

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Workshop will teach community members about opioid misuse, Narcan, and safe medication storage

Eau Claire, WI – June 30, 2022 – What are opioids? Do I have opioids in my medicine cabinet? How can I help someone who’s overdosing on an opioid? How do I use Narcan? Learn the answers – and get to know more about opioids – on July 11 at an in-person workshop in Eau Claire at The Community Table, 320 Putnam Street, from 6 – 7:30pm.

The Eau Claire City-County Health Department and the Alliance for Substance Misuse Prevention are hosting the workshop to talk with the public about opioid misuse and preventing an overdose. The goal of the workshop is to raise awareness and lessen the stigma of a drug-related overdose. “Someone experiencing an addiction might not be able recognize how opioid use is impacting their life. People who attend the workshop will learn how to identify the signs of an overdose and how to use Narcan. It can save a life,” says Sarah Dillivan-Pospisil, Public Health Specialist.

In Eau Claire County in 2021, there were 97 suspected non-fatal opioid overdoses. Fatal opioid overdoses in Eau Claire County rose from 6 in 2015 to 15 in 2020. Local law enforcement agencies report increasing heroin and fentanyl use in the Eau Claire County area.

Opioids can vary from prescription medications to illegal drugs, like heroin and fentanyl. Seventy percent of people who misuse prescription opioids got their first pill from someone they know.

Not everyone thinks of prescription pain medicine as an opioid – but the prescriptions in our medicine cabinets can lead to addiction, or even an overdose. This workshop will teach community members how to safely store and dispose of medication, which may help prevent an overdose or accidental poisoning.

The workshop will cover:

- What are opioids.
- How to recognize an opioid overdose, and how to help a person overdosing.
- How to safely store opioid medication.
- How to get rid of unused opioid medication.
- How do use Narcan and fentanyl test strips.

Register for the workshop by July 8th at www.surveymonkey.com/r/VQ83PBQ. If you are unable to attend the workshop at The Community Table, future workshops will be available in-person and virtually in the fall. To learn more, visit www.GetInvolvedASAP.org and click “What Do You Know About Opioids.”

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