



Rowan County Health Department
1811 East Innes Street – Salisbury, NC 28146-6030

MEMO

To: Rowan County Board of Commissioners
CC: Aaron Church, County Manager
From: Alyssa Harris, Public Health Director
Subject: North Carolina Grants to Prevent Prescription Drug/Opioid Overdose-Related Deaths (PDO)
Date: November 7, 2022

Situation:

The North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services Division of Mental Health, Developmental Disabilities, and Substance Abuse Services has identified Rowan County as one of eighteen counties in the state, who are deemed high need for prescription drug and opioid overdose-related program development. Rowan County Public Health is requesting permission to apply for a four year, \$50,000 a year grant to provide Narcan nasal spray to all first responders, as part of a goal to enhance their ability to treat an opioid overdose, in a timelier and consistent manner in partnership with the Rowan County Emergency Services.

Background:

According to the most recent data from the Rowan County HOPE team, since the July 2019, Rowan County emergency services has documented 2,122 opioid overdoses, and 124 opioid fatalities. Rowan County HOPE team has also been responsible for distributing 1,564 Narcan kits into the community. Although the HOPE team has a great reach within the community, by creating a meaningful and strategic partnership with Rowan County Emergency Services we can ensure all first responders will be able to arrive on any scenes prepared to respond to an overdose with Narcan. On average, a responder can reach a location within five minutes for Law Enforcement and eight minutes for Fire and Emergency Services. Currently there are 9 EMS bases, 10 ambulances, 4 Community Paramedics, 28 fire departments, and 40 fire stations throughout the county. The Rowan County Sheriff's department has two locations and there are nine municipal police departments.

Assessment:

Implementation of this Narcan distribution plan with Rowan County Emergency Services within will allow us the expand the number of first responder can respond to and reverse an opioid overdose in a timely way. This plan will also allow for RCPH to respond to the opioid epidemic through a rural equity lens and by shifting its mindset to be broad and community centric.

Recommendation:

We respectfully ask the Board of Commissioners allow RCPH to apply for \$50,000 in funding for year one of four to implement first responder Narcan distribution and training plan, with plans to ensure that all first responders in Rowan have Narcan and receive the necessary training to respond to an opioid overdose. Funding in year one will go towards paying Narcan nasal spray for all first responders.