

LEGISLATIVE, RULES & GOVERNMENTAL OPERATIONS COMMITTEE

LEGISLATIVE AGENDA

JUNE 27, 2025

***Committee Members: Supervisors Strough, Conover, Wild, Driscoll, Maday, Geraci and Thomas
Chair of the Board shall serve as an Ex-Officio member when needed in accordance
with Section C(4) of the Rules of the Board***

- I. Committee meeting called to order by Committee Chair
- II. Approval of minutes of prior Committee meeting - *May 1, 2025*
- III. Privilege of the Floor/Public Comment
- IV. Action Agenda/New Business Items:
 1. Request from Orleans County Legislature to authorize a resolution “*Urging Governor Hochul to Expand Access to all FDA-Approved Opioid Antagonists in New York State*”. Rob York, Director, Office of Community Services, to attend and provide an update on the status of the opioid epidemic in Warren County.
- V. Discussion Items: None.
- VI. Referrals/Pending Items: None.
- VII. Privilege of the Floor to discuss any additional items to come before the Committee
- VIII. Motion to adjourn

Attachments:

- 1) *Orleans County Legislature letter and Resolution No. 206-425 (Action Agenda/New Business Item 1)*

LYNNE M. JOHNSON
Chairman
WILLIAM H. EICK
Vice Chairman
JOHN C. WELCH, JR.
Chief Administrative Officer
LISA STENSHORN
Clerk of the Legislature
KATHERINE BOGAN
County Attorney



ORLEANS COUNTY LEGISLATURE
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LEGISLATORS

Donald J. Allport - At Large
Edward F. Morgan - At Large
Merle L. Draper - At Large
William H. Eick - District 1
Lynne M. Johnson - District 2
Fred Miller - District 3
John M. Fitzak - District 4

April 24, 2025

The Honorable Kathy Hochul
Governor of New York State
NYS Capitol Building
Albany, NY 12224

Dear Governor Hochul,

I am writing to you today from the frontlines of the fight against the opioid epidemic in Orleans County. As Chairman of the Orleans County Legislature, I have witnessed firsthand the devastating impact of opioid overdoses on our community. While naloxone has been a critical tool in our efforts to save lives, we are increasingly facing challenges with synthetic opioids such as fentanyl, which can outlast rescue agents administered to victims

It is clear that the face of this crisis is changing dramatically. Fentanyl and its analogs - up to 6,000 times more potent than morphine - are increasingly being found in counterfeit pills, vape cartridges, and other recreational substances. Young New Yorkers - our college students, young professionals, and community members - are dying after unknowingly consuming these contaminated substances. There are not individuals with opioid use disorders; they are often first-time or occasional recreational users whose lives are cut tragically short by a single exposure to fentanyl-laced substances.

Additionally, this crisis is particularly devastating in Black and Brown communities, where limited healthcare access, inadequate prevention resources, and higher poverty rates create further barriers to addressing the epidemic. Over 1,000 Black New Yorkers and more the 1,000 Latino residents died from overdoses last year alone. These deaths are concentrated in communities that have historically faced underinvestment in prevention and treatment services. For example, the Bronx continues to have the highest overdose rate of any borough yet lacks proportional access to life-saving resources and services. All tools must be made available to combat this crisis.

The FDA's approval of new, innovative opioid antagonists represents a significant advancement in our ability to address the growing epidemic. The American Medical Association recommends updating state standing orders to expand access to all FDA-approved life-saving overdose reversal drugs. Doing so would allow New York to join at least 20 other states that have already taken this step. Preliminary data from some of these states are promising: according to Friends of Recovery NY, states that allow standing orders for all forms and dosages of FDA-approved opioid reversal agents have seen significant decreases in overdoses. Kansas and Indianan experienced the largest reductions, with decreases of about 15% in 2023.

In light of this, I respectfully urge you to direct the New York State Department of Health to expand the state's standing order to include all FDA-approved opioid antagonists. This crucial action would:

- Equip our first responders with the most effective tools available to save lives
- Demonstrate New York's continued leadership in addressing the opioid crisis
- Allow for continued innovation as new fentanyl fighters become available
- Ensure our state remains at the forefront of combating this ever-evolving epidemic
- Provide a more comprehensive and adaptive approach to protecting our communities

The urgency of this update cannot be overstated. By taking swift action, you can protect our most vulnerable communities and save lives.

Finally, while we urge you to take administrative action, we will continue to support a legislative solution. Senator Harckham and Assemblyman Steck have introduced Senate Bill 4150 and Assembly Bill 265-A, which would require the Department of Health to make all FDA-approved opioid reversal agents available. This legislation passed the New York State Assembly with a vote of 143-1 during the previous session, underscoring the urgent need for comprehensive action.

Expanding New York's standing order to include these FDA-approved opioid antagonists is a critical step in our ongoing efforts to protect our communities and save lives.

Thank you for your attention to this urgent matter. I have enclosed a certified copy of Resolution No. 206-425 that was adopted by the Orleans County Legislature on April 22, 2025. If you need, I am available to discuss this request further and provide any additional information you may need.

Sincerely,



Lynne Johnson
Chairman of the Legislature
Orleans County

LMJ/ljs

cc: Senator Harckham
Assemblyman Steck
NYS DOH Commissioner McDonald
Public Health Director Paul Pettit
William McGahay, Park Strategies, Managing Director

RESOLUTION NO. 206-425

URGING GOVERNOR HOCHUL TO EXPAND ACCESS TO ALL FDA-APPROVED OPIOID ANTAGONISTS IN NEW YORK STATE

WHEREAS, the opioid epidemic continues to devastate communities across New York State, with fentanyl increasingly poisoning individuals through recreational drug combinations; and

WHEREAS, fentanyl overdoses occur more quickly and can last much longer, causing victims to potentially re-overdose when synthetic opioids outlast the rescue agents administered to them; and

WHEREAS, in 2022 90% of all opioid deaths are fentanyl related; and

WHEREAS, the FDA has approved new, innovative opioid antagonists to address this growing epidemic; and

WHEREAS, at least 20 states including New Jersey and Illinois have expanded access to these new antagonists, showing promising results in reducing overdose deaths; and

WHEREAS, the American Medical Association recommends updating state standing orders to expand access to all FDA-approved life-saving overdose reversal drugs; and

WHEREAS, during the 2023-24 legislative session, the New York State Assembly overwhelmingly supported expanding antagonist access by passing Assembly Bill 8075 with a 143-1 vote; now be it

RESOLVED, that the Orleans County Legislature does hereby:

1. Urge Governor Kathy Hochul to direct the New York State Department of Health to expand the state's standing order to include all FDA-approved opioid antagonists;
2. Support Senate Bill 4150 / Assembly 265-A to require Department of Health to add all FDA-approved opioid reversal agents to the state's standing order;
3. Recognize this approach will enable continued innovation in combating the evolving opioid epidemic and protect communities;
4. Direct the Clerk to transmit copies of this resolution to Governor Hochul, Senator Harckham, Assemblyman Steck and Commissioner McDonald of the New York State Department of Health, and other necessary parties.

Moved, Allport; second, Miller.

Adopted. 7 ayes; 0 nays; 0 absent.

ORLEANS COUNTY LEGISLATURE

ALBION, NEW YORK

COUNTY OF ORLEANS
STATE OF NEW YORK

I hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and correct transcript of a resolution duly adopted by the Orleans County Legislature on the 22nd day of April 2025.

Dated at Albion, New York
April 23, 2025



A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Lisa Stenshorn", is written over a horizontal line.

Lisa Stenshorn, Clerk
Orleans County Legislature
County of Orleans, New York