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# Waukesha County

## Department of Health and Human Services

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **PUBLIC LIBRARY DIRECTORS THROUGHOUT WAUKESHA COUNTY TO LEARN HOW TO HELP FIGHT THE OPIOID CRISIS**

**(WAUKESHA, WI)** – Tomorrow, July 14, Public Library Directors from the [Bridges Library System](#) will receive introductory information to help reduce prescription opioid-related deaths. It's part of Waukesha County's [four-tiered plan](#) to fight the opioid crisis through training first responders and key community members to implement prevention and treatment strategies. **Friday's non-public informational session HAS MOVED. It will now take place at 9 am at the Pewaukee Public Library (210 Main St, Pewaukee, WI).**

"We are in the midst of an opioid epidemic that is impacting the County and the nation," said Waukesha County Executive Paul Farrow. "Prescription opioids kill more people every year, which takes a toll on our community and our justice system. The cost is in human life, in hardships faced by families, and in tax dollars to investigate and mitigate drug-related crimes. Our focus is on the well-being of the community, and we will use every tool available to stop this epidemic."

Friday's education session will implement one of the four treatment and prevention strategies outlined in [Waukesha County's work plan to combat the opioid crisis](#). Library directors, teachers, law enforcement, hospitality staff, and other community members who deal with high-traffic public areas are target groups who may receive training to recognize opioid misuse and to prevent overdoses.

#### **About the WI Prescription Drug/Opioid Overdose-Related Deaths Prevention Project**

Prescription opioids are the main driver of drug overdose deaths and poisonings in Wisconsin. In 2015, 63% of drug overdose deaths in Wisconsin involved prescription opioids. Waukesha County's plan is funded by the state's participation in the Wisconsin Prescription Drug/Opioid Overdose-Related Deaths Prevention Project (WI-PDO), a federal grant from the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA). More information about the WI-PDO grant is available at [www.samhsa.gov](http://www.samhsa.gov).

Training and event information is online at [www.waukeshacounty.gov/overdoseprevention](http://www.waukeshacounty.gov/overdoseprevention). Follow Waukesha County's Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) on Twitter at @WaukeshaCoHHS.

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