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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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WAUKESHA COUNTY ANNOUNCES AVAILABILITY OF OVERDOSE AID KITS FOR LOCAL BUSINESSES AND ORGANIZATIONS TO JOIN THE FIGHT AGAINST FENTANYL

(Waukesha, WI) – Today, Waukesha County Executive Paul Farrow announced Waukesha County is partnering with local businesses, organizations, and municipalities to address the fentanyl crisis by making Overdose Aid Kit (OAK) boxes available for partners who are willing to host them.

The OAK boxes, produced by Serve You Rx, contain Naloxone nasal spray, commonly known as NARCAN®, a breathing mask, gloves, drug administration instructions, fentanyl testing strips, and information about resources for treatment and recovery support. The Naloxone being provided is available to those who are at risk of overdosing or those who believe they may be in a position where an overdose could occur.

"Addressing the fentanyl crisis requires a collaborative effort from all corners of our community," said Waukesha County Executive Paul Farrow. "By working with partners in both the public and private sector, we can make sure these lifesaving resources are available to anyone who needs them and reduce the devastating impact of the fentanyl crisis in Waukesha County."

Already, partners have agreed to host more than 40 OAK boxes throughout Waukesha County, and the goal is to distribute at least 200 boxes by the end 2023. The aim of this partnership is to increase access to overdose reversal medication, reduce overdose deaths, and raise awareness about resources available for individuals struggling with addiction.

In addition, Waukesha County unveiled a new <u>data dashboard</u> to provide local information to the public about the impact of the fentanyl crisis and the collective efforts being taken to combat it. The dashboard includes an interactive map that highlights prevention activities and community partners throughout the county.

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"We recognize the importance of providing accurate and timely information about the fentanyl crisis and the work being done to address it," said Farrow. "This new data dashboard is an important tool to help us communicate with the public and highlight the critical work being done in collaboration with our community partners."

Waukesha County is encouraging additional businesses, organizations, and municipalities to join the fight against the fentanyl crisis and host an OAK box. Interested parties can contact the Waukesha County Department of Health and Human Services for more information at (262) 896-8061 or overdoseprevention@waukeshacounty.gov.

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For more information, go to www.waukeshacounty.gov/OverdosePrevention, or follow us on Twitter at @WaukeshaCoHHS.