

Staff Report

Subject: Request Approval of Opioid Antagonist, Location, and Training Policy

Author: Sarah Mausolf, Director

Department: Human Resource Services

Meeting Date: September 2, 2025

Item Description: Consideration for the Effingham County Board of Commissioners to approve an Opioid Antagonist, Location, and Training Policy

Background

In 2024, the Georgia General Assembly passed Senate Bill 395, also known as *Wesley's Law*. The law mandates that all local governments maintain a minimum supply of opioid antagonists, such as naloxone (Narcan), in **courthouses and qualified government buildings** where the governing authority regularly meets. The legislation further requires the adoption of an **internal training and implementation policy** to govern the administration of these medications.

The Association County Commissioners of Georgia (ACCG) has issued supplemental guidance clarifying that:

- Each qualified government building and courthouse must stock **at least three-unit doses** of an opioid antagonist.
- Supplies must be **accessible during regular business hours and government events outside of regular hours**.
- Local governments are authorized to receive grants, contracts, and donations to offset compliance costs.
- Counties must establish a written training and implementation policy, including required immunity statements and access instructions.

The Effingham County Board of Commissioners has drafted a proposed **Opioid Antagonist Administration, Location, and Training Policy** to comply with Wesley's Law.

Key Elements of the Policy:

1. **Purpose and Intent**
 - Ensures each qualified building and courthouse maintains at least three-unit doses of an opioid antagonist.
 - Authorizes the County to make opioid antagonists available at additional sites beyond statutory requirements.
2. **Definitions**
 - Incorporates statutory definitions of "opioids," "opioid related overdose," "opioid antagonist," "qualified government building," and "courthouse."
3. **Training Requirements**
 - Effingham County EMS will provide training.
 - Curriculum covers opioid effects, overdose recognition, naloxone administration, post-administration protocols, and legal protections.
 - Initial training at implementation, followed by annual refreshers.

- Georgia Department of Public Health training videos supplement instruction.
- 4. **Authority to Administer**
 - Any trained employee may administer an opioid antagonist in good faith to a person believed to be experiencing an opioid overdose.
 - Protocol requires administration, calling 911, monitoring, and remaining with the individual until EMS arrives.
- 5. **Immunity and Legal Protections**
 - Good faith administration or failure to act does not expose trained staff to civil or professional liability, except in cases of gross negligence or willful misconduct.
 - Effingham County is immune from liability for failure to provide AEDs or opioid antagonists.
- 6. **Medical Amnesty**
 - Reinforces Georgia's Medical Amnesty law, which protects individuals seeking medical help during an overdose from certain drug-related charges.
- 7. **Locations of Supply**
 - AED cabinets in all qualified government buildings and courthouses will contain at least three doses.
 - Additional doses will be housed in the Administrative Complex HR office for redundancy.

Funding Source: Using opioid settlement account funds to purchase Narcan supplies.

- **Initial Costs:** Purchase of naloxone doses and storage placement in AED cabinets across required facilities.
- **Ongoing Costs:** Routine resupply, expiration monitoring, and annual training refreshers.
- **Offsetting Resources:** The County is authorized to seek grants, contracts, donations, and state support to reduce the budgetary impact.

Alternatives for Commission to Consider

1. Approve Opioid Antagonist Administration, Location, and Training Policy.
2. Do not approve the Opioid Antagonist Administration, Location, and Training Policy.
3. Provide Staff with direction.

Recommended Alternative: Staff recommend Alternative 1.

Other Alternatives: None

Department Review: County Manager, Finance, and Human Resource Services.

Attachments:

1. Senate Bill 395 (Wesley's Law)
2. ACCG Briefing on SB 395 Requirements
3. Draft Effingham County Opioid Antagonist Policy