

## Camden – Pasquotank – Perquimans Post Overdose Response Team Overview

- January 2019 both Perquimans EMS and Pasquotank-Camden EMS applied for a grant through the NC Office of EMS to establish a Post Overdose Response Team. Each agency requested \$33,500 in grant funds.
- The purpose of this team was to reduce substance abuse in Camden, Pasquotank and Perquimans counties and to inform those impacted about what options are available for assistance.
- Both agencies were notified by NC OEMS that while they wanted to see a PORT in northeaster NC, they could not fully fund either request, and asked that we consider a joint project.
- In May 2019 we received a grant contract for a combined \$30,000 grant.
- On May 31, 2019, Pasquotank-Camden EMS and Perquimans EMS implemented our Post Overdose Response Team.
- When an individual has a non-fatal overdose event, the goal of the Post Overdose Response Team Program is to educate and provide harm reduction alternatives such as treatment or recovery options to the patients and their families.
  - Within 24 hours of a post overdose event, a prehospital care provider (Advanced EMT or Paramedic) will follow-up with the patient to assess for any potential pulmonary or cardiac complications that may have arisen from the overdose and associated administration of Narcan.
    - This set our team apart from the minimum requirement of the grant, as we wanted to ensure a quick response post overdose.
    - The EMS provider is focusing on patient assessment and lung sounds to ensure there is no pulmonary edema or any new onset of difficulty breathing.
  - An additional visit will occur 72 hours after the post overdose event to individuals that actively use drugs on a regular basis to share options that are available to them, such as treatment facilities and/or detoxification services. This visit may be in person or by phone.
- Since starting this program, patients that have experienced an overdose have been seen in Camden, Pasquotank and Perquimans Counties.
- We want the public to know there are resources available and if someone you know suffers from substance abuse and would like help, they can contact Pasquotank-Camden EMS or Perquimans County Emergency Services.
- An overdose event has the potential to be a life-or-death event and that citizens should always dial 911, even if Narcan is administered by a bystander or family member.

