

## **The Florida Department of Health in Broward County Overdose and Post-Overdose Co-Responder Model for Lauderhill Fire Rescue**

This document outlines the terms and conditions for a partnership in implementing the overdose and post-overdose co-responder model to provide harm reduction services and linkage to care, harm reduction services, and social support services for individuals involved in substance-related emergencies.

### **PURPOSE**

The purpose is to establish a framework for cooperation between the Florida Department of Health in Broward County (DOH-Broward) and EMS departments to implement an overdose and post-overdose co-responder model. This model will involve a collaborative team consisting of Emergency Medical Services (EMS) personnel and Navigators who will engage individuals who use drugs to provide harm reduction services (e.g., behavioral health support, naloxone distribution, overdose education) and linkage to care (e.g., behavioral health treatment and medication for opioid use disorder [MOUD]), harm reduction services, and social support services (e.g., employment support, food assistance, housing support, transportation service). The goal of this initiative is to connect individuals who EMS respond to for a substance-related concern to services. If delivery of harm reduction services and linkage to care, harm reduction services, and social support services is not possible at the time of the initial response to the substance-related incident (e.g., overdose, intoxication) and individuals are transported by EMS to an emergency department (ED), EMS will connect individuals to services within 72 hours of their discharge home, ensuring that clients receive timely access to care, harm reduction interventions, and other social support services.

### **SCOPE OF SERVICES**

1. **Roles and Responsibilities of the Florida Department of Health in Broward County (DOH-Broward):**
  - **Data Collection Instrument:** DOH-Broward will develop the data-collection instrument that EMS will use to document client encounters. DOH-Broward will also provide training to EMS personnel on the proper completion and use of this form.
  - **Data Quality and Monitoring:** While the EMS agency is responsible for regularly reviewing the data it submits for errors or discrepancies, DOH-Broward will also review the data submitted by the EMS agency through the data collection form. Any previously unidentified data issues will be communicated to the EMS agency for correction, which can be made through resubmission of the form.
2. **Roles and Responsibilities of the EMS Agency:**
  - **Navigator Hiring:** The EMS agency will hire a Navigator who will assist individuals who have experienced a substance-related emergency. The Navigator may be a certified peer recovery specialist, case manager, patient navigator, or community health worker.

- **Client Engagement During the Initial Response to a Substance-Related Incident:** The EMS agency will ensure that individuals at the scene of a substance-related call are engaged by the overdose co-responder team.
- **Client Engagement within 72 Hours of ED/Hospital Discharge:** The EMS agency will ensure that individuals it transports to the ED for a substance-related concern (e.g., overdose, intoxication) are engaged by the post-overdose co-responder team within 72 hours of their discharge home from the ED or hospital.
- **Provision of Harm Reduction Services and Linkage to Care, Harm Reduction Services, and Social Support Services:** The EMS agency overdose and post-overdose co-responder team will engage individuals to provide harm reduction services (e.g., behavioral health support, naloxone distribution, overdose education) and linkage to care (e.g., behavioral health treatment and medication for opioid use disorder [MOUD]), harm reduction services, and social support services (e.g., employment support, food assistance, housing support, transportation services). The overdose and post-overdose co-responder team will provide individuals with warm handoffs to service providers when possible.
- **Form Completion:** Within 72 hours of the final client encounter, the EMS agency will complete and submit the “Overdose and Post-Overdose Co-Responder Tracking Sheet” to DOH-Broward via Microsoft Forms. Prior to submission, the EMS agency will review the data entered in the form to ensure its accuracy.
- **Data Quality Assurance:** The EMS agency will be responsible for confirming the accuracy and completeness of the data submitted through the “Overdose and Post-Overdose Co-Responder Tracking Sheet.” The EMS agency must regularly review submitted data for any errors or discrepancies. If any data errors or discrepancies are identified, the EMS agency must correct them through form field resubmissions.

## **FUNDING**

The Florida Department of Health in Broward County is offering EMS agencies a one-year funding opportunity of up to \$265,000 to implement their overdose and post-overdose co-responder program.