



Memorandum

To: Kate Fitzpatrick, Town Manager
From: Tiffany Zike, Assistant Director of Public Health
Date: September 20, 2023
Re: Opioid Settlement Stabilization Fund Plan

Needham Public Health would like to propose the use of \$145,000 of the Opioid Settlement Stabilization Funds to provide goods and services to Needham town residents to combat the opioid crisis that has hit our community. The [Statewide Commitment for Abatement](#) has provided six areas that the opioid abatement funds can be spent on and in order to provide services within these six areas to the residents of the Town of Needham, Needham Public Health proposes to use the funds in the following way;

1. \$90,000 to hire a contractor(s) to provide public engagement and facilitation of community discussions and program planning and evaluation services for the use of opioid settlement funding.
 - a. The contractor(s) will provide an inclusive community engagement process including performing key informant and stakeholder interviews which will include community forums.
 - b. The contractor(s) will also provide reports including a 5-year strategic plan with a program evaluation component for the use of the opioid abatement funds.
2. \$3,000 for SAM Boxes (see Exhibit A) to be placed with AEDs throughout the Town.
3. \$52,000 to hire/work with a Peer Recovery Coach
 - a. A Peer Recovery Coach (PRC) is a nonclinical professional that has lived experience with addiction and engages, educates and supports an individual to successfully recover from mental and/or substance use disorders.
 - b. The NPHD Recovery Coach will collaborate with the Needham Police and Fire Departments, Beth Israel Deaconess Hospital Needham, the Needham Health and Human Services, the Needham Interfaith Clergy Association, and various other community groups to identify residents with substance use problems and provide peer support.

Substance use prevention has been a valued service by the Town of Needham and moving to a more active approach to help those who have been affected by substance use, more specifically opioids is something that we hope to provide in the most effective way possible for Needham residents. By hiring a contractor to provide an inclusive community engagement process that will result in a 5-year strategic plan will allow the Town of Needham and its community partners to have an understanding of the needs of those who have been affected by the opioid crisis, including families, loved ones, and residents in need of services.

Needham Public Health hopes to provide some concrete strategies to the Town of Needham while working on the strategic planning process. The purchasing of the SAM Boxes and the hiring of Peer Recovery Coach (PRC) helps provide some of the programs and strategies that are agreed



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upon in the abatement commitment. These include harm reduction techniques provided by the SAM Boxes and the PRC will provide support for people in treatment and recovery, and connections to care.

Thank you for the time to discuss the needs and use of the Opioid Settlement Stabilization Fund at the September 26th meeting.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "T Benoit".

Tiffany (Zike) Benoit
Assistant Director of Public Health

cc:

Katie King, Deputy Town Manager/Director of Operations
Dave Davidson, Deputy Town Manager/Director of Finance
Timothy McDonald, Director of Health and Human Services



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EXHIBIT A

The SAMBOX Opioid Rescue Kit

Ginnie Chacon-Lopez, MSN, RN



What is SAMBOX?

- ❖ An opioid harm reduction initiative that brings **education and awareness** of the Massachusetts Good **SAM**aritan Law and Overdose Assistance Immunity Law.
- ❖ The initiative promotes communities and businesses to place rescue **BOX**es in strategic locations.
- ❖ The **SAMBOX**es are opioid response rescue kits that are designed to contain:
 - Narcan*
 - Directions for administering Narcan
 - CPR rescue breathing barriers
 - Gloves

**Narcan must be supplied by community/business*



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Good Samaritan Law:

Part III COURTS, JUDICIAL OFFICERS AND PROCEEDINGS
INCIVIL CASES
Title IV CERTAIN WRITS AND PROCEEDINGS IN
SPECIALCASES
Chapter 258C COMPENSATION OF VICTIMS OF VIOLENT
CRIMES
Section 13 "GOOD SAMARITANS"; LIABILITY

Section 13. No person who, in good faith, provides or obtains, or attempts to provide or obtain, assistance for a victim of a crime as defined in section one, shall be liable in a civil suit for damages as a result of any acts or omissions in providing or obtaining, or attempting to provide or obtain, such assistance unless such acts or omissions constitute willful, wanton or reckless conduct.

Overdose Assistance Law:

Part I ADMINISTRATION OF THE GOVERNMENT
Title XV REGULATION OF TRADE
Chapter 94C CONTROLLED SUBSTANCES ACT
Section 34A IMMUNITY FROM PROSECUTION UNDER SEC. 34 OF FINDING OF VIOLATION OF CONDITION OF PROBATION, PRETRIAL RELEASE OR PAROLE FOR PERSONS SEEKING MEDICAL ASSISTANCE FOR SELF OR OTHER EXPERIENCING DRUG-RELATED OVERDOSE

Section 34A. (a) A person who, in good faith, seeks medical assistance for someone experiencing a drug-related overdose shall not be charged or prosecuted for possession of a controlled substance under section 34 or found in violation of a condition of probation or pretrial release as determined by a court or a condition of parole, as determined by the parole board if the evidence for the charge of possession of a controlled substance or violation was gained as a result of the seeking of medical assistance.
(b) A person who experiences a drug-related overdose and is in need of medical assistance and, in good faith, seeks such medical assistance, or is the subject of such a good faith request for medical assistance, shall not be charged or prosecuted for possession of a controlled substance under said section 34 or found in violation of a condition of probation or pretrial release as determined by a court or a condition of parole, as determined by the parole board if the evidence for the charge of possession of a controlled substance or violation was gained as a result of the overdose and the need for medical assistance.
(c) The act of seeking medical assistance for someone who is experiencing a drug-related overdose may be used as a mitigating factor in a criminal prosecution under the Controlled Substance Act, 1970 P.L. 91-513, 21 U.S.C. section 801, et seq.
(d) Nothing contained in this section shall prevent anyone from being charged with trafficking, distribution or possession of a controlled substance with intent to distribute.
(e) A person acting in good faith may receive a naloxone prescription, possess naloxone and administer naloxone to an individual appearing to experience an opiate-related overdose.



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Why does Needham need SAMBOXes?

- ❖ Opioid epidemic effects everyone
 - Needham has had 1-3 opioid-related overdose deaths annually between 2015-2022
- ❖ Empowers Needham residents
 - Evidenced by Narcan distribution through the Needham Public Health Division
- ❖ Accessibility
 - NPHD
 - Schools
 - Library
- ❖ Destigmatizes substance use disorder
- ❖ Increases the likelihood of survival
- ❖ Increased demand for Narcan Training through the Town

Sources:

- ❖ [Mass.gov/lists/current-opioid-statistics](https://www.mass.gov/lists/current-opioid-statistics)
- ❖ [SAMBOX.MHOA.com](https://www.sambox.mhoa.com)
- ❖ [Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration \(SAMHSA.gov\)](https://www.samhsa.gov)