

Resolution 8: Awareness, Prevention, and Training (APT) Measures Against Opioid Overdose Crises

Abstract: This resolution urges the university to take proactive and preventative measures against opioid overdoses on campus through awareness, prevention, and training (APT) measures.

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Reviewed by: Campus Welfare Committee, 3/22/2023, 4-0-1

Originally Presented: 3/28/2023

Whereas, Narcan is a life-saving, easily administered, and safe drug that reverses opioid overdoses

Whereas, Cayuga Medical Center has recently increased Narcan access in November of 2022, offering Narcan to patients for free¹

Whereas, increasing access to Narcan was done in response to a health alert from the Tompkins County Health Department, highlighting an increase a 32% increase in drug-related deaths which has only risen in 2022²

Whereas, Cornell University as an academic institution has been a leader in research to stem the opioid epidemic, with Weill Cornell Medicine receiving as much as 8.1 million dollars in national grant funding to do so in November of 2022³

Whereas, Cornell University is beginning to expand access to overdose awareness education

Whereas, Cornell has recently increased access to Narcan but the program is in its nascent stages, and the community is not as knowledgeable in the newest initiatives of Cornell Health

Whereas, other colleges in the area, such as Ithaca College, have established opioid overdose prevention programs since August 2019.

¹

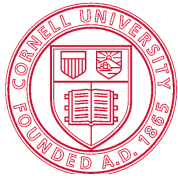
https://www.ithaca.com/news/ithaca/cayuga-medical-center-expanding-access-to-naloxone-to-prevent-opioid-overdose/article_25a5c9d4-6a79-11ed-bea9-2bb7a8cc3a49.html

²

<https://tompkinscountyny.gov/health/health-alert-nysdoh-warns-increase-opioid-related-deaths-central-ny-naloxone-availabile>

³

<https://news.weill.cornell.edu/news/2022/11/weill-cornell-medicine-awarded-nih-grant-to-address-opioid-health-crisis>



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Whereas, this program has provided Narcan in every AED cabinet and residential dorm building, as well as (*provided consistent Narcan and Harm Reduction Workshops*)⁴

Whereas, Cornell University should take proactive measures to prevent overdose-related tragedies from happening to its students, faculty, and employees

Whereas, New York State legislature has recognized that the opioid crisis has crept into college campuses, resulting in Governor Hochul signing legislation S.3448A/A.4485B requiring all public colleges in New York to have a supply of opioid antagonists, such as Narcan, in their housing facilities⁵

Whereas, this legislation speaks to the magnitude and legitimacy of not only the opioid epidemic but also the need for harm reduction measures to produce safer campuses

Whereas, Cornell has previously taken on substance harm-reduction initiatives, including fact sheets to educate students on how to identify and respond to alcohol poisoning, allowing students to access emergency medical care when necessary

Whereas, Narcan is available at Cornell University's Pharmacy via prescription and adequate training

Be it therefore resolved, that overdose prevention kits with administration instructions are made accessible at various campus locations, including but not limited to: on-campus residential halls, Cornell Health, and other central locations

Be it further resolved, that Cornell Health collaborates with academic units, residential life, and other student-serving populations to determine locations of resources and publicize the program

Be it further resolved, that August 31 is officially recognized by the university as National Opioid Overdose Awareness Day

Be it further resolved, that training be made available at no cost by Cornell Health and the Skorton Center for Health Initiatives so that Narcan can be effectively used to prevent overdose crises

Be it further resolved, that CUEMS, CUPD, EHS and the Division of Public Safety have access to Narcan during any form of emergency response

Be it further resolved, all student groups that hold large events (>100 attendees) including but not limited to Greek organizations (IFC, PHC, MGFC), concert-hosting groups, and sporting events have at least one individual or officer trained in administering Narcan and have it easily available during a large event

⁴ <https://www.ithaca.edu/intercom/2019-08-28-naloxone-narcan-now-available-residence-halls>

⁵ <https://www.nysenate.gov/legislation/bills/2021/s3448/amendment/a>



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Be it further resolved, that the Narcan for large events be subsidized by Cornell Health

Be it finally resolved, that harm-reducing information such as how to identify and respond to an opioid overdose crisis is distributed via fact sheet in residential halls

Respectfully Submitted,

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