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For Immediate Release
Contact: Joel Avery, 215-917-1618
averyjoel@yahoo.com

City's Behavioral Health Department Offering Free Narcan Trainings to the General Public in Effort to Curb Skyrocketing Opioid Overdose Deaths

PHILADELPHIA (September 18, 2017) – With the city on pace to record more than 1,200 drug overdose deaths this year – far surpassing last year's count of 907 – and with an estimated 70,000 people in Philadelphia currently using heroin daily while thousands more are abusing other opioids, the Department of Behavioral Health and Intellectual disAbility Services (DBHIDS) is offering free trainings to the general public on how to administer the life-saving opioid overdose antidote Narcan (Naloxone).

Trainings are aimed at saving lives and reducing Philadelphia's skyrocketing number of opioid overdose deaths. In addition to learning how to properly administer Narcan to resuscitate a person who is experiencing an opioid overdose, members of the general public who attend a training session will receive a standing order prescription for the antidote and a list of local pharmacies that typically stock the medication. Trainings kick off September 20th in Center City and run monthly through December.

"Our goal here is to save as many lives as possible so we are strongly encouraging people in communities across the city to come out and learn the life-saving techniques of opioid overdose rescue and how to apply those techniques in an opioid overdose situation," said DBHIDS Commissioner David T. Jones. "The more people in our communities who become trained on how to properly administer Narcan to an overdose victim, the more opioid overdose deaths we will be in a position to prevent."

Upon completing the two-hour training, participants should be able to correctly identify the combinations of drugs, pharmaceuticals and medications individuals are using as a part of the opioid epidemic; indicators of opioid overdose such as very small pupils, deep snoring and unresponsiveness; opioid overdose risk factors such as using heroin after abstaining and switching from smoking or snorting heroin to injecting it; and harm reduction approaches to drug use and misuse.

Participants should also be able to characterize the particulars of the opioid epidemic that are unique to Philadelphia, explain the laws relevant to protecting those who respond to someone who overdosed or call emergency services and identify the

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immediate protocols for effectively administering the life-saving medication Narcan (Naloxone) to help prevent opioid overdose fatalities.

The DBHIDS Narcan overdose prevention trainings will take place at 801 Market Street from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. on September 20th, October 18th, November 15th and December 13th. Registration is required. Please click [here](#) to register.

Note: Narcan (Naloxone) has a limited shelf life (two years) so it's encouraged that the medication be accessed using a standing order prescription when someone is at imminent risk of overdose. A person would satisfy their co-payment for the medication with the standing order in accordance with their insurance plan.

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Philadelphia Department of Behavioral Health and Intellectual disAbility Service
1101 Market Street, Philadelphia, PA 19107 | DBHIDScommunications@phila.gov
215.685.5440 | Twitter: @DBHIDS | Facebook: DBHIDS