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**Narcan Training to be Offered to Public**

***Local agencies respond to opioid epidemic, distribute Narcan kits***

**Derry, NH** – Responding to the dramatic increase in opioid overdoses locally and deaths statewide, local agencies are partnering to offer critical life safety training to the public.

A training on Narcan administration will be held on June 8th at 7 p.m. at Barka School Gym, 21 East Gate Road in Derry. Narcan is an emergency treatment used to reverse life-threatening effects associated with an opioid overdose. This free training is open to the public and no personal information will be collected.

The training will include information on local substance abuse resources, the importance of early access to emergency responders (calling 911), a demonstration on CPR/rescue breathing, and hands-on experience with administering Narcan. At the conclusion of the training participants will receive a free Narcan kit that can be used to respond to an opioid overdose.

Derry Fire Department and Professional Firefighters of Derry will lead the training on these potentially life-saving measures.

“Narcan can save a life, but it is only one piece of the puzzle,” said Scott Haggart, a Battalion Chief with Derry Fire Department and a member of the planning committee for the training. “Our goal is to train the public on signs and symptoms of overdose, the immediate actions they should take to get responders to the scene and to ensure everyone’s safety, and steps to stabilize and potentially revive an individual who has overdosed.”

According to data collected by Derry Fire Department, there have been 161 suspected opioid overdoses in Derry since January 2014. Approximately one-third of those overdoes occurred in individuals ages 25-34.

New Hampshire Department of Health and Human Services is providing the Narcan kits for the Derry training.

Mariann White, the regional Substance Misuse Prevention Coordinator with Community Alliance for Teen Safety, explains that the training is part of a statewide effort to tackle the opioid epidemic across a continuum of care. “With support from the state, we are working to get Narcan kits and proper training to individuals with opioid addiction and their families and friends. At the same time, there are also significant efforts being made to expand access to recovery services.” Representatives from local agencies that support addiction prevention, treatment, and recovery services will be available at the training to provide information and referral.

Local agencies partnering to organize the training include Center for Life Management, Community Alliance for Teen Safety, Derry Fire Department and Professional Firefighters of Derry, Greater Derry Community Health Services, and South Central Public Health Network.

For more information about the training please contact the Derry Fire Department or to request information about opioid addiction and Narcan please contact the NH Statewide Addiction Crisis Line at 1-844-711-HELP.

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