**Proposal for Naloxone vending machine at MPL**

**Proposed by:**

Missoula Drug Safety Coalition, Dose of Hope Project, Recovery Friendly Montana

Missoula Drug Safety Coalition is led by Missoula Public Health, along with many community partners.

Mission Statement: We want a community where every life is valued and where fatal overdoses are prevented. Our goal is to impact culture, policies and programs in Missoula County to save lives, reduce risk, and remove barriers to care for all.

**Background**

The Dose of Hope project refers to vending machine kiosks that distribute life-saving naloxone and fentanyl test strip kits. The vending machine kiosks were installed almost a year ago in four locations: Missoula Food Bank & Community Center, the Johnson Street Shelter, Mountain Line Transfer Center and Hope Rescue Mission. In the last 11 months, we've been able to distribute almost 1,500 boxes of naloxone and over 1,100 fentanyl test strip kits. The distribution of naloxone and fentanyl test strips kits is a public health strategy, promoted and supported by the State of Montana, to reduce overdoses and deaths.

<https://missoulapublichealth.org/people/mental-physical-health/#MentalHealth>

With the Johnson Street Shelter closing, there have been discussions about where that Dose of Hope kiosk would be best placed for maximum access. As a coalition, several options were discussed and the Library came out on top as a preference due to the amount of foot traffic, easy access to the general public, as well as the number of hours the library is open.

The Missoula County *Health Department* not only promotes naloxone but also gives it out.  Montana State openly promotes it.  <https://dphhs.mt.gov/BHDD/naloxone/>  The State is also in the process of purchasing 15 (or so) vending machines to be used as naloxone kiosks throughout the state.

**Logistics**

* **Size**

Dimensions: 72″ H x 28.5″ W x 29.5″ D

Weight: 500 lbs. approx.

There is not a money changer -- cash or credit card -- so all items placed would be for free. Currently, only naloxone and fentanyl test strip kits are being dispensed, but there is potential to add other items as well, such as condoms, or socks, etc.

* **Who stocks and maintains it?**

 Stocked and maintained by Recovery Friendly Montana, under a contract with United Way of Missoula County.

* **Who pays for it, and how is it funded? Follow up: Is there potential for the funding to expire and if so then what happens with the kiosk?**

Currently, funding has been provided by the IERP Trust, a private trust who has received opioid settlement funds and has funded numerous projects in the U.S. Money is guaranteed through the end of this year, possibly into next year. In the meantime, the Coalition is applying to the State of Montana's Opioid Abatement Trust funding for Missoula County.  While there is potential for funding to expire and/or not be available, the Coalition is working to make sure that doesn't happen. They’ve had a lot of positive feedback to help that cause.

**Liability**

No employee of a vending machine location is ever required to administer Naloxone

Montana has the Good Samaritan Law in place to protect people administering naloxone.

<https://archive.legmt.gov/bills/mca/title_0500/chapter_0320/part_0060/section_0090/0500-0320-0060-0090.html>

* + "Montana Good Samaritan laws protect individuals from liability for providing medical assistance at the scene of an emergency. The only scenario in which the law does not protect an individual is if they engage in gross negligence or reckless behavior.

Montana has recently passed additional legislation to enhance the protections under its Good Samaritan law. [Section 50-32-609](https://archive.legmt.gov/bills/mca/title_0500/chapter_0320/part_0060/section_0090/0500-0320-0060-0090.html) of the state’s Good Samaritan law adds protection for people who provide medical assistance during drug overdoses.

Someone acting in good faith to assist an overdosing individual is protected from charges or arrest, and the court cannot use any evidence obtained by law enforcement against them. The changes also protect pregnant women looking to seek help for substance abuse from legal consequences.

Providing first aid during an overdose does not create new legal issues or affect existing cases, and the law intends to encourage providing immediate help without risking legal consequences." (<https://www.murphylawoffice.net/accident-injury-guide/good-samaritan-laws-montana/>)

**Examples of libraries implementing Naloxone vending machines**

* The Moses Lake Library in Washington State partnered with Thriving Together NCW to install a Narcan vending machine in November 2024.
* The Tompkins County Public Library in New York also installed a Narcan vending machine, funded by opioid settlement funds, providing free access to the medication and offering monthly training sessions on its use.
* LA County Library has expanded its naloxone distribution project to include fentanyl test strips, creating a comprehensive harm reduction strategy for safer communities.
* In Ross County, Ohio, harm reduction vending machines were installed at several library branches, making naloxone, pregnancy tests, and fentanyl testing strips discreetly available to patrons
* <https://onlinegrad.syracuse.edu/blog/libraries-fight-opioid-crisis/>
* <https://pmc.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/articles/PMC8753323/>