

TITLE: Provincial Availability of Naloxone

SPONSOR: Windsor-Essex County Board of Health

WHEREAS approximately 50,000 Ontarians are addicted to opioids; and

WHEREAS opioids may cause fatal overdoses if taken incorrectly; and

WHEREAS 5,935 fatal opioid-related overdoses occur in Ontario between 1991 and 2010; and

WHEREAS opioid-related overdoses account for 12.1% of the deaths among 25-34 year olds and rose from 3.3% of the deaths to 12.1% of the deaths of that population from 1991-2010; and

WHEREAS a harm reduction program to address opioid overdoses is consistent with the requirements of the Ontario Public Health Standards to prevent substance misuse; and

WHEREAS naloxone is a medication that can reverse the symptoms of an opioid overdose, potentially reducing harm; and

WHEREAS naloxone is a medication without additive or abusive properties and has no “street” value; and

WHEREAS several Ontario Public Health Units have successfully implemented their own local naloxone programs, effectively reversing opioid overdoses; and

WHEREAS the provincial Expert Working Group on Narcotic Addiction has recommended that the ministry “increase and sustain the availability of naloxone overdose prevention kits and harm reduction information via public health units across the province”; and

WHEREAS current opioid overdose prevention programs, including those at Public Health Units, are limited in their service to at-risk populations by the types of programs – Public Health Units that manage a core needle Exchange program (NEP), community-based organizations that have been contracted by Public Health Units to manage an NEP, and Ministry-funded Hepatitis C Teams – as well which clients they can serve, i.e., those currently enrolled in an NEP;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Association of Local Public Health Agencies requests that the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care develop and implement a provincial Naloxone Strategy that would include and expand access to Naloxone to a minimum of:

continued

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- Not-for-profit agencies, Emergency Departments, Correctional Facilities, Paramedics/Emergency Medical Technicians, and organizations that service individuals at risk of opioid overdose,
- Individuals that prescribe to, support and/or care for individuals at risk of opioid overdose, and
- Any individual living in Ontario that is 16 years of age and older and dependent on opioids;

AND FURTHER that the Premier of Ontario, the Minister of Health and Long-Term Care, the Associate Minister of Health and Long-Term Care, the Chief Medical Officer of Health for Ontario, Public Health Ontario, the Centre for Addiction and Mental Health, the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Ontario, the Ontario Public Health Association, and the Association of Municipalities of Ontario, the Expert Working Group on Narcotic Addiction and the Municipal Drug Strategy Co-ordinator's Network of Ontario be so advised.

ACTION FROM CONFERENCE:

Resolution CARRIED AS AMENDED