
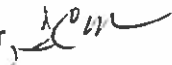




Memorandum

TO: Kevin J. Jackson, Village Manager 

FROM: Dr. Theresa Chapple, Public Health Department Director 

FOR: Village President and Board of Trustees

DATE: February 1, 2023

SUBJECT: **Naloxboxes: Research and Proposed Implementation**

In response to the motion initiated by Trustee Jim Taglia and seconded by Trustee Ravi Parakkat, and in alignment with our IPLAN goal and strategy to distribute Narcan and fentanyl test strips and educate community members about risks associated with fentanyl and the prevalence of it in other illicit substances, the Health Department proposes installing Naloxboxes in strategic locations in Oak Park, paired with programming that includes community training and education. Naloxboxes are a harm reduction strategy with the mission of improving the capacity of bystander rescuers to save the lives of victims of opioid overdose with overdose response tools, including naloxone, a medication that reverses opioid overdoses, and fentanyl test strips, a tool to test drugs for the presence of fentanyl.

Background

Opioid overdoses have increased in Oak Park 95% over the last decade. As part of a harm-reduction strategy, other municipalities have implemented the distribution of naloxone kits to laypeople throughout the community via local pharmacies, community organizations, and public health organizations . To address opioid overdoses in the community, a nonprofit organization in Johnson County, Indiana installed 14 Naloxboxes in government buildings and a church over this past summer. Each Naloxbox contains multiple, pre-packaged doses of naloxone. Anyone can open the box, remove the naloxone, and either carry it with them as a harm reduction device, or administer it immediately to someone who has an overdose or is suspected of an overdose on opioids. The non-profit hosted a booth for naloxone training and delivery at community events and partnered with local organizations as well as the Johnson County Public Library System to provide training to its employees and to the public.

Layperson rescue with intranasal naloxone had a 98% success rate in a Massachusetts study. In that same study, implementation of overdose education and naloxone distribution (OEND) programs was associated with reduced opioid overdose mortality rates . Providing additional naloxone kits to the community enables bystanders to intervene if they see someone experiencing an opioid overdose, allowing more time for the patient to receive definitive treatment at a hospital. There is no evidence of significant adverse reactions to naloxone . Naloxone will not harm someone if you give it to them and they are not overdosing on an opioid

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• Naloxone is an opioid antagonist so it will not have an effect, positive or negative, on anything other than an opioid overdose • A pilot project being conducted in Rhode Island has installed NaloxBoxes throughout a community area and have reported that vandalism or tampering with the boxes has not been an issue •

A review of studies found that laypeople can be adequately trained to properly administer naloxone and that bystanders will intervene in suspected overdoses to provide naloxone and call EMS for transport to hospital for definitive medical treatment • In the aforementioned Massachusetts Naloxbox project, a majority (69%) of the people that enrolled for overdose and naloxone education were self-reported active substance misusers and 74% of all enrollees reported having witnessed an overdose before. Statistical analysis suggests that high rates of naloxone distribution among laypersons and emergency personnel could avert 21% of opioid overdose related deaths, and the majority of overdose death reduction would result from increased distribution to laypersons • Furthermore, the distribution of naloxone to laypeople would maximize health benefits and be cost-effective

Local Context

The Oak Park and River Forest Opioid Taskforce is a community coalition of governmental and community-based organizations, hospitals and non-profits working at the local level to address opioid use and overdose in Oak Park and River Forest. The Opioid Taskforce is a subcommittee of Positive Youth Development, an Oak Park Township program. Taskforce stakeholders are:

- Community Mental Health Board
- Live4Lali
- Rush addiction center
- Oak Park Public Health Department
- Way Back Inn
- Riveredge Hospital
- River Forest Police Department
- Oak Park Police Department
- Village of Maywood
- THRIVE

The taskforce works to coordinate efforts and share best practices to prevent and address opioid use in our community. One member, Live4Lali, an organization that works to prevent substance use disorder, has a mobile unit that has distributed 25 naloxone kits in Oak Park, and provided an additional 15 kits through Suburban Unity Alliance's community refrigerator initiative, since November of 2022. Oak Park Township, which leads the Opioid Taskforce, is planning a staff training on naloxone distribution and installing their own Naloxbox in Q1 of 2023, and a community training to address stigma and distribution within the next three months.

Currently, police and fire departments are equipped with naloxone as part of their first aid kits, each of our high schools have naloxone on hand, and library staff have access to naloxone and have been trained on its use.

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Proposal

Village staff propose the purchase and placement of Naloxboxes in strategic locations throughout the Oak Park community. Based on data from heat maps of overdose emergency calls reported to the Oak Park Police and Fire departments, and the recommendation of the Oak Park Opioid Taskforce, Naloxboxes should be strategically located along Austin Boulevard and North Avenue; Oak Park Libraries (Main, Dole, and Maze), CTA and Metra train stations, and Scoville and Maple Park for greatest impact.

The Library has expressed interest in partnering on this project and being an early adopter of a Naloxbox, and the Village can install boxes on public property along Austin Blvd and North Ave. The Taskforce also recommends placing Naloxboxes in government buildings (Village Hall and Public Works) to help the community become familiar with the boxes and its use.

We are currently in talks with the Park District, asking them to allow the placement of a box at two parks (Maple and Scoville) starting in Spring of 2023. The Opioid Taskforce has started conversations with CTA and the Oak Park Health Department will continue to partner with the Taskforce on moving these conversations forward.

The Health Department, in conjunction with the Township, will host community education and awareness messaging to inform residents about the location of these boxes, address common questions and concerns, and to destigmatize the use of this life-saving medication for people experiencing an opioid overdose.

The Health Department will also be responsible for refilling the boxes with naloxone, checking each box for vandalism and/or damage, and replacing boxes as necessary. We are proposing to start off with seven boxes throughout the community.

Funding

In 2021 and 2022, the Village of Oak Park received \$8,277.65 and \$8,699.41 respectively, through the Illinois Opioid Allocation Agreement. The Village will receive this funding for an additional 16 years. The exact annual amounts are currently unknown, but expected to be in line with what we received in 2021 and 2022.

Naloxboxes retail between \$70 and \$325. The Illinois Department of Public Health provides naloxone free of cost to certain communities based on demographics and overdose data. The Health Department has applied to receive this medication for free and expect to hear from the state by mid-February.

Prior to the state offering naloxone for free, the Health Department spent \$3,000 a year on naloxone. We would anticipate an increase cost to run this program of \$5,000 a year, since certain high-risk populations would be encouraged to take the naloxone to keep on their person in case of need.

Additional cost would be staff time to conduct community trainings, build partnerships, oversight of the Naloxboxes, metric development and data collection. The health education

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team would partner with the Prevention Services Manager at Oak Park Township, to conduct these trainings and outreach. Trainings would address:

- staff training for employees near Naloxbox locations
- community member implementation training
- stigma around addiction and providing harm reduction services

As demand for the Naloxboxes increase, we anticipate the number and types of training to shift.

Our epidemiologist will track the number of overdoses happening in the community, time and locations of overdoses, and frequency of refills necessary for each box in order to determine overall use and need.

We expect launching this project will require up to 10% of the Public Health Director's time over the coming three-months. In addition, implementation of this project will require 15% of the Health Education Manager's time and 5% of the epidemiologist's time for the duration of this project.

Community Partners

A successful Naloxbox program in Oak Park would benefit from the support and buy-in of various community partners with expertise in this subject area, as well as those entities in close proximity to sites where overdoses often occur. The Oak Park Public Library has agreed to partner with the Village on this project. The Opioid Taskforce supports this project and has agreed to be a community partner as well.

Next Steps

Logistics plan (February through April 2023)

1. Determine locations
2. Create MOUs for installation on non-Village owned property
3. Acquire Naloxboxes
4. Determine installation logistics and install boxes
5. Create a maintenance plan inclusive of
 - a. Stocking and restocking boxes
 - b. Vandalism/ box repair versus replacement
6. Acquire naloxone and fentanyl strips
7. Create community specific educational materials for placement in/on the physical box (how to use naloxone, and resources for people addicted to opioids)
8. Create metrics and tracking system

Education and Communication plan (February through April 2023)

1. Create educational materials for how bystanders should use boxes to respond to a person having an opioid crisis
2. Education of the community on:

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- a. What a person who is experiencing an overdose looks like
- b. What a bystander can do to help a person having an overdose
- c. What to expect after giving a person naloxone
- d. Why a harm reduction approach is needed to combat the opioid crisis
- e. Laws and liability around providing naloxone to people in the community

The Public Health Department will spend February through April creating training materials, offering trainings the public, and addressing the logistical needs of installing and maintaining Naloxboxes in the community. We anticipate implementation of Naloxboxes to occur in May 2023.

Please contact Dr. Theresa Chapple, Public Health Department Director, with any questions at tchapple@oak-park.us or 708-358-5482.

Attachments

Heat maps of illicit drug overdoses

References

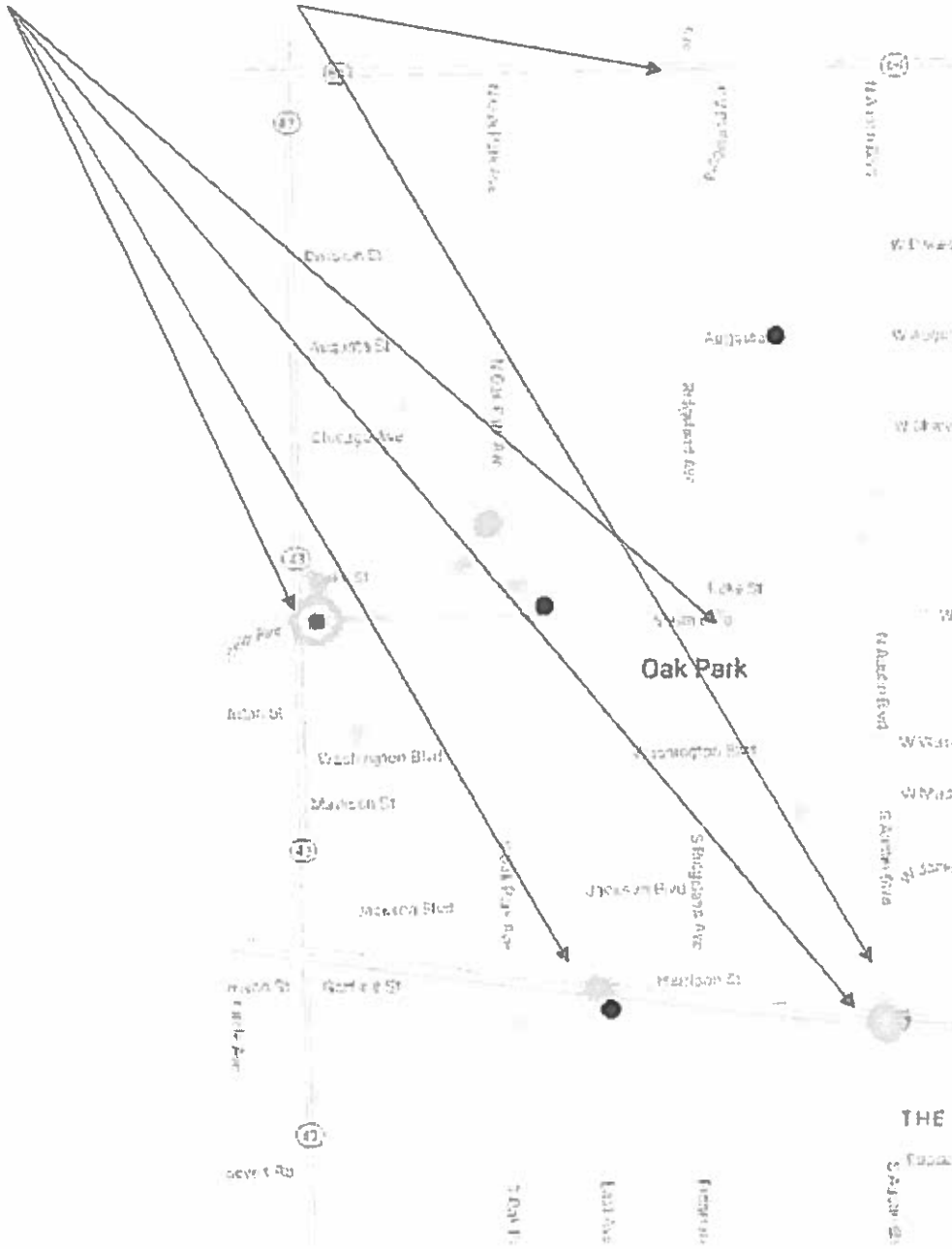
Cc: Lisa Shelley, Deputy Village Manager
Ahmad Zayyad, Deputy Village Manager
Christina M. Waters, Village Clerk
All Department Directors

Heat Map: Poisoning/ Drug Ingestion

April 25 2022- January 23 2023

Provided by The Village of Oak Park Fire Department

CTA Locations, Gas stations,



Attachment

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