



Administrative Report

Office of the Deputy Chief, Essex-Windsor EMS

To: Warden McNamara and Members of Essex County Council

From: Justin Lammers
Deputy Chief, Essex-Windsor EMS

Date: Wednesday, April 07, 2021

Subject: Naloxone Program Distribution Agreement

Report #: 2021-0407-EMS-R002-JL

Purpose

To recommend that County Council authorize the Warden and Clerk to execute the agreement between the County of Essex (Essex Windsor EMS) and the Windsor Essex County Health Unit (WECHU) (Appendix I) for the future distribution of Naloxone kits as a component of the VPN program and specifically the Mental Health and Addictions Response Team (MHART) .

Background

The expansion of the Vulnerable Patient Navigator program to include MHART was approved in the 2021 Budget. MHART will be a new component to VPN which will focus on the population EMS currently responds to with mental health and addictions related concerns in our community. In 2020, mental health related calls was approximately 6% of the total call volume or 3,667 responses, while calls for those suffering from Substance Use Disorder (SUD) comprised 2% or 1,671 requests for service.

Discussion

MHART will be comprised of a first response unit staffed with 1 VPN and 1 mental health and addictions expert from another health care organization within our community, 7 days a week. The hours of staffing will correspond with peak 911 call volumes for mental health and addictions. Responding alongside a regular transport unit, MHART will have the ability to provide a higher level of support and/or transport the patient to the most appropriate destination, thereby freeing up a front-line ambulance for high acuity calls. MHART will also have the ability to remain on scene, after a front-line ambulance departs, or to liaise with the patient at the hospital to facilitate, advocate, coordinate and educate them on access to further supports. MHART has the ability to support referrals from the Emergency Departments to facilitate a safe discharge, from front-line EMS for those patients who have refused transport to the Emergency Department or for those who are utilizing EMS resources repeatedly.

Patients who experience Substance Use Disorder, will have the opportunity to receive education and assistance based on 3 of the 4 pillars of Windsor-Essex Community Opioid and Substance Strategy (WECOSS). Essex Windsor EMS has been a keen partner of the WECOSS since its inception and continues to support where possible.

Through Prevention and Education, MHART will support interventions that seek to prevent or delay substance use and prevent problematic substance use, by engaging at risk populations, participating in community education workshops, public awareness campaigns and championing best practices amongst patients, colleagues and community members.

Through Treatment and Recovery, MHART will effectively link all patients experiencing Substance Use Disorder with access to local treatment and recovery options. This will include following up with those who have previously interacted with EMS or are discharged from Emergency Departments in our region. Again, championing best practices and remaining an enabler for those looking for treatment and recovery supports and services.

The Harm Reduction pillar will be addressed with the distribution of replacement Naloxone kits through the Ontario Naloxone Program – Expanded Access (ONP-EA). This program is intended for those who have experienced an opioid related overdose, or for the family and/or friends left on scene after the ambulance has departed.

The replacement Naloxone kit is partnered with education and information on local treatment and recovery options. Making a connection with the patient, family and/or friends is another key component in ensuring that those suffering from Substance Use Disorder, are never truly alone.

The ONP-EA requires EMS to maintain inventory management processes to reduce stockpiling and wastage, which is an internal process Essex Windsor EMS already has, within Planning and Physical Resources. Monthly orders will ensure minimal balances are equipped to meet sudden surges in demand and will consider order processing and shipping time requirements. As well, EMS will collect and provide valuable data to WECHU on a quarterly basis, such as:

- Number of individuals trained to administer Naloxone
- Number of Naloxone kits distributed to individuals
- Number of individual/bystanders who reported administering or receiving Naloxone
- Information about drug trends in your community, if any
- A need for Naloxone in your community that is not being filled, if any

Financial Implications

The Ontario Naloxone Program – Expanded Access has no financial implications as the Naloxone kits are provided and paid for by WECHU.

Recommendation

That Essex County Council authorize the Warden and Clerk to execute the agreement between the County of Essex (Essex Windsor EMS) and the Windsor Essex County Health Unit (WECHU) for the Ontario Naloxone Program Expanded Access.

Respectfully Submitted

Justin Lammers

Justin Lammers, Deputy Chief Essex-Windsor EMS

Concurred With,

Bruce Krauter

Bruce Krauter, Chief Essex-Windsor EMS

Concurred With,

Mike Galloway

Mike Galloway, Chief Administrative Officer

Appendix Number	Title
I	Naloxone Program Distribution Agreement