**Use of Naloxone**

Department: Emergency Shelter

Approved By: Planning Team

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Policy

The Gateway of Hope recognizes the benefits of Naloxone injections for persons experiencing possible overdose related to illicit substance misuse. As such, Naloxone will not be considered a restricted substance and its use on Gateway of Hope premises will be guided by the following principles and procedures:

Background:

* + - Naloxone is a drug known more commonly by the trade name Narcan
    - Naloxone reverses the effects of overdosing on natural and synthetic opioids including heroin, methadone, morphine and oxycodone
    - Death and/or disability caused by heroin or pharmaceutical opioids overdose are preventable by administering a dose of Naloxone
    - Naloxone has no other action than to reduce the adverse effect of heroin and other opioids
    - It is not a drug of dependence, and therefore, is not a drug which is likely to be diverted or misused
    - Naloxone requires a prescription for use by the client/resident

Procedure

Gateway of Hope residential staff will be oriented in the properties and use of Naloxone. Training in the use of Naloxone will not be mandatory. However, staff who wish to be trained in the administration of its use may make a request to their supervisor who will arrange for the appropriate training to be provided. Furthermore, staff will not be compelled under this policy to administer Naloxone, without first contacting 911 and following the instructions provided by ambulance services personnel.

Upon intake to the emergency shelter staff will ask guests if they are in possession of a Naloxone kit. Gateway of Hope staff will not restrict guests from possessing the Naloxone kits on property, or in programs. Guests will be encouraged to refrain from administering an injection to other guests themselves, unless authorized by the 911 ambulance services personnel.

Guests who have misused or altered the Naloxone kit for the intention of illicit substance abuse will be considered to be in possession of drug paraphernalia. This behavior will be addressed as per the Guest Behavioral Guide.

At the present time, the Gateway of Hope will not be providing Naloxone kits for staff or guest use in our building. At this time the kits are only prescribed by medical authorities to opioid users unless purchased from a pharmacy.

However, given the fast changing landscape of harm reduction interventions, this policy may be subject to change with relatively short notice.