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State of Wisconsin

## State Council on Alcohol and Other Drug Abuse

1 West Wilson Street, P.O. Box 7851  
Madison, Wisconsin 53707-7851

September, 2013

To Interested Parties:

On behalf of the State Council on Alcohol and Other Drug Abuse (SCAODA) I am pleased to provide you with a copy of the final report and recommendations from the 911 Good Samaritan Ad-hoc Committee; *911 Good Samaritan Analysis and Recommendations for Reducing Drug-Related Overdoses in Wisconsin*.

There is growing evidence that drug overdose deaths are increasing nationally and in Wisconsin. The increasing number of deaths caused by heroin and opiates, prescription drugs like OxyContin®, Vicodin® and morphine, is a major concern. Poisoning deaths have surpassed vehicle crashes as the number one cause of accidental death in Dane County and two-thirds of these poisoning deaths are drug overdoses. Recent increases in the number of treatment admissions for opiate abuse, the number of hospital visits for opiate overdoses and the number of naloxone (Narcan®) administrations statewide are clear indicators that Wisconsin is facing a growing public health concern related to opiate use.

The Prevention Committee of SCAODA, in recognition that opioid abuse is a growing problem in the state, established an Ad-hoc committee to research the incidence of opiate overdoses in Wisconsin and to look specifically at 911 Good Samaritan Laws as a tool for reducing fatal overdoses. The resulting report details the research findings and statewide recommendations that the Ad-hoc Committee developed after careful discussion and review of available data.

This report will be a valuable tool for those around the state who are interested in promoting the health, safety and well-being of Wisconsin residents. If you have any questions about the *911 Good Samaritan Analysis and Recommendations for Reducing Drug-Related Overdoses in Wisconsin*, please contact Skye Tikkanen at: [skye.tikkanen@connectionsounseling.com](mailto:skye.tikkanen@connectionsounseling.com). If you or anyone you know would like additional copies of this report, it is available online at: [www.scaoda.state.wi.us](http://www.scaoda.state.wi.us).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Michael Waupoose".

Michael Waupoose  
Chairperson

Cc: Governor Scott Walker  
Kitty Rhoades  
Kevin Moore