**Naloxone Use**

Naloxone, or Narcan, is a prescription nasal spray that reverses opioid drug overdose by temporarily blocking the drug’s effects. Naloxone kits are located in the Arcadia Drop-in Center in the staff office area, and in the shelter lock box. Staff may only administer naloxone if they have received the appropriate training. If you are interested in receiving this training, please speak with your direct supervisor. All kits must remain at the agency.

Naloxone is safe to administer to anyone, including children, pregnant women, and the elderly. If naloxone is administered to an individual who is not overdosing on an opioid, the drug will have no negative effect.

Symptoms of an opioid overdose can include unconsciousness, lethargy, and confusion, as well as shallow or no breathing. You may also notice a change in skin color, especially the lips and fingernails. If you see someone you think is suffering from an opioid overdose:

1. **Try to rouse the individual.** Yell their name and rake your fingers into their breastbone (sternum rub). If you have to leave the person, put them on their side in the rescue position. If it is during programming, safely clear the floor if possible.
2. **Call 911**, or have someone else call 911 if possible. Tell them where you are and that you are with someone who is not responding and not breathing. When the medics arrive, tell them what drugs the person was taking (if you know).
3. **Begin rescue breathing.** Make sure the airway is not blocked, and put your cheek near the person’s nose/mouth to check for breathing. If they are not breathing, begin rescue breaths. Tilt their head back, pinch their nostrils closed with one hand, make a seal over their mouth with yours (use protective mask if available), and give 2 breaths. Then, give 1 slow breath every 5 seconds.
4. **Administer Naloxone** according to directions in pack. Half of one dose should go in each nostril.
5. **Continue rescue breathing for 3-5 minutes.** If the person does not respond, administer a second dose.

When paramedics arrive, continue rescue breathing until they instruct you to stop or until they can take over. Inform them of the situation and remain nearby in case you’re needed and to advocate for the individual if necessary.

**We may not, under any circumstances, transport anyone who is currently having a medical emergency. We may not transport an individual directly following Naloxone administration. Paramedics MUST be called.**

When you are able, complete an incident report and submit it to your direct supervisor.