



# REPORT TO CALGARY POLICE COMMISSION



## Opioid Dependency Program (ODP) Update

### Date

2022/05/03

### Commission Role

Information only       Approval

### Type of Meeting

- Full Commission meeting
- Governance and Personnel (G&P) Sub-Committee
- Finance and Audit (F&A) Sub-Committee
- Complaint Oversight (COC) Sub-Committee
- Anti-Racism Committee

### Purpose

- Obligation under the Police Act
- Update on progress
- Other: (x)

### Recommendations

Recommendation for ELT/SLT: This information should be shared with the Full Calgary Police Commission.

### Background / Issue

This report contains updates on three related initiatives under the Opioid Dependency Program (ODP). The initiatives are:

- 1) **VODP** (Virtual Opioid Dependency Program) connects people with opioid replacement (suboxone) prescriptions at the Arrest Processing Section (APS). There is also a public version available.
- 2) **DORS** (Digital Overdose Response System) is a cell phone app that continuously checks in with people as they are using drugs and sends emergency services if they stop responding.
- 3) **Nasal naloxone kits** for overdose reversal have been provided to CPS officers for distribution to people who may need them. This is a one-time distribution of 500 kits. These are the same kits available for free from Alberta pharmacies.

In 2021, The Province of Alberta launched two initiatives aimed at addressing the current opioid crisis – the Virtual Opioid Dependency Program (VODP) and the Digital Overdose Response System (DORS). The goal of these Alberta-based initiatives is to reduce overdose deaths from opioid usage. The Province is coordinating communication and marketing of these services to Albertans and has requested support from partner agencies, including CPS.

## **VODP**

In December 2021, the province announced a partnership with the CPS Arrest Processing Section to connect detainees to the VODP upon their consent. The partnership takes the form of a provincial grant that provides funding for three full time health staff for one year (April 2022 to March 2023), computers and cell phones for these staff members, administrative costs and an evaluation to be completed by an independent third party.

Since it began, more than 80 detainees at APS have accessed the program to receive suboxone. This has dramatically helped with withdrawal symptoms while in custody and has provided better re-integration for those released from custody.

The VODP is available to any Albertan and provides immediate access to medical care over the phone by connecting patients experiencing opioid dependency with doctors who prescribe opioid agonist therapy drugs, ongoing support and monitoring in an outpatient setting. Opioid agonist drugs, such as suboxone, help by easing withdrawal symptoms and inhibit cravings by blocking the opioid receptors in the brain.

VODP can be accessed by anyone by calling 1-844-383-7688. The toll-free line is available seven days a week, 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. daily. There is no waitlist for the program.

## **DORS**

The Digital Overdose Response System (DORS) is a free, discrete mobile app that can help prevent overdose deaths among people using opioids and other substances while alone. The DORS app can be downloaded from any smart phone's app store, or through the links available on [DORSApp.ca](https://DORSApp.ca). The website also includes tutorials on how to use the app and links to resources to support you on your journey to recovery.

The app operates via an online app called 'Aware 360', where an individual will activate the app prior to using an opioid by confirming their address and location. The app then monitors them over a set period and checks in on them via an alarm monitoring service which is provided by the STARS Emergency Link Centre. If the individual does not respond to the 'check in' from the app, a process is triggered whereby the STARS Link Centre attempts to contact them.

If contact cannot be established, the STARS Link Centre will call the AHS SCC (EMS Dispatch Call Centre) for a medical response by EMS. This results in a co-response from both the Calgary Fire Department and the Calgary Police Service as per response plans and notifications.

## **Nasal naloxone kits**

The Province has supplied CPS with 500 nasal naloxone kits. The intention is for frontline responders to distribute them to the public who are at risk of experiencing or witnessing an overdose. They are identical to kits that can be picked up from any pharmacy for free now and have the added benefit of not requiring needle management. Officers can use them to reverse an overdose if their original naloxone supply has been depleted, however, the intention is to provide the kits to members of the public who need them most.

The CPS distributed kits and pamphlets to frontline districts and teams between May 2 and May 6, 2022 as follows:

District or Team	Kits	Pamphlets
D1	85	300
D2	20	200
D3	20	200
D4	20	200
D5	20	200
D6	20	200
D7	20	200
D8	20	200
Traffic	20	100
PACT	25	200
YSO - Youth Services Officers	50	300
SASH - Stephen Ave Safety Hub	80	300
APS	50	200
WWE – Front Counter	50	200
<b>Totals</b>	<b>500</b>	<b>3000</b>

## Discussion / Analysis

VOPD data will be collected and used in an independent evaluation over the next year. The province is tracking DORS usage, and CPS will gather general feedback of the nasal naloxone kits. It is expected that each of these initiatives will save lives. The CPS will share outcomes with the CPC once data becomes available.

## Conclusion

The distribution of the naloxone kits to the public by CPS provides another avenue to provide a potentially life-saving tool directly to the city's most vulnerable.

## Attachments (if any)

n/a

## Approval signatures

**AUTHOR signature:**

(2022 05 03)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Jason Archibald, Alane Smith

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Strategic Planning, Research &  
Analysis Section

\_\_\_\_\_  
Strategic Planning and Partnerships  
Division

**EXECUTIVE SPONSOR signature:**



(2022 05 09)

---

Asif Rashid, Superintendent

Date

Strategic Planning & Partnerships Division

---

**CHIEF OF POLICE signature:**



(2022 05 09)

---

Chad Tawfik, Deputy Chief

Date

Bureau of Community Policing

---

**CHIEF OF POLICE signature:**



(2022 05 10)

---

Mark Neufeld, Chief of Police

Date

Calgary Police Service

---