



**Richland County  
Health Department**  
Prevent. Promote. Protect.

# Richland County Health Department

413 3<sup>rd</sup> Avenue North

Wahpeton, ND 58075

Telephone (701) 642-7735 Fax (701) 642-7746

[www.richlandcountyhealth.org](http://www.richlandcountyhealth.org)

## **Opioid Response Work Background, Opioid Settlement Funds Plan & Future Strategies Proposal**

### **Background:**

Richland County Health Department (RCHD) began opioid response work in 2019. Funding was received through the State Opioid Response (SOR) grant from the North Dakota Department of Human Services, Behavioral Health Division (BHD). RCHD has received varying amounts of opioid response funds from BHD ever since.

In the 2019 grant cycle, RCHD began promoting safe use of medication through comprehensive messaging via newspaper, radio, and social media campaign focused more on the rural community. Richland County Health Department placed take-back boxes at local pharmacies, Wahpeton Police Department, and the Law Enforcement Center. There was collaboration with the local sheriff's department to implement take back events in rural communities that did not have existing take-back sites. Deterra bags were distributed. Narcan distribution and education to the jails and pharmacies continued throughout the grant cycle. RCHD collaborated with community entities, such as local schools, colleges, and libraries to provide education on Narcan. Education was given on stigma reduction.

Throughout the years RCHD has continued to educate and implement programs on prevention as well as look more at treatment and recovery. We have collaborated with our local clinics and treatment agencies to work together for treatment services including medication assisted treatment (MAT). We now have three providers in our community who can prescribe and treat those in need of MAT. We have expanded the ONE program from pharmacies to serving different clients including home health and those who are incarcerated. Telehealth services have been implemented in our local jail. We have successfully addressed barriers to receiving treatment and recovery services by offering gas vouchers and taxi services to those in need.



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During the grant's most recent fiscal year-October 2022-September 2023- RCHD exceeded our goal of Naloxone distribution. The naloxone saturation guideline indicated that RCHD would have to distribute 156 total doses to ensure 90% coverage. We took opportunities to educate and disperse naloxone at community events, jail, businesses, group requests, and in schools. Approximately 395 naloxone were dispersed in Richland County over the past grant period. Approximately 744 individuals were trained on opioid overdose and how to administer naloxone over the grant period.

We have developed educational handouts and resources to give to individuals in need of services in our county. This includes information for those who need to be referred to additional services that are not offered in Richland County. "Parents Lead" educational handouts were disseminated to guardians when educational sessions were implemented. Medication safety, and prevention of substance (mis)use focusing on opioids sessions were presented to Richland County students K-12 including Circle of Nations, a tribal therapeutic school. Approximately 1,167+ students were educated.

RCHD held booths at local events around the community to reach individuals in different settings, and outside of office hours. Narcan, resources, and information were provided. We held a take back event in conjunction with the Richland County Sheriff's Department at one of the rural communities in Richland County that does not have a permanent take back location. During the take back event along with other community events and naloxone trainings Deterra bags and/or DisposeRX bags have been given to encourage safe medication disposal practices.



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## **Opioid Settlement Funds Plan:**

To be determined and updated as staffing time allows.