

APR 02 2014

Ms. Barbara Henjum
Interim Director
Division of Behavioral Health
Alaska Department of Health and Social Services
3601 C Street, Suite 934
Anchorage, Alaska 99503

Dear Ms. Henjum:

The White House Office of National Drug Control Policy, Office of Demand Reduction in collaboration with the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services' (HHS) National Institutes for Health, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) are working together to respond to the emergent issue of heroin use and prescription drug misuse and associated heroin and prescription drug overdoses and deaths.

The HHS Behavioral Health Coordinating Committee's Prescription Drug Abuse Subcommittee produced a September 2013 report, "Addressing Prescription Drug Abuse in the United States: Current Activities and Future Opportunities," in response to section 1122 of the Food and Drug Administration Safety and Innovation Act of 2012 (P.L. 112-144) to improve the understanding of current prescription drug abuse activities. The report provides a review of current initiatives and identifies opportunities to ensure the safe use of prescription drugs with the potential for abuse and the treatment of prescription drug dependence. As described in the report, current HHS prescription drug abuse activities fall within the following eight domains: (1) surveillance; (2) drug abuse prevention; (3) patient and public education; (4) provider education; (5) clinical practice tools; (6) regulatory and oversight activities; (7) drug abuse treatment; and (8) overdose prevention.

SAMHSA's Center for Substance Abuse Treatment, Division of State and Community Assistance, in collaboration with the Center for Substance Abuse Prevention, Division of State Programs is responsible for the administration of SAMHSA's Substance Abuse Prevention and Treatment Block Grant (SABG) program. Consistent with subcommittee's report and the authorizing legislation (42 USC §§ 300x-21-35) and implementing regulation (45 CFR §§ 96.120-137), states and jurisdictions may obligate and expend SABG funds as follows:

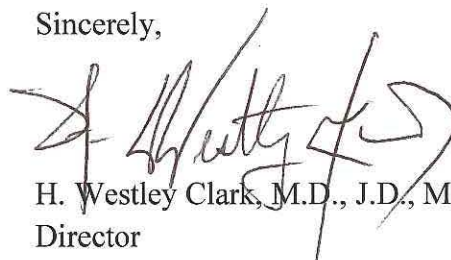
- Primary prevention set-aside funds may be utilized to support overdose prevention education and training consistent with 42 USC § 300x-22(a) and 45 CFR § 96.125; and
- SABG funds (other than primary prevention set-aside funds) may be utilized to purchase naloxone (Narcan®) and the necessary materials to assemble overdose kits and to cover the costs associated with the dissemination of such kits.

SAMHSA's Center for Substance Abuse Treatment, Division of Services Improvement administers a portfolio of discretionary substance abuse treatment programs of regional and national significance. Consistent with the subcommittee's report and the authorizing legislation (42 USC § 290bb-2), such treatment programs may obligate and expend discretionary grant funds in accordance with states laws.

- Discretionary grant recipients, i.e., community and faith-based organizations, may revise and resubmit a proposed budget SF 424a to the Office of Financial Resources' Division of Grants Management to repurpose some of the grant to purchase naloxone (Narcan®) and the necessary materials to assemble overdose kits.

SAMHSA recognizes the significant role of states and jurisdictions and the associations to address emergent issues such as heroin use and prescription drug misuse and acknowledge the innovative demand reduction strategies implemented by some states and jurisdictions to address such misuse, to prevent heroin use and prescription drug overdoses and to reduce the number of accidental deaths associated with such misuse. Enclosed is a list of federal and non-federal publications and technical assistance resources related to heroin and prescription drug abuse.

Sincerely,



H. Westley Clark, M.D., J.D., M.P.H., CAS, FASAM
Director
Center for Substance Abuse Treatment



Frances M. Harding
Director
Center for Substance Abuse Prevention

Enclosure

Federal Resources

- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (<http://www.cdc.gov>)
 - Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report (<http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/>)
CDC Grand Rounds: Prescription Drug Overdoses – a U.S. Epidemic (MMWR/January 13, 2012/Vol. 61/No. 1)
<http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/pdf/wk/mm6101.pdf>
 - National Center for Health Statistics
 - Healthy People 2020 Progress Review
Substance Abuse and Mental Disorders: Early Detection, Prevention and Treatment
http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/ppt/hp2020/hp2020_MH_MD_and_SA_progress_review_presentation.pdf
 - National Center on Violence and Injury Prevention and Control
 - Saving Lives and Protecting People: Preventing Prescription Painkiller Overdoses
 - Vital Signs “Prescription Painkiller Overdoses in the US, November 2011”
<http://www.cdc.gov/vitalsigns/painkilleroverdoses/index.html>
 - Vital Signs “Prescription and Painkiller Overdoses: Use and Abuse of Methadone as a Painkiller, July 2012”
<http://www.cdc.gov/vitalsigns/methadoneoverdoses/index.html>
 - Drug Overdose in the United States – Fact Sheet
<http://www.cdc.gov/homeandrecreationalafety/overdose/facts.html>
 - Public Health Law Program (<http://www.cdc.gov/phlp/>)
 - Prescription Drug Overdose: State Laws
<http://www.cdc.gov/HomeandRecreationalSafety/Poisoning/laws/index.html>
 - Office of Communications
 - Division of News and Electronic Media
Opioids drive continued increase drug overdose deaths, February 20, 2013
http://www.cdc.gov/media/releases/2013/p0220_drug_overdose_deaths.html
- Food and Drug Administration
 - Center for Drug Evaluation and Research
 - Division of Drug Information
 - Misuse of Prescription Pain Relievers
<http://www.fda.gov/Drugs/ResourcesForYou/Consumers/BuyingUsingMedicineSafely/MisuseofPrescriptionPainRelievers/default.htm>

- National Institutes of Health (<http://www.nih.gov>)
 - National Institute on Drug Abuse (<http://www.drugabuse.gov>)
 - Research Report, "Prescription Drugs: Abuse and Addiction"
<http://www.drugabuse.gov/publications/research-reports/prescription-drugs>
 - NIDAMED
<http://www.drugabuse.gov/nidamed/etools>
- Office of National Drug Control Policy
 - "Epidemic: Responding to America's Prescription Drug Abuse Crisis"
http://www.whitehouse.gov/sites/degault/files/ondcp/policy-and-research/rx_abuse_plan.pdf
- Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (<http://www.samhsa.gov>)
 - Center for Behavioral Health Statistics and Quality
 - Division of Surveillance and Data Collection
2012 National Survey on Drug Use and Health (NSDUH)
http://www.samhsa.gov/data/NSDUH/2k12MH_FindingsandDetTables/Index.aspx
The NHSDUH Report: Non-Medical Use of Prescription-Type Drugs, by County Type, April 11, 20013
<http://www.samhsa.gov/data/2k13/NSDUH098/sr098-UrbanRuralRxMisuse.htm>
 - Center for Substance Abuse Treatment
 - Division of Services Improvement
 - Addiction Technology Transfer Center
<http://www.attcnetwork.org>
 - Connect to Fight Prescription Drug Abuse
<http://www.attcnetwork.org/topics/rxabuse/home/htm>
 - Division of Pharmacologic Therapies
 - Opioid Overdose Toolkit
http://store.samhsa.gov/shin/content/SMA13-4742/Overdose_Toolkit_2014_Jan.pdf
- United States Department of Health and Human Services
 - Office of the Secretary
 - Behavioral Health Coordinating Committee Prescription Drug Abuse Subcommittee
"Addressing Prescription Drug Abuse in the United States: Current Activities and Future Opportunities," September 2013
http://www.cdc.gov/HomeandRecreationalSafety/overdose/hhs_rx_abuse/html