Information Brief

For Board of Directors

Version: 1.0 (May-2016)

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Title	Public Health Emergency Overdose Response
Purpose	To describe the Interior Health response to the overdose deaths (ODDs) Public Health emergency declared April 14, 2016.
Top Risks	1. (Patient) Continued upward trends in ODDS amongst persons who use uncontrolled psychoactive substances or illicit drugs (PWUD) including Fentanyl. 2. (Financial) Re-prioritization of clinical services to develop and implement ODD surveillance and expanded harm reduction strategies e.g. TakeHomeNaloxone. 3. (Other) Lag in reporting ODD and limited overdose data availability leading to delayed and inefficient response to mitigate emergency.
Lead	Silvina Mema, Medical Health Officer Lori Hiscoe, Corporate Director – Clinical Operations
Sponsor	Trevor Corneil, VP Population Health, Chief Medical Health Officer

RECOMMENDATION

That the Board of Directors accepts this brief for information only.

BACKGROUND

This information brief has been compiled for and is brought to the IH Board under Order in Council by a Medical Health Officer pursuant to the Public Health Act of British Columbia. It describes a significant and time sensitive emergency response to mitigate the risk to the health of PWUDs in the Interior Health Region.

ODDs have continued to escalate in Interior Health and British Columbia (B.C.). There have been 39 ODDs from January to March 2016 in comparison to 60 for all of 2015 in Interior Health. Provincially this equates to 201 and 476 ODDs respectively.

Due to this increase in people overdosing and related mortality from using easily available illegal opioid fentanyl analogues alone or in combination with other legal and illegal opioids and drugs has led the Provincial Health Officer, Dr. Perry Kendall, to provide notice under section 52 (2) of the *Public Health Act*. (MoH, 2016)

> "The purpose of providing this notice is to enable improved surveillance of and response to this overdose situation as may be supported through application of *Public Health Act* sections 53 (a), 54 (1) (k) and 57 " (MoH, 2016)

This allows the Medical Health Officers under all of Part 5 of the *Public Health Act* to use these powers to improve ODD surveillance and respond to the emergency. This notice will be followed up by a Public Health order from the Provincial Health Officer that will include an overdose case definition and minimum dataset for ODD surveillance.

DISCUSSION

In response to the notice given by Dr. Perry Kendall, the Chief Medical Health Officer Dr. Trevor Corneil, has given authority to Dr. Silvina Mema to act as incident commander to respond to the ODD emergency in Interior Health. An incident management team has been struck to operate under the Incident Management Structure (IMS) with support from Health Emergency Management (see attached).

Key focus areas under the IMS structure are data management (surveillance), response, communications, and documentation management.

Key internal partners are Mental Health and Substance Use, Strategic Information, Emergency Networks, Health Information Management, HCIS, and Professional Practice Office. Key external partners are our contracted community agencies, Coroner, First Nations Health Authority, and Divisions of Family Practice.

Through engagement and collaboration with our internal and external partners the key strategies will be:

1. Formalize the implementation of a surveillance system for Overdose Recoveries (ODRs) and Overdose Deaths (ODs) based on emergency data, and develop a case-by-case social network approach to collecting community data

2. Develop and implement a strategic communication plan to notify internal and external stakeholders including PWUD

3. Review and determine best practices in overdose prevention and response in urban, rural, and remote areas across BC's interior region including outreach services

4. Expand current harm reduction services across the health authority and in particular the Take Home Naloxone program

EVALUATION

Ongoing evaluation of data, cross-portfolio business impact, and outcome measures (ODR, and ODD).

ALTERNATIVES

No alternatives. Mandated public health emergency response as per notice given under the *Public Health Act*, section 52 (2) by the Provincial Health Officer, Dr. Perry Kendall

CONSULTATION

Position	Date Information Sent	Date Feedback Received	Type of Feedback
Angela Trif	May 5, 2016	May 5, 2016	Consultation
Information Management Directors	April 18, 2016	April 27, 2016	Consultation
Senior Executive Team	April 25, 2016	April 25, 2016	Consultation
Cross-Portfolio Strategic Directors	May 2, 2016	<date>	Consultation

TIMELINES

Milestone	Lead	Date of Completion
Decision brief written	Lori Hiscoe Silvina Mema	May 11, 2016
Assessment of communication requirements	Leslie Coates, Jamie Braman	ongoing
Presentation to SET	Lori Hiscoe Silvina Mema	May 10, 2016
Presentation to Board of Directors	Lori Hiscoe Silvina Mema	May 31, 2016
Collection of baseline data	Sue Pollock Gillian Frosst	ongoing
Collection of evaluation data	Sue Pollock Gillian Frosst	tbd
Evaluation submitted to sponsor	Gillian Frosst	tbd

ENCLOSURES

Incident Management Structure, April 25 2016

Letter Declaring Public Health Emergency Related to Fentanyl Overdoses, April 14 2016

KGH ED Visits with Substance Misuse 14/15 – 15/16

PHO BCCDC Order May 5 2016 (final draft)

PHO ED Order May 5 2016 (final draft)

PHO EHS Order May 5 2016 (final draft)

PHO MHO Order May 5 2016 (final draft)

PHO PHN Proposed Actions May 5 2016 (final draft)

IH CMHO Order April 29 2016 (draft)

REFERENCES

Provincial Health Officer declared Public Health Emergency, Ministry of Health, April 14 2016
https://news.gov.bc.ca/releases/2016HLTH0026-000568

Illicit Drug Overdose Deaths in BC, Coroner's Service January 1, 2007-March 21, 2016
http://www2.gov.bc.ca/assets/gov/public-safety-and-emergency-services/death-investigation/statistical/illicitdrug.Pdf

DOAP DOORS strategy: http://www.bccdc.ca/resourcegallery/Documents/Educational%20Materials/Epid/Other/Opioid%20Overdose%20Response%20Strategy%20Final.pdf

APPROVAL / ENDORSEMENT

Name for Approval / Endorsement	Signature	Date