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GBHWC offers free training on responding to an opioid overdose and implements Naloxone Vending Machine initiated by the *Opioid Overdose Prevention Act of 2023*

Hagåtña, Guam – Guam Behavioral Health and Wellness Center offers training on responding to an opioid overdose and free access to Naloxone, an opioid antagonist, via vending machine

In a proactive effort to prevent opioid overdoses and save lives, the Guam Behavioral Health and Wellness Center (GBHWC) is offering free training on properly responding to an opioid overdose and proper naloxone usage to the community. In addition to the launch of a vending machine that dispenses free naloxone, these initiatives aim to fulfill portions of Public Law 37-27 or *The Guam Opioid Overdose Act of 2023*.

In 2019, 15.5% of high school students and 6.7% of middle school students reported taking a prescription drug, such as OxyContin and/or Codeine, without a doctor's prescription. While local data surrounding opioid misuse is still being gathered, much is known about the addictive properties of opioids as well as the devastation brought on by the opioid epidemic witnessed in the United States. Naloxone, a medicine that can reverse an opioid overdose - has been shown to be a critical and safe tool in preventing fatal overdoses and a means of connecting people to resources for substance use disorder.

GBHWC will offer a comprehensive, monthly training on Naloxone administration. The training includes, how to recognize the signs of, and the steps to properly respond to an opioid overdose. Naloxone kits will be available for public access via a vending machine free of charge, providing easy access to the medication 24/7.

“By offering free trainings and Naloxone, we increase access to this life-saving medicine to our community members, so they have the necessary tools and knowledge to save lives” stated Director Theresa Arriola. The vending machine is located outside the main entrance of the Guam Behavioral Health and Wellness Center in Tamuning. Members of the community are encouraged to access the naloxone after receiving training through GBHWC. The first community training to be held on March 22nd.

For more information about the vending machine and naloxone trainings, contact the GBHWC Main office at (671) 647-5440 or the GBHWC Prevention and Training Branch at rx.marketing@peaceguam.org.