

1) Call to Order

- Meeting called to order
- Pledge of Allegiance
- Moment of silence

2) Roll Call

Name / Title	Status	Notes
Jennifer Hald - President	Absent	<i>Excused</i>
Thomas Buttacavoli - Vice President / Acting Secretary	Present	
Dean Gandley - Treasurer	Absent	<i>Excused</i>
Tina Bogart - Sergeant-at-Arms	Present	
Kathy Weber - Membership Secretary	Absent	<i>Excused</i>
Leah Buttacavoli - Trustee	Absent	<i>Excused</i>
Alicia Palifka - Trustee	Present	
Quentin Palifka - Trustee	Present	

Quorum not established. Meeting continued to accommodate the scheduled Narcan presentation.

3) Approval of Previous Minutes

- Motion by Quentin Palifka to approve the February 2, 2026 meeting minutes
- Second by Alicia Palifka

Motion could not be formally carried due to lack of quorum. Approval of February minutes tabled to the April 2026 meeting.

4) Special Presentation - Narcan and Overdose Response

Presented by Jason Byron, Emergency Medical Training Section, Suffolk County Police Department (based at Suffolk Community College Police Academy). Coordinated in partnership with Legislator Chad Lennon's office.

Program Background

- SCPD intranasal Narcan community program launched approximately 2015
- Approximately 60,000 doses distributed to date; the majority in the last two years

- Significant decrease in opiate-related deaths observed over the last two years
- Presenter trains Suffolk County PD, eastern towns, villages, deputy sheriffs, corrections, part-time and seasonal officers

Framing the Crisis

- The opiate crisis is primarily a mental health crisis, not just a drug problem
- The image of who is affected has changed - these are people with families, often making one poor choice
- Approximately 50% of pills currently pulled off the street test positive for fentanyl
- Heroin is largely no longer found on the street; illicit fentanyl has replaced it entirely
- Counterfeit pills are indistinguishable from legitimate ones - one pill can kill

The Four Waves of the Opiate Crisis

- Wave 1 (pre-2010): Overprescribed opiates such as Percocet and OxyContin; pharmaceutical companies misled regulators about addiction potential
- Wave 2 (post-2010): Federal government curtailed prescribing; individuals already addicted turned to heroin
- Wave 3: Heroin supply could not meet demand; synthetic fentanyl entered the market; inconsistent batches led to mass deaths
- Wave 4 (current): Other drugs including cocaine and methamphetamine are now being laced with fentanyl, creating double poisonings - individuals die from fentanyl exposure while seeking an entirely different substance

Demographics Most at Risk

- Historically: white males have been the highest-risk group for opiate-related death; that number is now declining
- Currently increasing: Black and Hispanic populations, driven by double poisonings involving cocaine and cannabis laced with fentanyl
 - Black community: rose from 5% of opiate-related deaths in 2018 to approximately 10-12% now
 - Hispanic community: rose from 6% to approximately 10% over the same period
- Youth are at elevated risk - they cannot legally obtain cannabis from dispensaries and may purchase from dealers whose supply is cross-contaminated with fentanyl
- College-age individuals who buy prescription drugs on the street face a roughly 50% chance the pill is actually fentanyl

Medication Safety and Young Children

- Lock up all medications - not just opiates; many common medications such as blood pressure drugs are more dangerous to toddlers than opiates
- Suffolk County has lost a toddler to accidental opiate exposure and saved approximately 5-6 toddlers in the last four to five years using Narcan
- If any child may enter your home, secure your medications regardless of whether you have children living there

SCPD Medical Training

- New York State requires only 40 hours of medical training to complete the Basic Course for Police Officers
- SCPD program is 175 hours, including emergency medicine and approximately 63 hours of mental health training
- All officers completing the Suffolk County Police Academy leave certified as EMTs
- Law enforcement increasingly recognizes that the majority of calls involve mental health, not just crime

The 911 Good Samaritan / Immunity Law

- Provides significant legal protection to anyone who calls 911 for medical aid
 - No one who calls 911 in an overdose situation will be arrested - protects against charges related to illicit substances, underage drinking, and paraphernalia
 - There is no age limit; the law applies to everyone
 - Fear of arrest is one of the leading reasons people do not call 911 at overdose scenes; removing that fear saves lives
- SCPD is working with legislators to post the Good Samaritan Law above every public-access defibrillator in the county
- Schools are encouraged to teach children about the law starting at the elementary level so that knowledge is embedded before high-risk years

Time Is Critical

Time	What Happens
1 minute	Brain cells begin to die
3 minutes	Serious and permanent brain damage; stroke-like symptoms; memory loss
10 minutes	Vegetative state if not revived
15 minutes	No chance of survival

Re-Intoxication Risk

- Narcan only works for 30 to 90 minutes; after that, the individual will re-intoxicate
- A person revived at a party may appear completely sober, leave the scene, and stop breathing again blocks away or at home
- 911 must always be called even if the person appears recovered; EMS observation for several hours is required
- If the person leaves the scene before 911 arrives, PD will treat them as a missing person or welfare check and can use phone pings, canine, and aviation to locate them

How to Use Narcan

- Narcan is effective for opiates including heroin, fentanyl, Percocet, OxyContin, morphine, codeine, methadone, Vicodin, and others
- Also appropriate if you suspect any opiate exposure in infants, children, adults, or pets - there is no negative effect from administering it when not needed

- Each kit contains two doses; Narcan is approximately 60% effective with one dose and 90% effective after two doses
- Same dose applies regardless of age or size - no pediatric adjustment

Administration Steps

1	Administer first dose into the right nostril - click once and discard
2	Begin CPR immediately
3	After two minutes, if no response, administer second dose into the left nostril - click once and discard
4	Continue CPR and remain on the phone with 911 until EMS or police arrive
5	If the person starts breathing but does not wake up, roll them onto their side to prevent choking on vomit
6	If the person wakes up, remain calm, reassure them that help is on the way and they are not in trouble, and keep them on scene until EMS arrives

Storage and Handling

- Keep Narcan in its original manufacturer packaging
- Store at room temperature - cannot exceed 100 degrees Fahrenheit or drop below freezing
- Do not leave in a vehicle; heat and cold will degrade the medication
- Can be carried in a purse, bag, or attached to a key chain by cutting an opening in the outer packaging

De-escalation When Someone Wakes Up

- Fear leads to agitation, which leads to aggression, which leads to violence - reducing fear is the goal
- Step back and give the person space as they regain consciousness; do not crowd them
- Speak calmly using their name if known: confirm they had a medical emergency, help is coming, and they are not in trouble
- Remove anyone from the scene - including family members - who is escalating the situation
- If the person becomes violent due to escalation by bystanders, the Good Samaritan Law no longer covers those actions; they can be charged
- Programs work; incarceration does not - less than 10% succeed on their own, approximately 45% succeed after completing a 28-day program, and under 1% succeed after incarceration

Resources Shared

- Jason Byron - SCPD Emergency Medical Training Section (contact info on handout)
- Suffolk County Medical Examiner's Office - educational resource for statistics and information
- Community Mental Hygiene - one-stop shop for mental health resources, not affiliated with any hospital
- DASH - urgent care for mental health crises; accepts insurance; also offers mobile response; location in Hauppauge

Narcan kits were distributed to all attendees. Attendees were asked to complete a sign-in form with name and one form of contact. Kits would only be recalled for product safety reasons.

5) Adjournment

- Motion to adjourn passed
- Meeting adjourned at 7:59 PM

*Respectfully submitted by **Thomas Buttacavoli**, Vice President and Acting Secretary*