

Community Paramedic Overdose Response

Clackamas Fire District #1, AMR Clackamas County, Clackamas County Public Health



CLACKAMAS FIRE DISTRICT #1



Resuscitate then navigate

- ▶ EMS agencies play a critical role in their communities' response to the opioid epidemic, saving hundreds of lives each year via naloxone rescue.
- ▶ Although naloxone is an effective agent for reversing the physiological effects, it has no long-term impact on the patient's desire to use opioids again.
- ▶ Expand the focus to include opportunities to help the patient into recovery by providing a warm handoff from the 9-1-1 response to the systems available to help with recovery.

A recovery-oriented approach

- ▶ Through an innovative pilot project, Clackamas County agencies are partnering to build a more comprehensive response model in our county.
- ▶ Follow-up by a Community Paramedic in the ED or home setting shortly after the overdose occurs.
- ▶ After an assessment is completed, patients will be navigated to treatment and recovery services in the community (inpatient, outpatient and community-based services) with a longer-term plan established.

Goals of the project:

- ▶ Reduce the number of people who overdose on opioids, thereby decreasing future 911 calls and hospital readmissions.
- ▶ Improve the quality of life for patients with substance use disorders.
- ▶ Bridge gaps in care by connecting vulnerable patients to treatment and other critical resources.