

**RESOLUTION NO. 805 -2018, DIRECTING THE DEVELOPMENT OF MODEL OPIATE OVERDOSE PROTOCOLS FOR HOSPITAL EMERGENCY DEPARTMENTS**

**WHEREAS**, the County of Suffolk is in the midst of an opiate addiction crisis, with hundreds of overdoses from heroin and related drugs occurring each year; and

**WHEREAS**, the County has developed innovative programs to assist individuals in the grip of addiction, such as training all first responders in the use of naloxone to reverse overdoses, expanding such training to members of the public and providing follow-up outreach to individuals who have experienced an overdose reversal, as well as their families; and

**WHEREAS**, while the County has been proactive in responding to the needs of the community in the midst of this crisis, more can be done to address opiate addiction; and

**WHEREAS**, recent studies show a significant increase in long-term improvement for individuals identified in emergency departments as suffering from opiate addiction when they begin medication-assisted treatment during their time in the emergency room; and

**WHEREAS**, medication-assisted treatment for opiate addiction has been proven as the most effective way to assist addicted individuals in obtaining and remaining in substance abuse treatment; and

**WHEREAS**, a group of medical professionals and addiction specialists, guided by the County Department of Health Services, should develop model protocols for hospital emergency departments to utilize to improve the care of opiate addicted patients; and

**WHEREAS**, training hospital emergency departments in medication-assisted treatment, in conjunction with other practices such as instructing addicted individuals and their loved ones in the administration of naloxone, would help to further improve outcomes for addicted persons in Suffolk County; now, therefore be it

**1st RESOLVED**, that the an Emergency Department Opiate Response Working Group (“Working Group”) is hereby established for the purpose of developing model protocols for hospital emergency departments in the treatment of individuals presenting with opiate overdose and/or substance abuse issues; and be it further

**2nd RESOLVED**, that the Working Group shall be composed of the following thirteen (13) members:

1. The Commissioner of the Department of Health Services, or his or her designee;
2. The Director of the Division of Mental Hygiene, or his or her designee;
3. The Chairperson of the Legislature’s Health Committee, or his or her designee;
4. A representative of the Nassau-Suffolk Hospital Council;
5. A representative of a Level 1 Trauma Center, to be appointed by the County Legislature;
6. Three (3) representatives of hospitals located in Suffolk County, to be appointed by the County Legislature;
7. Four (4) representatives of drug and alcohol addiction services agencies operating in Suffolk County, to be appointed by the County Legislature; and

8. A physician who is Board certified in addiction medicine, to be appointed by the County Legislature; and be it further

**3rd**           **RESOLVED**, that the Working Group shall hold its first meeting no later than thirty (30) days after the oaths of office of all members have been filed, which meeting shall be convened to select a chairperson, a vice chairperson and a secretary; and be it further

**4th**           **RESOLVED**, that members of the Working Group shall serve with no compensation and at the pleasure of their respective appointing authorities; and be it further

**5th**           **RESOLVED**, that seven (7) members of the Working Group shall constitute a quorum to transact the business of the Working Group at both regular and special meetings; and be it further

**6th**           **RESOLVED**, that the protocols developed by the Working Group should include, but not be limited to, procedures and policies based on recent studies showing improved patient outcomes associated with emergency department interventions involving medication-assisted treatment, as well as training in naloxone delivery; and be it further

**7th**           **RESOLVED**, that the Working Group shall develop and approve the model hospital emergency department protocols and submit same in writing to the Department of Health Services within 210 days of the effective date of this resolution; and be it further

**8th**           **RESOLVED**, that, upon approving the protocols, the Department of Health Services will distribute a copy of these model protocols to each hospital emergency department operating in Suffolk County and support the implementation of these or similar policies by each hospital; and be it further

**9th**           **RESOLVED**, that, following the approval of the protocols by the Department of Health Services, the Working Group shall continue to meet on an annual basis to update the protocols in light of any new research or treatments that may develop in the future; and be it further

**10th**          **RESOLVED**, that this Legislature, being the State Environmental Quality Review Act (SEQRA) lead agency, hereby finds and determines that this resolution constitutes a Type II action pursuant to Section 617.5(c)(20), (21) and (27) of Title 6 of the NEW YORK CODE OF RULES AND REGULATIONS (6 NYCRR) and within the meaning of Section 8-0109(2) of the NEW YORK ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION LAW as a promulgation of regulations, rules, policies, procedures, and legislative decisions in connection with continuing agency administration, management and information collection, and the Suffolk County Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) is hereby directed to circulate any appropriate SEQRA notices of determination of non-applicability or non-significance in accordance with this resolution.

DATED: October 2, 2018

APPROVED BY:

/s/ Dennis M. Cohen  
Chief Deputy County Executive of Suffolk County

Date: October 5, 2018