



NEW HAMPSHIRE ASSOCIATION OF FIRE CHIEFS

REPLY ADDRESS:

547 Charles Bancroft Highway
Litchfield, NH 03052

New Hampshire Association of Fire Chiefs

Position Statement on Addressing Opiate Misuse

A committee was formed following a recommendation by the membership of the NHAFC (Association) to examine the current opiate misuse crisis and the potential for funding into the state to help with combatting the problem. Then to present a position statement to the body for approval.

The following is the position of the Association as voted by the membership:

1. Naloxone (Narcan) Distribution.

The Association supports the Narcan distribution program initiated by the state and coordinated through the individual public health networks (regions). The Association feels that being active in the distribution and education of Narcan administration is the most effective way to get our message out to the public. Controlling the message with regards to the importance of calling 911, proper administration techniques, and education of bystanders on opiate overdose mimics are all concerns that the committee feels are important teachable points we should be delivering to the public. Although there is conflicting points of view in the state as to the effectiveness and relevance to this program, the committee feels the positive benefits outweighs the negative.

2. House Bill 1699; Licensed Alcohol Drug Abuse Counselor (LADAC) in the BEMS

The Association feels that an LADAC trained person within the BEMS will be able to affect a larger number of providers and potential patients than if they were only employed to handle three communities. The committee has worked with the current NHFA/EMS Director, and Bureau Chief of EMS, to gain the support and understanding that this will be a feasible and effective way to administer the funding and will be used to help the state as a whole combat the opiate crisis.

3. Membership to the Governor's Commission on Alcohol and Drug Abuse Prevention, Intervention and Treatment

The Association shall attempt to obtain a seat as part of the Governor's Commission on Alcohol and Drug Abuse Prevention, Intervention and Treatment.

ADOPTED BY THE MEMBERSHIP AT A MEETING HELD MARCH 10, 2016

Brent T. Lemire, Secretary

April 22, 2016