public training at the Delafield Public Library, 500 N. Genesee St, Delafield, 8:30-9:30 a.m.

“With the high traffic of members of the public through libraries, there is higher probability of the need for a drug-abuse first-responder in libraries,” said John Kettler, mental health & substance abuse supervisor, for the Waukesha County Department of Health and Human Services. “Library Directors throughout the county have expressed a desire to be a part of the solution to the problem of the rising misuse of prescription opioid pain relievers and use of heroin. This training is a strong first-step,” Kettler said.

Training of the Library Directors will include how to recognize opioid misuse and how to administer the overdose-reversal drug as a nasal spray. Within Waukesha County, Sheriff Deputies and other emergency responders are trained to administer naloxone.

Waukesha County statistics for the past three years indicate that the age group with the highest number of heroin overdoses is 20-29 year olds. The death rate within the county has increased drastically within the past decade, from two deaths in 2006 to 20 in 2015. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) cites that “from 2000 to 2015, more than half a million people died from drug overdoses. 91 Americans die every day from an opioid overdose.”

In May, Waukesha County Department of Health and Human Services announced that it was selected as a pilot site by the Wisconsin Department of Health Services for the administration of services through a federal grant from the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA). A component of the grant is to offer free community-level trainings on the administration of naloxone and to distribute kits containing the opiate reversal agent.

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