



## Gloucester Police Department Volunteer ANGEL Program

### **BACKGROUND:**

*Opiate overdose is the leading cause of accidental death in Massachusetts. To help reduce the number of fatal and nonfatal overdoses in Gloucester, we are changing the way we handle addicts who request help with their addiction to opiates such as morphine, heroin, fentanyl, oxycodone as found in OxyContin®, Percocet® and Percodan®, and hydrocodone as found in Vicodin®. There are many resources available in the city of Gloucester to help with this disease, but many people do not know how to access these services. With strong community support, the Gloucester Police Department under the direction of Chief Leonard Campanello will be adopting the following policy effective June 1, 2015 to address the needs of any person who comes into the station requesting help with their opiate addiction.*

### **POLICY:**

*Any person who enters the police station and requests help with their addiction to opiates will be immediately screened into the ANGEL program. If such a person who has requested help with their addiction is in possession of drugs or their drug equipment (needles, etc.), they will not be charged. Any officers having contact with anyone entering the Gloucester Police Department and requesting help with their addiction will be professional, compassionate and understanding at all times. The officer will immediately notify the Watch Commander that a potential Angel intake is requesting help with their addiction.*

### **The Watch Commander will take the following steps:**

- *Assign an officer to monitor the program participant. The participant can stay in the front lobby until the Angel arrives. Upon the Angels arrival, have the officer bring them to the interview room.*
- *Insure that both a Gloucester Police Department's ANGEL **Program Intake and Program Participant Agreement Forms** are completed.*
- *Insure that a CORI check has been done on the participant. .*
- *Contact an ANGEL who is willing to assist this participant. Utilize the ANGEL book, which is located in the Watch Commander's office. Have them report to the police department.*
- *If any drugs and/or drug equipment are turned over they shall be documented on the in-take form and upon completion of documentation, properly disposed of.*



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- *If needed, contact **Lahey Health Behavioral Services at 978-744-1585**. Inform them that we have a person who is requesting help with their opiate addiction through the Gloucester police department's ANGEL program and that we are requesting them to be evaluated.*
- *Place completed and signed in-take form in the mail box outside of the Administrative Lieutenant's office.*
- *Beaumont Ambulance has been contracted for in state transportation. If the participant has been placed in an in state facility or if transportation is required to Logan airport, call Beaumont Ambulance at 978-281-6955. Tell them that this is for the Angel program.*
- *Attempt to secure a new ANGEL if either the participant or the ANGEL requests that it be done.*
- *If the participant is unable to be placed after exhausting all possible methods, the participant is not to leave without being given a plan to continue with help. The participant shall be afforded every courtesy to find them a safe place upon departure.*

**All officers having contact with anyone requesting help with their addiction will be professional, compassionate and understanding at all times.**

- If the initial contact is made on the street, officers will use their discretion that we exercise on a daily basis. This program is specifically and exclusively applies to persons who present at the police station for help.
- Any officer who has been assigned to the participant by the Watch Commander will have the participant complete a **Gloucester Police Department ANGEL intake form** and sign a **Program Participant agreement form**.
- Once assigned to the participant, the officer will monitor them until properly relieved by an ANGEL. This can be done from the dispatch area while the participant is waiting in the front lobby.
- Officers will make the Watch Commander aware of any issues or concerns.

### **EXCEPTIONS:**

*A person seeking help with their addiction to opiates may be deemed **INELIGIBLE** to participate in the Gloucester Police Department Volunteer ANGEL Program if:*

- *The subject has an outstanding arrest warrant*



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- *The subject has three or more drug-related CONVICTIONS on their criminal record if at least one of those CONVICTIONS from a possession with intent to distribute OR trafficking OR drug violation in a school zone.*
- *The officer or Watch Commander expresses the reasonable belief that the ANGEL could be seriously harmed by the subject*
- *The subject is under age 18 and does not have parent or guardian consent*
- *If the subject presents with any signs or symptoms of withdrawal or any other clear medical conditions, or simply requests at the time of intake, he or she will be immediately transported to Addison Gilbert Hospital.*

### **Nasal Narcan Purchasing Program for addicted persons and family members of addicted persons:**

*Nasal Narcan has been made available at local pharmacies without a prescription. The Gloucester Police Department has entered into an agreement with Conley's, CVS and Walgreens Pharmacies that will allow anyone access to the drug at no cost regardless of their insurance. The Police Department will pay the cost of Nasal Narcan for those without insurance. Payment shall be made to the pharmacy, following in place billing protocol, with funds allocated to the Gloucester Police Department from state and federal asset forfeiture seized monies obtained from adjudicated drug cases. Narcan saves lives. It is the policy of the Gloucester Police Department to recognize that the role of public safety in supplying narcan is one of responsibility and duty and not of judgment. No person in Gloucester will be denied a life-saving drug to assist them with their or their loved ones addiction simply because they lack the requisite insurance or funds.*