IN MAY 2014, LOCAL 718 PRESIDENT RICHARD PARIS, MAYOR WALSH AND COMMISSIONER FINN WORKED TOGETHER TO ENSURE THAT FIRE FIREFIGHTERS AND FIRST RESPONDERS WERE EQUIPPED WITH NARCAN.
NARCAN ADMINISTERED BY BFD

1700 lives saved by Boston Fire
FAITH is the City of Boston’s initiative to actively address substance use and addiction through collaboration between The Public Health Commission, and first responders.
Mayor Martin J. Walsh invites you to attend:
Community Overdose
Prevention & Narcan Trainings
Hosted by the Boston Fire Department

THURSDAY, AUGUST 4TH
6:00-7:00 PM
ENGINE 18 - DORCHESTER
1884 DORCHESTER AVE.

Includes:
- How to identify signs and symptoms of overdose
- How to respond to an overdose (including Good Samaritan Law and nasal Narlozone/Narcan)
- Connect with community recovery resources

Upcoming Dates:
August 11th: Jamaica Plain
746 Centre St. (Engine 28)
August 18th: Hyde Park
60 Fairmount Ave. (Engine 48)
August 25th: West Roxbury
1940 Centre St. (Engine 30)
September 1st: Roxbury
174 Dudley St. (Engine 14)

Additional neighborhoods to be scheduled in Fall 2016

Trainings are co-sponsored by the Boston Fire Department, Boston Public Health Commission & the Mayor’s Office of Recovery Services

Questions or comments? Email blittle@bphc.org
Drug overdoses killed roughly 64,000 people in the United States in 2016 (majority were opioid-related), more than 22% over the 52,404 drug deaths recorded in 2015.

Drug overdoses are expected to remain the leading cause of death for Americans under 50, as synthetic opioids — primarily fentanyl — continue to push the death count higher.

Opioid overdoses accounted for more than 42,000 deaths in 2016, more than any previous year on record. An estimated 40% of opioid overdose deaths involved a prescription opioid.

Opioid overdose deaths were five times higher in 2016 than in 1999.
From 2013-2014 there was a 39% increase in opioid-related deaths in MA
While the increase in rates of opioid related death is starting to slow over the last couple of years (there was an 8% decrease in 2017), opioid deaths containing highly-lethal fentanyl are increasing
Of 1,262 opioid-related deaths in MA in 2017, 83% contained fentanyl
As of April 2017, there has been an 8% increase in narcotic-related transports, and a 59% increase in fatal overdoses compared to the same time last year.

In 2016: 2,880 total OD patients and 1,200 patients with a documented Boston home address.

Over half of all fatal overdoses in 2016 and year-to-date 2017 occur in homes.
BOSTON POST OVERDOSE RESPONSE TEAM

- Provides education and information to individuals who have experienced an OD and their families at their homes
- Joint effort between BFD, BPHC, BEMS
- In operation for 1 year (June 2016-June 2017)
- The program is referred to as Knock and Talk.
THE TEAM

BFD Employee Assistance Program, Boston Firefighters & BPHC Harm Reduction Specialist

- Lived experience & understanding of continuum of care
- BPHC providers naloxone & harm reduction supplies
- 3 people for each visit - 2 firefighters, 1 harm reduction specialist
- The 6 firefighters involved with team are License Alcohol Drug Counselors, Certified Employee Assistance Professionals and Recovery Coaches.
OPERATIONS

- OD data from BEMS (department of BPHC) & BFD
- Coordinator identifies OD’s in homes & creates map
- The Team uses maps to do in-person home outreach across city (all neighborhoods)
- Engage with individual who OD’d, their family or neighbors
- Approach is person-centered and responsive to context
- Offer education, information and access to treatment
PILOT SUCCESSES

- In its first year, follow up visits to homes of people who experienced an OD in Boston
- Someone was home 59% of the time
- If at home, 73% were willing to engage
- 40% family
  - 33% individual who experienced OD
  - 18% family & individual together
  - 9% other (neighbor usually)
High rates of engaging in services:

- Overdose prevention training & naloxone Kits given 72% of the time
- Access to care & referral information given 67% of the time
- Information for family support services given 33% of the time
PILOT CHANGES AND NEXT STEPS

- Limited resources & staffing capacity
- City traffic makes travel slow
- Flexible timing of visits needed (night/weekend)
- Additional study needed to evaluate outcomes and successes
KNOCK AND TALK NEXT STEPS

- We now have our fire alarm division fill out a form every time our Firefighters respond to an overdose.
- The next morning a member of the team will call fire alarm and get a list of addresses where overdose 321(N) occurred the day before.
- The team will coordinate and dispatch to the addresses of the overdoses within 24 hours.
- Through the pilot program we found we had the most success when we responded the next day.
- We will also be focusing on a prevention component in the fall where we will be assisting in an Opioid Youth Summit. Hopefully in the future there will be no need for the Knock and Talk Program in the City of Boston.
RESOURCES

Iaff Center of Excellence (301) 327-1955
American Addiction Centers 1 (888) 300-3332
Learn 2 Cope (508) 738-5148
Gavin Foundation (617) 268-5517
VA Hospitals 1 (800) 273-TALK
McLean’s leadership Program (617) 855-3141
Home Base Program (617) 724-5202
Phoenix House 1 (844) 455-6020
Gosnold 1 (800) 444-1554
Alcoholics Anonymous (617) 426-9444
Al anon (781) 849-0740
SUCCESS STORY

Text from a gentleman whose house we responded to after he overdosed

“I wanted to check in and let you know that just yesterday I got 3 separate job offers. Got one, just left an interview and I’m going to be setting up the third offer interview for next week. Have an appointment with MRC to go back to school for Sociology. Wanted to keep you posted on my progress. You saved my life! Thanks so much for everything.”

“We left one house with a kid who asked if we would bring him to a detox,” Pat said. “It felt like we had pulled him out of a burning building. That’s exactly what we did. It was a different kind of fire, that’s all.”

FLT Patrick Hayes (Coordinator)
QUESTIONS