

—Slug:.....COMM-0847.opin.letter.000_rieske
—Contributor.....Robin Rieske
—Contributor email.....rrieskevt@gmail.com
—For section.....Voices/Letters from readers
—Format.....LETTERS - Opinions - Letters to the Editor
—Dateline.....Brattleboro
—Article Number:.....42854

Notes from editor (not for publication):

HEADLINE ELEMENTS:

####BEGIN HED####

Narcan dispensers available at two spots in Brattleboro

####END HED####

####BEGIN SUBHED####

####END SUBHED####

TEXT BODY:

####BEGIN TEXT####

Two new Narcan dispensers are now available in Brattleboro, one at Groundworks and one at Brooks Memorial Library, made possible through a partnership between the AIDS Project of Southern Vermont and the Community Substance Use Response (CSUR).

The effort focuses on meeting people where they are by placing lifesaving medication in accessible, familiar spaces. As Library Director Starr LaTronica says, “The mission of libraries is

12 to connect people with the resources they need. We are grateful
13 to be able to provide this lifesaving resource to anyone who
14 needs it, directly inside our front door.”

15 Narcan, the brand name for naloxone, is a fast-acting
16 medication that can reverse an opioid overdose by blocking the
17 effects of the drug and restoring breathing. It is safe, easy to use,
18 and effective against overdoses involving heroin, fentanyl, and
19 prescription opioids. Public-health experts emphasize that timely
20 access matters; overdoses can become fatal within minutes if
21 breathing is not restored.

22 Despite its effectiveness, stigma remains one of the
23 biggest barriers to naloxone access and use, often rooted in
24 misconceptions about substance use and who “deserves” help.

25 CDC research shows that stigma can discourage people
26 from carrying Narcan or seeking training. We hope if we
27 normalize Narcan, placing it in public spaces, offering it without
28 judgment, and treating it like any other emergency tool, we can
29 help save lives.

30 By placing dispensers in locations that serve a wide
31 range of Brattleboro residents, the AIDS Project and CSUR are
32 sending a clear message: overdose prevention is a shared
33 community responsibility, and everyone deserves the chance to
34 survive and recover.

35 Reversing an overdose is not the end of the story, it can
36 also be the beginning. Narcan gives people the chance to stay
37 alive long enough to access treatment, recovery services, and
38 support. Every reversal creates an opportunity for connection,
39 care, and a path forward.

40 With these new dispensers, APSVT and CSUR strengthen
41 their commitment with others to protect the health and dignity of
42 all community members. If you would like to learn more about
43 Narcan, harm reduction or get training, please contact CSUR at
44 CSUR802VT@gmail.com or APSVT at 802-254-4444.

####END TEXT####

BIO/COATTAIL:

####BEGIN BIO/COATTAIL####

45

####END BIO/COATTAIL####

LAST ISSUE IN WHICH THIS FILE CAN BE RUN:

####BEGIN MAXISSUE####

46

0

####END MAXISSUE####

LINKS:

####BEGIN LINKS####

47

####END LINKS####

VIDEO:

####BEGIN VIDEO####

48

####END VIDEO####

LOGLINE (SOCIAL MEDIA):

####BEGIN LOGLINE####

49

####END LOGLINE####