



Opioid
Response
Network



Kansas City
Public Library

Understanding Addiction, Harm Reduction, and Opioid Overdose Response with Naloxone

Wednesday June 25th, 2025

11:30 AM - 12:30 PM

Location: Kansas City Public Library-
Central Branch

14 W. 20th Street, Kansas City, MO 64105

Description: This presentation provides a brief overview of addiction as a medical condition, the principles and practices of harm reduction, and practical training in recognizing and responding to opioid overdoses using Naloxone (Narcan). Participants will learn about the neurobiology of addiction, the impact of stigma, and the importance of nonjudgmental support for individuals with substance use disorders. The session will explore harm reduction strategies, including safe use practices and overdose prevention, and will conclude with hands-on knowledge of how to administer Naloxone during an overdose emergency.

By the end of this presentation, participants will be able to:

1. Define addiction and explain how it affects the brain, behavior, and decision-making.
2. Describe harm reduction and its role in public health and substance use care.
3. Identify risk factors and signs of an opioid overdose.
4. Demonstrate how to respond to an opioid overdose using Naloxone (Narcan).
5. Understand legal protections (e.g., Good Samaritan Laws) and community resources available for overdose prevention and support.
6. Recognize the importance of stigma-free, trauma-informed care and or support when supporting individuals who use substances.



Darla Belflower, LCSW, CPS, has worked in leadership in the substance use disorder and behavioral health fields for over three decades. She has a passion for teaching others what she has learned in those years. She is Vice Chair of the KC Recovery Coalition, serves on the MO Coalition of Recovery Support Providers board, and is a member of the MO Department of Mental Health State Advisory Council. Darla is a person in recovery and the author of the book "I Am Not Anonymous."

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