

166-22

Additional
Info

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NASSAU COUNTY
CLERK OF THE LEGISL.



FAMILY & CHILDREN'S
ASSOCIATION

Here for Long Island. Here for You.

September 20, 2022

Legislator Debra Mulé
1550 Franklin Avenue
Mineola, NY 11501

Re: Resolution 166-22

Dear Legislator Mulé:

Family and Children's Association (FCA) wholeheartedly supports your proposed resolution authorizing Nassau County to provide and include Fentanyl test strips when distributing naloxone (Narcan) kits to Nassau County residents. We remain one of Long Island's oldest and largest service providers, operating two NYS-licensed outpatient treatment centers in Nassau County, along with Nassau's only Recovery Center and a whole host of prevention and recovery focused programs that reach in excess of 20,000 residents annually.

Overdoses are soaring among Nassau residents – up about 30% over pre-pandemic levels – and most of those fatalities are directly related to counterfeit fentanyl. Often smuggled into the US, fentanyl is exponentially more powerful than heroin and dealers are adding the drug not only to heroin, but into cocaine and pressing it into counterfeit pills designed to look like Xanax and prescription painkillers.

Narcan has saved countless lives and when paired with fentanyl test strips that can detect the drug in a sample prior to use, will save even more moms, dads, brothers, sisters and children. Research and our own efforts here at FCA have demonstrated that those with an active Substance Use Disorder (SUD) will use fentanyl test strip results to modify their behaviors, perhaps using less of the drug, ensuring the presence of naloxone, avoiding solitary use and taking other steps to avoid a medical event that could include death. Many of those people, given a second shot at life have found a path to recovery and remain drug-free and sober.

Because dead folks can't get well – 700 Long Islanders died of overdoses last year – we urge Nassau County to enact this legislation without delay. With each passing day, we are losing on average, two more Long Islanders whose families will forever be changed. Please pass Resolution 166-22.

Sincerely,

Jeffrey L. Reynolds, Ph.D.
President/CEO