

From: JAMES DENISE PALFY [email](#)
Sent: Wednesday, February 15, 2017 9:29 AM
To: Michael Joffe (Case Manager)
Subject: Opioid Antidote

Michael:

We spoke recently about my husband's need for services that he has started to receive through Medicare. But our assets are such that I cannot receive any home help despite our paying one of the highest real estate tax rates in the Chicago area. After reading that the Township is considering or is planning to buy the opioid antidote, that got me to wondering how that is being paid for, out of our taxes? I have read that it is very expensive unless it is being subsidized. But those who need the antidote choose to take illegal drugs. Why do they receive help or do they have to pay it back? It doesn't seem fair to someone like me who is certainly not wealthy and living month-to-month on our retirement income. My husband and I both also served in the military and cannot expect the V.A. to help.

Denise Wells Palfy

Response to [email](#) Saturday, February 18, 2017

Dear Ms. Palfy,

I have received your email to Michael Joffe with your concern about Township funding of the opioid antidote Narcan. The Township board has researched this issue and will be discussing it again at its regular meeting on Tuesday, February 28, which is an open meeting where you would be welcome.

Paramedics and police already carry Narcan. The Township's concern was for Oak Park families with knowledge of an addicted person, possibly a family member, who may need Narcan quickly for life-saving. The cost per kit is about \$45-\$50.

I will bring your concern to the board and report back what the board decision is.

Thank you for sharing your concern,

David Boulanger
Supervisor

More Citizen correspondence on Narcan issue

From: JAMES DENISE PALFY [[email](#)] **Sent:** Saturday, February 18, 2017 6:18 PM **To:** David Boulanger **Subject:** Re: Opioid antidote

Thanks for responding. But am I to assume that if you supply the antidote to Oak Park families, they will be expected to reimburse the Township? Good luck with that. We moved to our current home here in Oak Park in April 1964 and obviously have paid taxes since then. We have never received any assistance. Now that we are old and my husband has serious health issues, we are told we have too many assets to be eligible. I could really use some help here at home since I have 95% of the responsibilities. And we certainly are very far from wealthy. How does it seem fair to assist families who have family member addicts and not us? At \$50 an antidote, how many would the Township project in purchasing? On what basis does the township base such decisions?

Denise Wells Palfy

From: David Boulanger **Sent:** Tuesday, February 21, 2017
To: 'JAMES DENISE PALFY' **Subject:** RE: Opioid antidote

Dear Ms Palfy,

If the Township board decides to fund this, we do not expect a large demand from documented Oak Park residents who are taxpayers as well. Any notification on availability would also alert residents that the Oak Park police or paramedics are available quickly (usually within about five minutes via 911) to provide assistance with Narcan. So the persons with need would be small in number with special circumstances.

As for senior services through the Township, some programs are not financial- need based, such as congregate meals and bus transportation within Oak Park and River Forest. The restrictions on other programs are dictated by state and federal contracts and represent one-half of our senior services funding.

What prompted the township to consider the free distribution of Narcan was the national epidemic of overdose and the life-saving effect of quick Narcan use, although we do not have any direct evidence now that overdose is a significant problem among Oak Parkers.

I will let you know how the board decides this issue.

Thank you for your questions about and interest in Township services.

David Boulanger
Supervisor