

**REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH & HOSPITALS**

**May 29, 2013**

**PUBLIC HEARING**

The Honorable,  
The Board of Commissioners of Cook County

**SECTION 1**

**ATTENDANCE**

Present: Chairman Butler, Vice Chairman Goslin, Commissioners Daley, Fritchey, Gainer, Gorman, Moore, Reyes, Schneider, Silvestri, Sims, Steele and Suffredin (13)

Absent: Commissioners Collins, Garcia, Murphy and Tobolski (4)

Also Present: Patrick Driscoll, Jr. – Deputy State’s Attorney and Chief, Civil Actions Bureau.

Court Reporter: Anthony W. Lisanti, C.S.R.

Ladies and Gentlemen:

Your Committee on Health & Hospitals of the Board of Commissioners of Cook County met pursuant to published notice for a Public Hearing on Wednesday, May 29, 2013 at the hour of 9:45 A.M. in the Board Room, Room 569, County Building, 118 North Clark Street, Chicago, Illinois.

Your Committee has considered the following item and upon adoption of this report, the recommendation is as follows:

322583 TO REDUCE HEROIN AND OPIOID DEATHS IN COOK COUNTY AND THE GREATER CHICAGOLAND AREA (PROPOSED RESOLUTION). Submitting a Proposed Resolution Amendment sponsored by Elizabeth “Liz” Doody Gorman, Toni Preckwinkle, President, Jerry Butler, Earlean Collins, John P. Daley, John A. Fritchey, Bridget Gainer, Jesus G. Garcia, Gregg Goslin, Joan Patricia Murphy, Edwin Reyes, Timothy O. Schneider, Peter N. Silvestri, Timothy O. Schneider, Deborah Sims, Robert B. Steele, Larry Suffredin and Jeffrey R. Tobolski, County Commissioners.

PROPOSED RESOLUTION

**A RESOLUTION TO REDUCE HEROIN AND OPIOID DEATHS  
IN COOK COUNTY AND THE GREATER CHICAGOLAND AREA**

**WHEREAS**, the Illinois State Crime Commission, Roosevelt University, public health researchers, law enforcement and criminal justice personnel and elected officials recognize the heroin and opiate crisis as a medical and public health emergency in both the County of Cook and across the State of Illinois; and

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**WHEREAS**, according to Roosevelt University research, the Chicago metro area ranked among the worst cities for heroin-related problems, including first in the nation for the number of individuals admitted to the emergency room for heroin use; and

**WHEREAS**, the number of deaths due to heroin overdose continues to increase in Cook County, killing 500 people per year; and

**WHEREAS**, the American Medical Association (AMA), the Office of National Drug Control Policy (ONDCP), the National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA) and the National Association of Drug Diversion Investigators (NADDI) have encouraged the widespread training and use of naloxone to reduce overdose deaths; and

**WHEREAS**, the State of Illinois has two (2) mechanisms designed to reduce overdose deaths - the Overdose Prevention Act (PA 096-0361, effective 2009) and the 911 Good Samaritan Act (PA 97-0678, effective 2012); and

**WHEREAS**, the General Assembly passed the Overdose Prevention Act in 2009 allowing for the administration of naloxone by laypersons and the expansion of naloxone distribution programs; and

**WHEREAS**, research has demonstrated a 50 percent reduction in deaths related to heroin and other opioids in communities with naloxone distribution programs in place; and

**WHEREAS**, the cost of a naloxone kit is approximately \$20.00; and

**WHEREAS**, law enforcement, fire department and Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) first responders should be trained in the recognition of overdose and the administration of naloxone and provided with the medication and needed supplies; and

**WHEREAS**, doctors and other authorized prescribers should be encouraged to train patients with a history of prescribed opioids or heroin use in the recognition of overdose and use of naloxone; and

**WHEREAS**, emergency department personnel should be encouraged to train individuals and their family members in the use of naloxone after a life-threatening heroin/opioid overdose; and

**WHEREAS**, the highest risk of opioid overdose occurs after a loss of tolerance to opioids or heroin; personnel at treatment centers, detoxification facilities, jails and prisons, should be encouraged to be trained in naloxone and be encouraged to train patients with a history of prescribed opioids or heroin use in the recognition of overdose and use of naloxone; and

**WHEREAS**, naloxone training and resources should be encouraged and provided to those individuals who are at high risk of opiate overdose or are family or friends of persons at a high risk of overdose; and

**WHEREAS**, school personnel should be trained in the recognition of overdose and the administration of naloxone and provided with the medication and needed supplies; and

**WHEREAS**, the Illinois General Assembly passed the 911 Good Samaritan Act in 2012 to protect an overdosing individual and a witness from charges or prosecution of possession for small amounts of a drug; and

**WHEREAS**, education and outreach to professionals on the 911 Good Samaritan Act should occur broadly across state and local jurisdictions, including: treatment facilities, public health departments and clinics, social service agencies, the courts, probation and parole offices, states attorney and public defender offices, mental health and drug courts, law enforcement agencies and statewide professional organizations; and

**WHEREAS**, community education and outreach to the public on the 911 Good Samaritan Act should occur broadly across the state and specifically address individuals at high risk of opiate overdose or are family/friends of a person at a high risk of overdose.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Cook County Board of Commissioners recognizes the urgency of dealing with the heroin/opioid overdose problem in Cook County and the Chicago Metropolitan area as a medical and health crisis and encourages the use of naloxone among local schools and local officials, first responders, substance use treatment personnel and others laypersons who are at risk for heroin/opioid overdose; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Cook County Board of Commissioners encourages community members to become more aware of the growing heroin use problem and the tragedy left in its wake, by learning to recognize the signs of overdose and encourage the dissemination of materials that promote both the 911 Good Samaritan Act and the Overdose Prevention Act; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the text of this Resolution be spread across the journal of proceedings of this Honorable Body and that a copy hereof be presented to school districts, townships and municipalities throughout Cook County with a request they adopt this or a similar Resolution.

**\*Referred to the Committee on Health & Hospitals on 3/20/13.**

**Commissioner Gorman, seconded by Commissioner Daley, moved to accept a Substitute Amendment to Communication No. 322583. The motion carried, and Communication No. 322583 was further amended by substitution, as follows:**

**AMENDMENT TO COMMUNICATION NO. 322583**

**RESOLUTION**

**Sponsored by**

**THE HONORABLE ELIZABETH "LIZ" DOODY GORMAN, JERRY BUTLER, JOHN P. DALEY, JOHN A. FRITCHEY, BRIDGET GAINER, JESUS A. GARCIA, GREGG GOSLIN, STANLEY MOORE, EDWIN REYES, TIMOTHY O. SCHNEIDER, PETER N. SILVESTRI, DEBORAH SIMS, ROBERT B. STEELE AND LARRY SUFFREDIN, COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**

**A RESOLUTION TO REDUCE HEROIN AND OPIOID DEATHS IN COOK COUNTY  
AND THE GREATER CHICAGOLAND AREA**

**WHEREAS**, the Illinois State Crime Commission, Roosevelt University, public health researchers, law enforcement and criminal justice personnel and elected officials recognize the heroin and opiate crisis as a medical and public health emergency in both the County of Cook and across the State of Illinois; and  
**WHEREAS**, according to Roosevelt University research, the Chicago metro area ranked among the worst cities for heroin-related problems, including first in the nation for the number of individuals admitted to the emergency room for heroin use; and

**WHEREAS**, the number of deaths due to heroin overdose continues to increase in Cook County, killing 500 people per year; and

**WHEREAS**, the American Medical Association (AMA), the Office of National Drug Control Policy (ONDCP), the National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA) and the National Association of Drug Diversion Investigators (NADDI) have encouraged the widespread training and use of naloxone to reduce overdose deaths; and

**WHEREAS**, the State of Illinois has two mechanisms designed to reduce overdose deaths - the Overdose Prevention Act (PA 096-0361, effective 2009) and the 911 Good Samaritan Act (PA 97-0678, effective 2012); and

**WHEREAS**, the General Assembly passed the Overdose Prevention Act in 2009 allowing for the administration of naloxone by laypersons and the expansion of naloxone distribution programs; and

**WHEREAS**, research has demonstrated a 50 percent reduction in deaths related to heroin and other opioids in communities with naloxone distribution programs in place; and

**WHEREAS**, the cost of a naloxone kit is approximately \$20; and

**WHEREAS**, law enforcement, fire department and EMT first responders should be trained in the recognition of overdose and the administration of naloxone and provided with the medication and needed supplies; and

**WHEREAS**, doctors and other authorized prescribers should be encouraged to train patients with a history of prescribed opioids or heroin use in the recognition of overdose and use of naloxone; and

**WHEREAS**, emergency department personnel should be encouraged to train individuals and their family members in the use of naloxone after a life-threatening heroin/opioid overdose; and

**WHEREAS**, the highest risk of opioid overdose occurs after a loss of tolerance to opioids or heroin, personnel at treatment centers, detoxification facilities, jails and prisons, should be encouraged to be trained in naloxone and be encouraged to train patients with a history of prescribed opioids or heroin use in the recognition of overdose and use of naloxone; and

**WHEREAS**, naloxone training and resources should be encouraged and provided to those individuals who are at high risk of opiate overdose or are family or friends of persons at a high risk of overdose; and

**WHEREAS**, school personnel should be trained in the recognition of overdose and the administration of naloxone and provided with the medication and needed supplies; and

**WHEREAS**, the Illinois General Assembly passed the 911 Good Samaritan Act in 2012 to protect an overdosing individual and a witness from charges or prosecution of possession for small amounts of a drug; and

**WHEREAS**, education and outreach to professionals on the 911 Good Samaritan Act should occur broadly across state and local jurisdictions, including: treatment facilities, public health departments and clinics, social service agencies, the courts, probation and parole offices, states attorney and public defender offices, mental health and drug courts, law enforcement agencies and statewide professional organizations; and

**WHEREAS**, community education and outreach to the public on the 911 Good Samaritan Act should occur broadly across the state and specifically address individuals at high risk of opiate overdose or are family/friends of a person at a high risk of overdose; and

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Cook County Board of Commissioners recognizes the urgency of dealing with the heroin /opioid overdose problem in Cook County and the Chicago Metropolitan area as a medical and health crisis and encourages the education of use of naloxone among local schools and local officials, first responders, substance use treatment personnel and others laypersons who are at risk for heroin/opioid overdose on the use of naloxone; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Cook County Board of Commissioners encourages community members to become more aware of the growing heroin use problem and the tragedy left in its wake, by learning to recognize the signs of overdose and encourage the dissemination of materials that promote both the 911 Good Samaritan Act and the Overdose Prevention Act.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the text of this Resolution be spread across the journal of proceedings of this Honorable Body and that a copy hereof be presented to school districts, townships and municipalities throughout Cook County with a request they adopt this or a similar Resolution.

**Commissioner Gorman, seconded by Commissioner Daley, moved to accept the Substitute Resolution Amendment to Communication No.322583.**

Commissioner Gorman asked leave to add all Commissioners as sponsors.

**Commissioner Gorman, seconded by Commissioner Silvestri, moved the Approval of Communication No. 322583 as amended. The motion carried.**

Chairman Butler asked the Secretary of the Board to call upon the registered public speakers, in accordance with Cook County Code, Sec. 2-107(dd).

1. Norma Caratachea, Illinois State Crime Commission Member
2. George Blakemore, Concerned Citizen

**Commissioner Silvestri moved to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Commissioner Gorman. The motion carried and the meeting was adjourned.**

SECTION 2

YOUR COMMITTEE RECOMMENDS THE FOLLOWING ACTION  
WITH REGARD TO THE MATTER NAMED HEREIN:

Communication Number 322583

Recommended for Approval As Amended

Respectfully submitted,  
Committee on Health & Hospitals

  
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Jerry Butler, Chairman

Attest:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Matthew B. DeLeon, Secretary

\*The transcript for this meeting is available in the Office of the Secretary to the Board, 118 North Clark Street, Room 436, Chicago, IL 60602.

\*A video recording of this meeting is available on the Office of the Secretary to the Board's web site on the Video Page at <http://blog.cookcountyil.gov/secretarytotheboard/county-board-proceedings/county-board-video-and-audio/>