
ST. BONIFACE STREET LINKS OASIS MOBILE OUTREACH PROJECT

The St. Boniface Street Links Outreach and Supportive Intervention for People Who Use Substances (OASIS) Mobile Outreach Project is a 24-month pilot project that began in April 2022 and will run until March 31, 2024.

The OASIS program aligns with the 2018 report by VIRGO Planning and Evaluation Consultants, *Improving Access and Coordination of Mental Health and Addiction Services: A Provincial Strategy for all Manitobans*, which identified a lack of appropriate housing with supports for individuals with mental health challenges as one of the most frequent gaps in mental health services. This program supports the report's recommendation to increase capacity for community-based treatment services, including extended hours of operation.

The OASIS project is also in alignment with the Manitoba Mental Health and Community Wellness February 2022 report, *A Pathway to Mental Health and Community Wellness: A Roadmap for Manitoba*, and its focus on equitable access to services.

TAKE-HOME NALOXONE KIT PROGRAM

Naloxone is a fast-acting, life-saving drug that temporarily reverses the effects of opioid toxicity/overdose including fentanyl, morphine, codeine and heroin. Legislative changes implemented in 2020 allowed for increased access to the life-saving drug.

Research shows people who experience opioid toxicity in settings where naloxone is available are less likely to die. Improving naloxone access is a critical step in reducing fatal outcomes.

Manitoba's Take-Home Naloxone Kit Program was established in 2017. The free kits contain injectable naloxone and training materials and are currently available at over 200 distribution sites across Manitoba including shelters, outreach programs, First Nations communities, pharmacies and health-care facilities. The province is increasing the availability of naloxone by approving new distribution sites and by purchasing more naloxone kits, representing an overall investment of \$760,000 in 2022. This represents an increase of \$210,000 for this program this year.

NARCAN (INTRANASAL NALOXONE) PILOT PROJECT

Narcan is the only intranasal version of naloxone approved for use and distribution in Canada.

In 2021, there were 347 drug toxicity/overdose fatalities in Manitoba. Increasing access to harm reduction initiatives, addictions medicine and withdrawal management are important components of Manitoba's response to rising drug-toxicity/overdose numbers. There have also

been recent investments in other evidenced-based interventions including: Opiate Agonist Therapy (OAT), Withdrawal Management Services (WMS); and Rapid Access to Addictions Medicine (RAAM) clinics.

Advocates and community groups indicate that friends and family members of people experiencing a drug poisoning/overdose may be more comfortable and confident administering Narcan to loved ones under these stressful circumstances.

This Narcan pilot project will be operational in 2023.