



International Overdose Awareness Day Proclamation 2024

Whereas, the day of August 31, 2024 is International Overdose Awareness Day, the world's largest annual campaign to end overdose; and

Whereas, substance use disorders and addiction impact quality of life, negatively affecting the health, relationships, and livelihoods of community members throughout our county and potentially leading to severe injury or even death; and

Whereas, many, though not all, drug overdoses in the United States, Wisconsin, and in Eau Claire are related to the use of opioids, including illegally made fentanyl or opioids used in combination with psychostimulants, such as methamphetamine; and

Whereas, substance misuse has been identified as a community priority and Eau Claire County lost 100 residents to a drug overdose between 2018-2023, 78 of which were related to opioids; and

Whereas, the Eau Claire City-County Board of Health recognizes that individuals who face disparate outcomes in health & healthcare access also face greater challenges to receiving treatment for substance misuse; and

Whereas, the emergency opioid overdose reversal drug, naloxone, is readily available in the county, including at a self-serve Narcan vending machine located in the Eau Claire County Jail lobby, and should be part of every community member's first-aid kit; and

Whereas, every year, the last day of August is recognized worldwide as a day to remember all those we have lost to a drug overdose; to acknowledge the grief of their families, friends, and communities; and to act to prevent drug-related deaths and reduce the stigma that surrounds them; and

Whereas, the Eau Claire City-County Health Department works collaboratively with the community through the Eau Claire Health Alliance to provide opioid and overdose prevention initiatives including harm reduction tools and awareness, medication disposal resources, youth & community education and awareness initiatives, and maintains the opioid and overdose data dashboard; and

Whereas, today, the Eau Claire City-County Board of Health joins the Eau Claire City-County Health Department in reminding all community members that anyone can save a life by being a resource to help those struggling with substance use disorders and addiction, educating themselves on the signs of an overdose, learning how to administer naloxone, and calling 911;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Don Bodeau, on behalf of the Eau Claire City-County Board of Health, do hereby proclaim the day of August 31st as **International Overdose Awareness Day** and call upon the people of Eau Claire to observe this day by helping our families, friends, neighbors, co-workers and leaders to raise awareness of substance use disorder so that our community can better combat stigmatization, promote treatment, celebrate recovery, and strengthen our collective efforts to prevent overdose deaths.

Don Bodeau, President
Eau Claire City-County Board of Health

8/28/24

Date