



CHICAGO WESTSIDE HEROIN/ OPIOID TASK FORCE

Strategy to Prevent Fatal Overdoses

1. Publicize the importance of naloxone (Narcan) to prevent fatal overdoses
2. Publicize that the heroin/opioid overdose death rate in some communities like North Lawndale is 7 times higher than Illinois' rate and 3 times higher than Chicago's rate
3. Increase the supply of naloxone in high-risk communities – example of West Side Heroin/Opioid Task Force in obtaining grant procured by Rep. Ford to do community education and distribution of naloxone
4. Publicize Standing Order by Illinois Department of Public Health (no prescription needed from a doctor to obtain naloxone from a pharmacy)
5. Announce a campaign for all Medicaid clients to go to a pharmacy to get a free Narcan kit – the goal is to have every home have Narcan like every home has smoke detectors
6. Have people with private insurance also have access to Narcan at an affordable price - Rep. Ford went to Walgreens to obtain Narcan, and his co-payment was \$125 - A Medicare client went to Walgreens too, and the cost was the same - not affordable
7. Call on pharmaceutical and insurance companies reduce costs and reduce co-payments on Narcan
8. Pass Rep. Ford's House Bill 3879, which extends Good Samaritan protections when naloxone is given, by providing that a person who, in good faith, seeks or obtains emergency medical assistance for someone experiencing an overdose shall not be deemed to violate his or her conditions of aftercare release (for a juvenile) or conditions of parole or mandatory supervised release
9. Emphasize that to achieve a sustained reduction in overdose deaths, naloxone distribution must be coupled with information and referral to Medication Assisted Treatment for opioid use disorder, using buprenorphine [Suboxone], methadone, or other medications, along with counseling

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