Narcan Vending Machine

BCHD received MO first Narcan vending machine on May 13th with the unveiling to the public on May 31st. We received the machine through MO Highlands (who had extra HRSA funds).

BCHD had partnered with MO Highlands last year to distribute Narcan in the community and report our numbers to them. Similar to what we provide to DHSS (Karen – MORE program). Keeping our supplies separate and reporting to each entity separately.

MO Highlands had approached me with the concept – other states have implemented Narcan vending machine, but in drug rehab facilities or police stations. This is the first health department. When we distribute Narcan – we give a brief class / overview and have them provide us with their name to “track them.” Knowing half, the time we don’t get their real name. The vending machine helps to break down some barriers. They can get Narcan and not have to report to anyone. Yet, we are still able to track how many doses are taken.

So how it works: There is a vendor coupon next to the machine. They take the coupon and insert it into the machine (just like you would if it was a soda machine, and you insert your dollar). We are able to keep track by counting the vendor coupons (or how much it takes to refill the machine). There is an educational handout and how to use Narcan next to the machine.

To date (over the last two weeks) there has been 77 Narcan distributed from the machine. Currently, there is no limit on how many you can take.

MO Highlands will continue to provide Narcan to keep the machine stocked. And they are currently working with BHG (Behavioral Health Group – Methadone clinic) in providing them with a machine as well.

BCHD is still providing classes and trainings to the community and first responders. And distributing Narcan to them as well.

MO Highlands has also stated we can use half of the machine for Narcan and the other half on anything we chose. We are thinking of adding safe sex kits --- condoms

Cons: A lot of negative feedback via Facebook leading up to the unveiling and maybe a few days afterwards – insulin? Epi pens? Only 8-5pm.

Pros: breaking down barriers. Getting it into more hands.

No change in clientele.