



# Jefferson County Emergency Medical Services

August 23, 2023  
Chief Tim McKern  
Quilcene Fire Rescue

Dear Chief,

Thank you so much for finishing the ultimate step today to deploy emergency naloxone at Quilcene Station 21. When I saw the photo you sent, I thought of the Kiswahili proverb, "Asiyefunzwa na mamae hufunzwa na ulimwengu." "Regardless of a child's biological parents its upbringing belongs to the community." This makes me reflect on the journey we've taken to "raise" the idea of emergency naloxone for citizens from inception to reality and the village of leaders who have helped along the way.

In addition to thanking you for teaching me how to balance a strong idea by listening and honoring the concerns of the community who will own and use this resource, I need to thank:

- The entire BHC group for bringing a constellation of viewpoints that when joined create more wisdom than any of us could hope for as individuals.
- Anya, for being brave enough to see an opportunity for growth and coming forward to be the change she wanted to see.
- Lori, for hosting us all and keeping our conversation moving.
- Apple, Denise, and Jefferson County Public Health for tackling a new project of harm reduction when their workload was already excessive.
- Greg for helping guide funding from opioid settlement funds to continue this conversation.
- Jim and Discovery Behavioral Healthcare for banking those funds as a "pass-through".
- Countless others who have coached and counseled on how to best find & engage the real leaders of the community at large.

I will sleep better knowing that persons who intentionally or accidentally use opioids in the current illicit drug poisoning epidemic have another resource to seek to make their substance use slightly safer.

Thank you for being a visionary leader.

Sincerely,

David Carlbohm, MD  
Medical Program Director

