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GBHWC, in partnership with Hawaii Health & Harm Reduction Center, Hosts Inaugural Naloxone & Prescriber Training for First Responders

Hagåtña, Guam – Guam Behavioral Health and Wellness Center (GBHWC), in partnership with Hawaii Health & Harm Reduction (HHHRC), in line with The Guam Opioid Overdose Prevention Act of 2023 (Public Law 37-27), offered the first naloxone training of trainers for First Responders at the University of Guam on December 14, 2023 and an overprescription training for prescribers on December 13, 2023. 25 Participants from various Government of Guam agencies and 15 prescribers completed the training and are making the community safer by providing education on proper Naloxone use.

“The impact of the opioid epidemic witnessed in the mainland has not gone unnoticed. In an effort to stay ahead of the threat of opioid misuse and overdoses linked to hidden Fentanyl sources and to fulfill the requirements of *The Guam Opioid Overdose Prevention Act of 2023*, we are proud to offer this (Naloxone) training as it is the first of its kind on island,” said GBHWC Director Theresa Arriola. “We remind our community that there are dangers in misusing prescription medications prescribed to you, as well as using medications that have not been prescribed to you.”

According to the Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS), 16% of high school students and 7% of middle school students reported taking a prescription drug such as Oxycontin without a doctor’s prescription. Opioid antagonists, such as naloxone, can be used during emergencies to reverse opioid overdoses and are effective at preventing fatal drug overdoses.”

The Guam Opioid Overdose Prevention Act of 2023 aims to prevent an opioid crisis. A key provision of the law is the distribution of naloxone, the opioid overdose reversal drug, to first responders, healthcare professionals, and community members, with a focus on saving lives in emergency situations. The training program took place on December 14, 2023, and brought together healthcare professionals, first responders, community leaders, and advocates for a comprehensive learning experience.

25 participants from the Guam Behavioral Health and Wellness Center, Guam Police Department, TOHGE Inc., Guam Airport Police, Guam Courts, Customs, and the Homeland Security Investigations (HIS) Taskforce completed the Naloxone training of trainers. While 15 medical professionals participated in the overprescription training for prescribers. These individuals are now able to conduct naloxone trainings within their organizations and in the community. Their involvement is a testament to their commitment to keeping the island safe.

For more information, contact GBHWC at 671-647-1901 or the GBHWC Prevention and Training Branch at rx.marketing@peaceguam.org.



Overprescription Training



Naloxone Training of Trainers