

The HOPE Initiative is part of the Harm Reduction Program at the Bullitt County Health Department.

We provide post-overdose response, mobile outreach, prevention education, harm reduction services, basic needs assistance, and connection to local resources. The team supports individuals and families impacted by substance use, overdose, homelessness, and other barriers to care with understanding, compassion, dignity, and respect.



When to Make a Referral

When someone:

- Experienced a recent nonfatal overdose
- At increased risk of overdose
- Needs naloxone or overdose prevention education
- Needs harm reduction supplies or safer-use education
- Is impacted by substance use
- Needs help connecting to treatment or local resources
- Has repeated hospital visits or law enforcement encounters related to substance use



Who Can Make a Referral

Referrals may come from:

- EMS
- Hospitals / ED
- Law Enforcement
- Jails / Court
- Shelters / Housing Programs
- Treatment / Recovery Providers
- Mental Health Providers
- Churches
- Schools
- Family Members
- Friends
- Community Members
- Self-Referral



Post-Overdose Response

Compassionate follow-up after a nonfatal overdose, including naloxone education, harm reduction support, and connection to care.



Harm Reduction Services

Naloxone distribution, overdose prevention education, safe-use education, and harm reduction supplies.



Basic Needs Assistance

Connection to food, hygiene supplies, clothing, shelter, transportation support when available, and other essential resources.



Resource Connections

Connection to treatment, recovery support, healthcare, mental health services, housing resources, benefits, and local community programs.



Family & Support Education

Support for families and loved ones navigating substance use, overdose risk, homelessness, and barriers to care.



Overdose Alerts

Inform the community when there is an increase in overdose activity in the area through social media & email.



How to Make a Referral

To make a referral, just scan the QR code and provide as much information as possible. ***Do not delay a referral because some details are unknown.***



hope@bullittthehealth.org



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What Happens After a Referral is Made

Once a referral is received, the team will review the information and attempt outreach based on the individual's needs, location, safety considerations, and availability.

Outreach may include:

- Phone contact
- Outreach or mobile response
- Connection to local resources
- Text message (*when appropriate*)
- Coordination with the referring partner
- Follow-up support (*when possible*)

The team's role is to build trust, reduce harm, and help individuals and families connect to support at a pace that respects their dignity, safety, and readiness.



Important Referral Notes

- A referral does not require someone to be ready for treatment.
- HOPE supports people at any stage of change.
- Services are offered without judgement, shame, or pressure.
- HOPE is not a law enforcement response.
- HOPE is not a replacement for emergency medical care.
- Call 911 for immediate safety concerns, medical emergencies, or threats of harm.



Suggested Language

“There is a local outreach team through the Bullitt County Health Department called HOPE. They can follow up with you and offer support, naloxone, harm reduction services, basic needs assistance, and connection to local resources. There is no pressure and it's 100% confidential—they just want to connect you to any support you feel might be helpful.”



Why Partner Referrals Matter

Many people encounter emergency responders, hospitals, courts, shelters, churches, and community agencies during moments of crisis or instability. Those moments can become doors to support when the right connection is made. The HOPE Initiative helps bridge the gap between crisis and care by meeting people where they are, reducing preventable harm, and connecting individuals and families to practical resources, health services, and ongoing support.

Reducing harm. Restoring hope. Reaching people where they are.