

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

# PRESS RELEASE

## Jackson County Health Department

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### The Jackson County Health Department is now offering Project DAWN kits

The Jackson County Health Department can now dispense kits containing the overdose reversal drug naloxone without a prescription thanks to a recently-adopted state law. House Bill 4 (Sprague and Rezabek), signed into law on July 17<sup>th</sup>, 2015 by Governor Kasich, authorizes naloxone use without a prescription in accordance with a physician-approved protocol. The JCHD can now issue these life-saving kits to citizens through our new Project DAWN program, which stands for Deaths Avoided With Naloxone.

Since 1999, drug overdoses have taken the lives of more than 13,000 Ohioans. These deaths are largely attributable to the abuse of opioids, a class of drug that includes both prescription pain relievers and heroin. When administered during an opioid overdose, naloxone blocks the effects of opioids on the brain and effectively reverses the overdose, potentially saving the person's life.

Each Project DAWN kit includes two vials of the naloxone which are sprayed into the nose of the person overdosing. This medication has no effect on someone who is not overdosing, and produces no euphoric effects like opioids do. Naloxone therefore has no street value, and the kits do not contain needles. Naloxone is a safe and effective tool that can only be used to prevent overdose deaths. For more information on Project DAWN and naloxone, please visit:

<http://www.healthy.ohio.gov/vipp/drug/ProjectDAWN.aspx> .

Our Project DAWN kits were purchased with a grant from the Gallia-Jackson-Meigs Alcohol, Drug Addiction, and Mental Health Services Board, and our program was launched with the generous support of the Jackson County EMS. Supplies are limited, so the kits will be distributed on a first-come, first-serve basis to citizens who express a genuine likelihood to need to use one. To make an appointment to receive a kit, please call the Jackson County Health Department at 740-286-5094.