

Community Benefit 2020

Inspired by our faith, SCL Health addresses the most critical needs of the communities we serve; especially of those who are poor and vulnerable. In 2020, SCL Health system provided **\$294.4 million** in community benefit, supporting areas such as community health improvement services, health professions education programs, community building activities and subsidized health services. Care site specific totals are highlighted below.



2020 Community Benefit Highlights

Across the health system, SCL Health supported the mental health of its community members and associates through one of the most trying years by engaging with community collaboratives and offering virtual mental health and well-being training. The trainings focused on suicide prevention, stigma reduction, compassion fatigue and trauma-informed practices.



50 trainings,
reaching nearly
1,000 individuals

**2 mental health
first aid instructors**
trained in Montana and Grand Junction



Re-launched Let's Talk CO
with the Metro Denver Partnership for Health
Collaborative



30% increase
in depression and anxiety
symptoms since 2020



Platte Valley Medical Center increased access to mental health training.

70 community members received
suicide prevention training



33 NARCAN emergency kits distributed to discharging patients at risk of an opioid overdose



\$55,000 in grant
supports to counseling
agencies meeting the needs of
370 people.



Provided
43,196 COVID-19
vaccinations

Support for social determinants of health:
\$52,000 (food insecurity)
\$115,850 (housing)



Brighton Housing Chromebook Purchase

COVID brought new challenges for everyone, but navigating 2020 was especially difficult for individuals and families without a computer and internet access. Many routines during the pandemic relied heavily on remote access for education, healthcare, shopping, work, and social interactions. In 2020, Platte Valley Medical Center donated funds to the Brighton Housing Authority (BHA) to purchase 50 Chromebooks for Brighton residents without access to computers. With additional funding, the program also helped families to obtain internet access.

BHA advertised this program by sending flyers to 30 community agencies, sharing on their social media sites, and through their quarterly newsletters. Referrals to the program were also made by local agencies. Families and individuals could also request a device directly. The Chromebooks were available for short term (4 - 5 days) or long term (4 -6 weeks) check-out. For those choosing the four to six weeks option, BHA provided a check-in on the second or third week. After the six weeks mark, clients were allowed to renew the Chromebook for another three weeks if needed. According to BHA, the average length of check out for the Chromebooks has been eight weeks. Upon the return of the Chromebook, a satisfaction survey is completed by the computer user.

As of July 2021, 92 households have taken advantage of the program and there were currently forty devices checked out. Data gathered from surveys showed that the top three primary uses for the laptops were job searches, social connection, and agency work (i.e. making appointments with social services, or finding emergency assistance). Additional survey findings include: 94% of households requesting the devices were headed by females; 50% of the clients were unemployed; 53% were Caucasian, 20% Hispanic, and 20% African American. Most



people that checked out a device also needed financial assistance to get internet access.

Two issues have been identified from the surveys that need further exploration. The most common site used to conduct job searches was identified as Craig's List. BHA will be working with the Adams County Work Center to develop information on job search engines that would yield better results and make that information available to clients. Secondly, improving funding to decrease the digital divide for families is necessary to ensure consistent access. A company offering a \$10 connection fee for use of the internet for school children seemed to meet the need gap. However, eligibility restrictions for families make it a difficult option for many to take advantage.

Overall, the Chromebook program has been very successful and well received in the community.

NARCAN Distribution

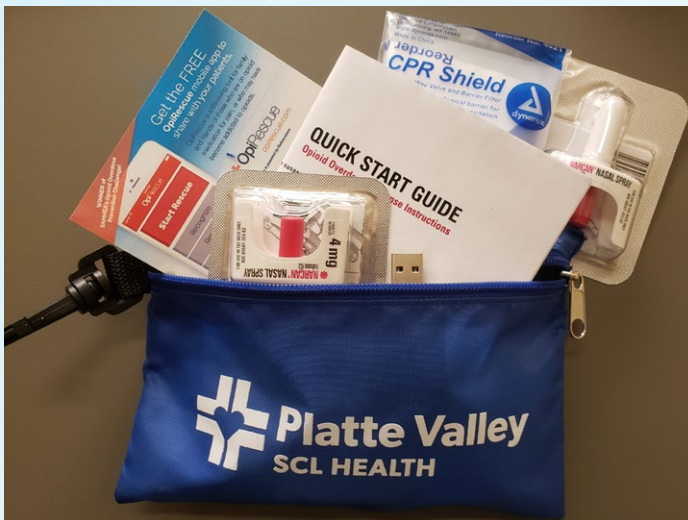
The opioid epidemic is a well-documented problem in the country and the death rates for Opioid overdoses have risen since 2014. NARCAN (naloxone) is a life-saving medication that is being used nationally to prevent deaths related to Opioid overdoses.

Naloxone works by blocking the receptors in the body where

the opioids bind, as well as knocking off any opioids that have already attached to receptors. This process effectively reverses the damage done by the opioids and can revive a person that is suffering from an overdose of substances such as heroin, oxycodone, hydrocodone, codeine, and morphine. A benefit of this medication is that it does not do any harm to a person who is not using opioids. Originally, this medication

NARCAN Distribution *(cont.)*

was only available as an injection and was difficult to use in settings other than those with a trained medical professional. However in 2015, a nasal spray form of naloxone was given approval by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) which made administration of the medicine much simpler and able to be used by first responders (police, emergency medical responders and fire) as well as family or friends of a loved one with an opioid addiction. According to the National Institute on Drug Abuse, a study done in 2018, looking at states that passed laws to increase access to naloxone and allow for distribution to and administration by laypersons, showed a 14% decrease in opioid overdose deaths.



In Colorado, administration levels have greatly increased access points to include pharmacists, first responders, an employee or volunteer of a harm reduction organization, or a family member, friend, or other person that may need to assist a person at risk of an overdose. There are many barriers to the purchase of this product by the at-risk person or their family. The average cost of a 2-dose supply of NARCAN is

approximately \$140 which is too expensive for many people. Additionally, an education barrier exists as some people may not know that it is possible to purchase the life-saving drug from a pharmacy and some may not know that a drug that can reverse an overdose exists. Furthermore, the stigma of going into a pharmacy and admitting a need for this drug often prevents people from accessing it. Finally, transportation is often another barrier that limits access to pharmacies or social support organizations.

In September of 2020, Platte Valley Medical Center began a NARCAN kit distribution program to address some of the barriers to accessing NARCAN. The physicians in the Emergency Department and the Hospitalists caring for the inpatient population identify patients that are at risk of an overdose, particularly for those admitted for an overdose or current use of an opioid. The physician places the order for the NARCAN kit to be distributed to the patient upon discharge and the nurse delivers the kit to the patient and provides education on how to use the kit.

The kit is contained in a zippered pouch and consists of 2 doses of the nasal spray NARCAN, a card with information on OPI-Rescue (a mobile app that contains instructions on the administration of NARCAN, a map of where to go for treatment, a map of where to find naloxone and how to recognize an overdose), a thumb drive with a video on how to recognize an overdose and how to administer the NARCAN, a one-way CPR shield to be used if mouth-mouth resuscitation is necessary, and a one-page "NARCAN Quick Start Guide" from the distributor outlining instructions for a response to an opioid overdose.

To date, 33 kits have been distributed and SCL Health is in the planning stages of putting the kits in all of their hospitals to decrease the risk of overdose in the at-risk population.

Please visit the Platte Valley Medical Center website to access the full Community Health Needs Assessment:
<https://www.sclhealth.org/locations/platte-valley-medical-center/about/community-benefit/>



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