



June 18, 2024

Board of Supervisors
County of Ventura
800 South Victoria Avenue
Ventura, CA 93009

Subject: Approval of the Naloxone for Overdose Response - Ventura County Library policy; Approval of, and Authorization for the Ventura County Library Director to Sign, a Ventura County Overdose Prevention Institutional Program Assurance Form Agreement; and Authorize the Library Director to Make Non-Material Changes to the Assurance Form Agreement, subject to Approval by County Counsel.

Recommendations:

It is recommended that your Board:

1. Approve the Naloxone for Overdose Response - Ventura County Library policy.
2. Approve, and authorize the Ventura County Library Director to sign, a Ventura County Overdose Prevention Institutional Program Assurance Form Agreement to implement Naloxone institutional rescue kits at the Ventura County libraries.
3. Delegate authority to the Library Director to make non-material changes to the Assurance Form Agreement, subject to the approval of County Counsel.

Fiscal/Mandates Impact: None

Background:

According to Ventura County Behavioral Health (VCBH), in Ventura County in 2021 there were 269 accidental overdose deaths with opioids being the main drivers of those deaths, specifically, extremely potent fentanyl. In 2021, 164 accidental overdose deaths involved fentanyl. Naloxone is a drug that can temporarily stop many of the life-threatening effects of overdoses from opioids (including fentanyl, heroin and prescription opioid medications) and can help restore normal breathing within two to three minutes and reverse the sedation and unconsciousness that are common during an opioid overdose. This allows time for emergency services to arrive and treat the overdose victim. Naloxone may be administered by injection or nasal spray. Naloxone only

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affects people who are experiencing an opioid overdose. Any opioid user is at risk for an opioid overdose.

VCBH recommends that institutions that serve those at high risk of overdose along with institutions that are open to the public, should consider including naloxone in their first aid supplies and provide naloxone training to staff and volunteers.

Strategic Plan:

This project directly supports the County of Ventura strategic goal to meet/sustain basic needs and be a reliable safety net for our vulnerable populations.

Discussion:

As a busy public institution, Ventura County Library administrators met with VCBH representatives to discuss the implementation of the Naloxone Institutional Rescue Kit program that would place naloxone in first aid supplies at the libraries. Library administrators conducted a staff survey in February 2024 to determine if staff members believed the program at the libraries would be beneficial, and if they would be interested in volunteering to administer Naloxone in emergencies. With a 42% response rate, 69% of the staff members who responded indicated they were in favor of the program being implemented in the libraries, while 82% of those staff members indicated they would be willing to be trained to administer Naloxone.

To participate in the program, the Ventura County Library must follow protocol outlined in the Ventura County Overdose Prevention Program Institutional Program Protocol guide (Exhibit 1) and agree to the Ventura County Overdose Prevention Institutional Program Assurance Agreement form (Exhibit 2). As a condition of receiving Ventura County Overdose Prevention Program Rescue Kits for people suffering, or reasonably believed to be suffering from an opioid overdose, VCBH requires the Library Director or designee to be responsible to ensure Program Assurance compliance.

Program Assurance responsibilities include:

- Training of staff
- Monitoring kit inventory
- Responding to Overdose Prevention Program communications in a timely manner.
- Submitting data after Naloxone Administration within 24 hours.
- Completion and submission of annual documentation to Ventura County Behavioral Health, Prevention Services (VCBH)
- Ensuring proper disposal of all expired medication
- Retention of records for two years

A complete list of Ventura County Library's responsibilities under this Assurance Form Agreement, along with the complete Institutional Program Protocols, are outlined in the Ventura County Overdose Prevention Program Institutional Program Protocol guide. The Assurance Form Agreement term will start on July 1, 2024 and will continue until terminated by either party.

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Either party can terminate the Agreement with, or without, cause upon providing 30-day written notice.

We are asking your Board to approve the Naloxone for Overdose Response - Ventura County Library policy (Exhibit 3) that states that trained managers and employees (voluntary only) can respond to opioid overdose events among patrons, visitors, co-workers, and other members of the public using the life-saving medication naloxone in accordance with the Overdose Prevention and Education Project Standing Order dated May 25, 2023 issued by Dr. Uldine Castel of Ventura County Public Health (Exhibit 4). We are also asking your Board to approve, and authorize the Ventura County Library Director to sign, the Ventura County Overdose Prevention Institutional Program Assurance Form Agreement to implement Naloxone institutional rescue kits at the Ventura County Library.

Your Board is also requested to delegate authority to the Library Director to make non-material changes to the agreement, subject to the approval of County Counsel.

This board letter and Agreement have been reviewed by the County Executive Office and the Auditor-Controller's Office. If you have questions regarding this item, please call Nancy Schram at 677-7158.



Nancy Schram
Library Director

- Exhibit 1: Ventura County Overdose Prevention Program Institutional Program Protocol guide
- Exhibit 2: Ventura County Overdose Prevention Institutional Program Assurance Agreement form
- Exhibit 3: Naloxone for Overdose Response - Ventura County Library policy
- Exhibit 4: Overdose Prevention and Education Project Standing Order dated May 25, 2023