



Board Decision Form

TOPIC: *NCACH and Beacon Health Option Partnership on Narcan Vending Machines*

PURPOSE: *Review and approve NCACH partnership with Beacon Health Options to place Narcan Vending Machines in North Central Washington*

BOARD ACTION:

- Information Only
- Board Motion to approve/disapprove

BACKGROUND:

While the world has undoubtedly been impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic, another epidemic continues to kill Americans: opioid drug overdoses. According to the Centers for Disease Control, overdose deaths have accelerated in the United States since the onset of the pandemic. Over 81,000 overdose deaths occurred nationally in the 12 months ending in May 2020, the highest number of overdose deaths ever recorded in a 12-month period.

While NCACH has continued its harm reduction efforts by distributing 800 doses of Narcan to organizations throughout our network since Fall 2020, we're hearing from individuals struggling from substance use disorder, their families and loved ones that the stigma of obtaining Narcan and being labeled as a drug user is still a barrier preventing those who are at most risk of overdosing from obtaining these medications. As a part of our strategy of developing a recovery continuum of care, those in active addiction need unfettered access to this medication no matter what their situation, and this access should be separate from other services they receive from community-based partners and healthcare systems.

This Spring, NCACH has been working with Beacon Health Options to identify ways to utilize unspent Substance Abuse Block Grant Funding available for the North Central Region that are set to expire on June 30th, 2021 (this month). A key focus of those conversations has been to develop a method for Narcan distribution that helps remove an individual's concern of that stigma by developing a low-barrier process to access this harm reduction intervention.

One innovative method being proposed is the utilization of Narcan Vending machines. Stocked with things like Narcan (naloxone) nasal spray, wound-cleaning kits, and other health-promotion materials, the machines provide a low-barrier and anonymous access to lifesaving medications, reducing the number of fatal overdoses in the communities they serve. In May 2021, NCACH connected with the Center for Behavioral Health in Las Vegas, Nevada, who successfully implemented these machines in 2019. We've also connected with the Washington State Department



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of Health and Public Health Seattle King County, who are hoping to establish similar harm-reduction / overdose reversal vending machines in King County, WA.

Learn more about Narcan Vending Machines throughout the United States here:

- *Narcan now available in some vending machines in Las Vegas*, April 2019, ABC Action News: <https://www.abcactionnews.com/conquering-addiction/narcan-now-available-in-some-vending-machines-in-las-vegas>
- *Chicago Group Piloting Overdose-Reversal Vending Machines*, October 2020, Next City: <https://nextcity.org/daily/entry/chicago-group-piloting-overdose-reversal-vending-machines>

Through conversations with Beacon Health Options and community partners, NCACH staff have already identified two key sites within North Central Washington to host these machines in their locations, as well as additional partners who are supportive of this approach as one of several strategies in our recovery continuum of care, and may even serve as host sites in the future.

Last week, NCACH received a draft scope of work from Beacon Health that outlined deliverables, potential cost expenditures that allocates up to \$80,000 of substance abuse block grant funding for the purchase of Narcan vending machines and enough supplies to stock the machines for 9 months. The Goals and objectives of the agreement are to (1) Locate and collaborate with two strategic locations across the North Central Washington to place Narcan vending machines within their facilities, and (2) partner with locations to outreach and engage interested community members to access SUD treatments/supports for their long-term recovery. The Narcan would be free to anyone who needs it, and the vending machines will come with access to a virtual training video on how to safely administer Narcan in the event of an overdose.

If NCACH enters into this agreement, we would be responsible for procuring the vending machines and Narcan and then working with those specific sites to set up the process of distribution and data collection. Beacon Health Options is prepared to commit \$80,000 to this project, and has asked NCACH to lead partnership development, and serve as the fiscal lead for the project.

If this project proceeds forward, it would be the first ever Narcan vending machines in the State of Washington. If successful, this could be the catalyst for other machines in our community and has the potential to transform how our communities distribute Narcan.

We believe that this innovative intervention will catalyze change in our region, provide much-needed access to Narcan, and save lives.

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PROPOSAL:

Authorize NCACH to partner with Beacon Health Options to place 2 Narcan Vending Machines in North Central Washington and supply machines with Narcan for approximately 9 months.

IMPACT/OPPORTUNITY (fiscal and programmatic):

- This will utilize remaining Substance Abuse Block Grant Funding in our region set to expire on June 30th, 2021
- Beacon Health Options will contribute \$80,000 to the implementation of the project. NCACH will cover any hosting fee expenditures for purchases made through Chelan Douglas Health District (Estimated around \$1,315)
- Project Budget is outlined below

Item	Qty	Cost per item	Total	Notes
Vending Machine	2	\$3,950	\$7,900	Quote is from vending.com. These funds will pay for (2) 25 unit machines specially fitted to Narcan boxes and include shipping, set-up, and maintenance.
Vending Machine wrap	2	\$100	\$200	For machines to be wrapped with the logo for the Central WA Recovery Coalition.
Narcan supplies for 9 months	960	\$75	\$72,000	NCACH uses Adapt Pharma as their Narcan vendor. Each box comes with two doses of Narcan. We calculate an average of 50 boxes of inventory per month per machine to ensure the machine is fully stocked for four months.
Hosting Fee	NA	NA	\$1,215	Estimated Chelan Douglas Health District 15% hosting fee on Vending Machine purchase
Total Budget			\$81,315	
Amount NCACH is responsible for			\$1,315	

TIMELINE:

- Approval of proposal would allow NCACH to finalize contracting with Beacon Health Options and purchase vending Machines and Narcan in June of 2021.
- The target date to have Machines available to dispense Narcan is August 2021.

Submitted By:
Submitted Date:
Staff Sponsor:

NCACH Staff
06/07/2021
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