

TELLING USERS TO ABSTAIN 'NOT EFFECTIVE'

Continued from page 3

tions, said Halton police have worked hard to get overdose prevention messaging out to the public.

One message calls on those present when someone has an overdose to not run but call 911, noting that Ontario's Good Samaritan Act protects the caller from prosecution.

Other messaging calls on those using drugs not to use alone; to know their tolerance and go slow; and raises awareness that any drug can be contaminated.

When asked by board member Gary Burkett why the messaging focused on safe drug use rather than drug prevention, Emili noted that messaging calling for drug users to abstain from drugs would not be effective.

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- Dr. Julie Emili

group of users who will not respond to that message and so we have to meet people where they are at ... Many will turn off as soon as they hear the message is stop using," she said.

Hartman said that Halton police will also raise alerts in the event of:

- a cluster of overdoses (6-12) within a 48-hour time period;
- overdoses and/or drug

seizures featuring counterfeit drugs or contaminated drugs; and

- a cluster of overdoses at a single location (e.g., a school).

Halton police and the Halton Region representatives say they are continuing to gather data and information to learn how to further reduce the number of deaths from opioid overdose in this community.



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