

**Homeless Health Care Los Angeles Applauds Obama Administration for
Expanding Drug Overdose Intervention**
Homeless Health Care Saves Lives with Free Naloxone Training and Distribution
Program in Downtown Los Angeles

LOS ANGELES—October 22, 2015—Homeless Health Care Los Angeles commends the White House for releasing new guidelines that detail a myriad of national and local efforts to reduce the impact of opioid overdose.

“The Obama administration has constructed a comprehensive approach to implementing innovative interventions for reducing the negative effects of drug use,” said Homeless Health Care Executive Director Mark Casanova. “Homeless Health Care celebrates the renewed federal support for harm reduction intervention, including accidental overdose, using easily accessible tools like naloxone for active drug users.”

Studies have shown that the most effective overdose prevention method is to distribute naloxone directly to drug users, because they are likely to be the first responders at the scene of an overdose. By providing a 15-minute training on how to identify an overdose and how to administer naloxone, drug users can be equipped with this lifesaving drug. More than 10,000 overdose reversals have been performed by drug users.

Accidental overdose kills more than 44,000 people a year in the U.S. and continues to be the leading cause of accidental death in California, causing more deaths than motor vehicle accidents. The vast majority of overdoses are caused by opioids, including prescription painkillers and heroin.

Homeless Health Care Los Angeles has been distributing naloxone for nearly ten years, and currently provides about 2,000 doses of free naloxone to drug users. By giving naloxone directly to active drug users, over five hundred lives have been saved throughout Los Angeles in the past three years.

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Want more information? Chloe Blalock currently oversees Homeless Health Care Los Angeles’ overdose prevention program at the Center for Harm Reduction in Skid Row. To find out more about this program, attend a training, or learn how you can get involved, contact Chloe Blalock at 213.617.8408, cblalock@hhcla.org.

About Homeless Health Care Los Angeles

Homeless Health Care Los Angeles (HHCLA) is a community-based organization in Los Angeles, which provides a comprehensive program for any person in need of health, mental health, housing, or quality of life services. These services reduce the impact of homelessness in the communities of Los Angeles County. Since its founding in 1985, HHCLA has helped more than 150,000 homeless individuals. To learn more about Homeless Health Care Los Angeles, or to donate, visit www.hhcla.org.