





MEMORANDUM

TO: Mayor and Council Members

FROM: Wesley Hopkins, Assistant Chief, Austin-Travis County EMS 

THROUGH: Chief Robert Luckrtiz, Austin-Travis County EMS 

DATE: August 4, 2023

SUBJECT: Staff Response to Resolution No. 20230413-043 on Naloxone

This memorandum serves as a staff response to Resolution 20230413-043 on the distribution of naloxone (NARCAN). The two directives in this resolution were to assure that Austin-Travis County Emergency Medical Services (ATCEMS), and other appropriate departments, have consistent and reliable funding to acquire opioid overdose reversal medication such as NARCAN, and that ATCEMS provide training to business owners or other persons in a position to assist individuals at risk of an opioid-related drug overdose on the administration of NARCAN.

Austin Public Health (APH) and Austin-Travis County Emergency Medical Services (ATCEMS) coordinated the NARCAN purchase and distribution strategy as outlined:

- APH allocated \$75,000 from the Opioid Settlement funds to ATCEMS for the initial purchase of NARCAN and supplies for overdose response kits.
 - These funds will purchase 800 overdose response kits (2 doses per kit) to distribute through Community-Based Organizations (CBOs) that will partner with APH on the Community Naloxone Distribution Strategy. Research supports that increasing the distribution of NARCAN through CBOs to people most at risk of experiencing or responding to an opioid overdose can potentially avert an estimated 25% of opioid overdose deaths. An agreement for CBOs to receive and distribute NARCAN has been created and reviewed by the law department . APH received technical assistance regarding the educational resources to include in the kits from the New York City Department of Health .
 - ATCEMS will provide additional kits to businesses that have experienced more than one overdose on-site in the past 12 months.
- APH will receive a congressional directive spending allocation in the amount of \$2,000,000 through the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) to address the opioid overdose crisis. The anticipated project period is September 30, 2023- September 29, 2024. The expense of NARCAN is permissible under the SAMHSA grant.
 - The official Notice of Funding Award from SAMHSA is still in progress. Once the Notice of

Funding is completed and the funds are accepted by the City Council, APH anticipates the allocation of \$500,000 to ATCEMS to be used for NARCAN training and distribution.

- The scope of work will support the training and distribution of NARCAN to the Austin Police Department, Austin Fire Department, Austin Library Department, Parks and Recreation Department, Austin Public Health Department, and other organizations such as Capital Metro.
- ATCEMS will continue supporting the ordering, storage, and distribution of NARCAN to CBOs partnering with APH on the Community Naloxone Distribution Strategy.
- ATCEMS will continue to provide NARCAN kits and training to businesses that experience more than one overdose within 12 months.

cc: Jesús Garza, Interim City Manager
Bruce Mills, Interim Assistant City Manager
Adrienne Stirrup, Austin Public Health Director