



## Gloucester Police Department Volunteer ANGEL Program

### **BACKGROUND:**

*Opiate overdose is the leading cause of accidental death in Massachusetts. To help reduce the number of fatal and nonfatal overdoses in Gloucester, we are changing the way we handle addicts who request help with their addiction to opiates such as morphine, heroin, fentanyl, oxycodone as found in OxyContin®, Percocet® and Percodan®, and hydrocodone as found in Vicodin®. There are many resources available in the city of Gloucester to help with this disease, but many people do not know how to access these services. With strong community support, the Gloucester Police Department under the direction of Chief Leonard Campanello will be adopting the following policy effective June 1, 2015 to address the needs of any person who comes into the station requesting help with their opiate addiction.*

### **POLICY:**

*Any person who enters the police station and is requesting help with their addiction to opiates will be immediately screened into the ANGEL program and transported to the AGH. If such a person who has requested help with their addiction is in possession of drugs or their drug equipment (needles, etc.) while requesting help, they will not be charged. Any officers having contact with anyone entering the Gloucester Police Department and requesting help with their addiction will be professional, compassionate and understanding at all times. The officer will immediately notify the Watch Commander that a patient is requesting help with their addiction.*

### **The Watch Commander will take the following steps:**

- *Assign an officer to remain with the patient, transport them to the AGH, and depart from the patient only when relieved by an ANGEL.*
- *Ensure that a Gloucester Police Department ANGEL program intake form has been completed and a CORI check performed on the patient.*
- *Ensure that the patient signs a Gloucester police department **Patient program agreement form.***
- *Find and contact an ANGEL from the Volunteer book in the Watch Commander's office that is willing to assist this patient.*
- *Provide the ANGEL with all necessary and relevant information as soon as possible. Contact the AGH emergency room using the ring down phone in the radio room and inform the nurse in-charge of the patient's name, whether they are being transported to the AGH by police or fire rescue, if there are any underlying medical issues, the fact that they are taking advantage of the ANGEL program, and the name of the ANGEL who will be assisting in this process. The*



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*nurse in-charge will communicate specific instructions of where they want the patient to go at the ER; and the Watch Commander will communicate as to whether there is any history or concern of potential violence with the patient.*

- *If any drugs and/or drug equipment are turned over they shall be documented on the in-take form and upon completion of documentation, they are properly disposed of.*
- *Place completed and signed in-take form in the mail box outside of the Administrative Lieutenant's office.*
- *Attempt to secure a new ANGEL if either the patient or the ANGEL requests that it be done.*

**All officers having contact with anyone requesting help with their addiction will be professional, compassionate and understanding at all times.**

- If the initial contact is made on the street, officers will use their discretion that we exercise on a daily basis.
- Any officer who has been assigned to the patient by the Watch Commander will have the patient complete a Gloucester Police Department ANGEL intake form and sign a ***Patient program agreement form.***
- Once assigned to the patient, the officer will remain with the patient until properly relieved by an ANGEL. The officer will introduce the ANGEL to the patient and to the emergency room nurse assigned to that patient.
- The officer will remain on scene until the ANGEL, the patient and the nurse (who is assigned to that patient) are comfortable with the officer's departure. The officer will then contact the Watch Commander by phone and request permission to clear the AGH.
- Once cleared, the officer will return to the station and debrief the Watch Commander of any issues or concerns.

### **EXCEPTIONS:**

*A person seeking help with their addiction to opiates shall be deemed INELIGIBLE to participate in the Gloucester Police Department Volunteer ANGEL Program if:*

- *The subject has an outstanding arrest warrant*
- *The subject has three or more drug-related arrests on their criminal record if at least one of those arrests resulted in a conviction for possession with intent to distribute OR trafficking OR drug violation in a school zone.*



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- *The officer or Watch Commander expresses the reasonable belief that the ANGEL could be seriously harmed by the subject*
- *The subject is under age 18 and does not have parent or guardian consent*

### **Nasal Narcan for addicts program:**

*Nasal Narcan has been made available at local pharmacies without a prescription. The Gloucester Police Department has entered into an agreement with Conley's and is working on one with CVS that will allow anyone access to the drug at little or no cost regardless of their insurance. The Police Department will pay the cost of Nasal Narcan for those without insurance. It will be paid for with money seized from drug dealers during investigations. We recognize that Nasal Narcan is not the only answer but it saves lives and no one in Gloucester will be denied a life-saving drug to assist them with their addiction simply because they lack the requisite insurance or funds.*