

October 18, 2022

MOTION BY SUPERVISOR JANICE HAHN

Expanding Emergency Access to Naloxone at County Libraries

Increasing public emergency access to naloxone, the life-saving antidote to opioid poisoning, is a top priority for communities as the number of fentanyl deaths rises. The State of California created the Naloxone Distribution Project to combat the growing number of opioid-related deaths by providing free naloxone to certain organizations, including libraries. As one of the eligible organizations for free naloxone kits, County libraries should join the effort to make this crucial medication accessible for all Angelenos, including those who are victims to fentanyl poisoning.

County libraries are trusted spaces for free services and resources, including those for families, students, job seekers, and unhoused individuals. During COVID-19, our County libraries dualled as points of service for mask distribution, testing and other community services (e.g. food distribution). Other jurisdictions have made naloxone available at public libraries, including Salt Lake City, Chicago, Philadelphia, Columbus, New Orleans and Denver. By putting naloxone in a safe and neutral space like a library, these jurisdictions have reported culture shifts to reduce the stigma that is often associated with naloxone use.

Public librarians respond to the needs of their communities. Across the country, libraries are leveraged as trusted community locations to distribute naloxone, and librarians are being

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trained in how to recognize opioid overdoses and how to administer naloxone. Empowering County librarians to be volunteer responders or making naloxone available at County Library locations could save lives.

I, THEREFORE, MOVE that the Board of Supervisors:

1. Direct the Department of Public Health to assist the Los Angeles County Library with obtaining naloxone and maintaining the availability of naloxone on-site at County libraries to reverse opioid overdose;
2. Direct the Department of Public Health to offer training to Los Angeles County Library staff volunteers on how to identify overdose and safely administer naloxone; and
3. Direct the Department of Public Health, the Department of Health Services and the Los Angeles County Library to explore the feasibility of adding libraries as naloxone distribution sites to its existing program that helps people saves lives from opioid overdose (www.laodprevention.org <<http://www.laodprevention.org>>).

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