Naloxone Neighbors

Three Easy Buttons to Connect Users with Caring Individuals and Crowdsource Data to Create a Societal Shift

To: The Food and Drug Association, FDA
The Naloxone App Competition Judges

From: Jack Howard, Visuals and Data Designer
Lucas Rasnic, Development Lead

Life Saving Apps
253 May St.
Elmhurst, IL 60126

Executive Summary

Naloxone Neighbors is an app intended for use by recovering addicts, their families, and neighbors. This app's novel solution to help the opioid overdose epidemic is simple to allow phone users of varying skill levels and levels of impairment easy access. There are three buttons which guide app users through an overdose situation to ensure they have an ideal response. The first button on the home screen calls 911, connects the app user with the nearest naloxone carrier via a simple phone call, and shows the Red Cross' published guidelines for CPR. The second button allows the app user to document when they feel an urge or trigger to use, providing valuable crowdsourced data to promote societal change. The third button allows app users to register as naloxone carriers so they can be contacted in an overdose situation.

I. Background

Jack is a radio journalist and app developer, and he has made a couple apps for public media. He received his degree from the University of Missouri's school of journalism this past May, and currently works at Chicago's NPR-member station. Lucas has worked closely with patients in a detoxification clinic, has a degree in chemical engineering from the University of Michigan, is currently applying to medical school, and is an engineering contractor for Pharmedium. Lucas found the most powerful aspect of the recovery process to be social. Everyone in group therapy sessions wants to help each other, which gives a real sense of community. Naloxone Neighbors uses the supportive strength of the recovery community to benefit the app and those at risk of overdosing. The app is a novel solution intended for use by any recovering addicts (especially those who have had their lives saved by someone with naloxone), their families, and neighbors - people that care deeply about addict's lives and are willing come and help. The app contains three buttons on its home screen to ensure ideal responses to an overdose situation.

II. Overdose Button

This button calls 911, connects the app user with the nearest naloxone carrier via a simple phone call, and shows the Red Cross' published guidelines for CPR.

Around 1 in 2 people call 911 when someone is overdosing, according to a recent FDA panel discussion from 2012. This application functions as a vehicle to guide someone reacting in an emergency overdose situation to make ideal judgments in a timely manner, because every second matters. This app sparks an ideal chain of events that lead to surviving an OD.

Once the button is pressed 911 is called and the user's information is sent to the nearest naloxone carrier identified from the registration database. The naloxone carrier is then notified of the situation, but if they decline or take longer than 10 seconds to respond the user information is sent to the next nearest naloxone carrier. Once the app user finishes their call to 911 the page open on their screen allows them to call the nearest naloxone carrier that

accepted their request and coordinate a response. After the phone call to the nearest naloxone carrier the app user's screen shows CPR instructions from the Red Cross if the person overdosing ceases to breath.

III. Trigger Button

This button allows the app user to document when they feel an urge or trigger to use, providing valuable crowdsourcing data to promote societal change.

This button both identifies these Urges or "cues" that may trigger an addict to use and generates data on these Urges. This button also creates familiarity with the interface of the application, because it promotes use outside an overdose situation. A cue is "a person's daily routine or environment become associated with the drug experience and can trigger uncontrollable cravings whenever the person is exposed to these cues, even if the drug itself is not available," (National Institute on Drug Abuse).

Once the button is pressed the app user's location is recorded anonymously to generate data on where current and former drug users may feel the urge to use. This data is then stored in a database and can be used to help police stations identify where to disperse resources in the future. Police officers can use this information to know where addicts feel uncomfortable and will be able to better assist them.

IV. Registration Button

This button allows app users to register as naloxone providers so they can be contacted in an overdose situation.

Those that register as naloxone carriers will input their home addresses because around 3 in 4 ODs occur in the home (Moria O'Brien, NIDA). This registration data can then be searched by location by someone that presses the overdose button.

Once the button is pressed the app user is redirected to the registration page. The registration page allow the user to input their name, address, city, state, zipcode, phone number, and check whether they own naloxone. This information is stored in a database to be referenced by app users in an overdose situation so they can be contacted and respond.

V. Conclusion

Moving forward the app will develop as its user base and the 911 services change. Meaning, as more users join the Naloxone Neighbor community it will allow for a stronger response time by incorporating services similar to that of Uber. Also, when 911 digitizes its system across the US our app will be able to send a simple SMS message containing the minimum amount of information for an 911 call. Sending this SMS message to 911 will save valuable time and allow the app user to call the nearest registered naloxone carrier right away.