



The Naloxone kit has two uses of Naloxone, along with a mouth cover for CPR.

Medina County Health Department expands Project DAWN program to the Hope Recovery Community



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MEDINA — Hope Recovery Community partnered with the Medina County Health Department in May to expand Project DAWN (Deaths Avoided With Naloxone) into additional locations due to a new grant from the Ohio Department of Health.

“It opens the doors to accessing a life-saving drug and so it's been great to be able to connect our community to Narcan training,” said Stefanie Robinson, executive director of Hope Recovery Community.

According to the Ohio Department of Health, naloxone, also known as Narcan, is a medication that can reverse an overdose caused by an opioid drug such as heroin, illicit fentanyl or prescription pain medications. For more than 40 years, Naloxone has been used by emergency medical professionals for the prevention of overdose death.

The Ohio Department of Health said: “When administered during an overdose, naloxone blocks the effects of opioids on the brain and quickly restores breathing.”

Project DAWN started in 2012 in Portsmouth in honor of Leslie Dawn Cooper, who died from an opioid overdose in Oct. 2009. Now, as of August, there are more than 270 naloxone distribution sites covering 65 out of the 88 counties in Ohio, with 96 Project DAWN programs registered.

In 2015, the Ohio Department of Health issued Project DAWN for Medina County, which the Medina County Department of Health then implemented. Any interested community members can reach out to the health department to set up an appointment. During the appointment, community members will learn about Project DAWN, be trained on how to use naloxone and given a free naloxone kit.

Currently, Medina County is receiving two grants to assist with the Project DAWN program.

The first is through the Ohio Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services to help provide first responders with the kits. The Medina County Health Department has continued to receive this grant since 2015. Kits originally were given only to police departments, but are expanding to the fire and rescue departments.

In 2020, the health department received a new grant from the Ohio Health Department called Integrated Naloxone to help expand the distribution of naloxone and engage community

partners.

With this grant, the health department is now working with other organizations, like Hope Recovery Community, to help expand the work of Project DAWN throughout the county. Currently, the health department is working with other prospective locations in Lodi, Brunswick and Wadsworth.

With new locations throughout the county, this offers the opportunity for widespread distribution of the kits, along with providing those with limited transportation the benefits of Project DAWN.

At Hope Recovery Community, four staff members can train and disperse the Naloxone kits to community members. The four staff members allow for community members to walk in without an appointment and most likely have someone there to train them — if there is not someone in at the moment, there will be someone accessible to come in and provide those services. No appointment is needed, but to ensure there is someone there, community members can call ahead.

“It's amazing how much we are dispensing now through Hope Recovery Community,” said Holly Phillips, one of the nurses involved with Project DAWN.

There have been 90 Naloxone kits distributed in Medina County this year, with five known overdose reversals.

“If this tool of Narcan and Project DAWN can save a life — which it does every day — we all need to be equipped and we all need to be able to help each other out,” Robinson said. “I am just really excited that there's an increase in accessibility here in Medina County and around the state of Ohio.”

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