



Today's Date: August 28<sup>th</sup>, 2023

Gabriella Smith  
Director of Communications &  
Community Engagement  
(434) 238-7727

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## **International Overdose Awareness Day (IOAD): A global movement with local solutions**

International Overdose Awareness Day (IOAD) is recognized globally as a mission to end overdose deaths and stigma, observed on August 31<sup>st</sup>, every year. Organizations across Central Virginia are joining forces to present our community with local solutions to raise awareness of the overdose crisis, which has claimed over 107,000 lives in the US alone in 2021, and share prevention strategies such as Opioid Overdose Response Training ([Centers for Disease Control and Prevention](#)).

Overdose Response Training will be offered at the Horizon Wellness Treatment Center on Thursday, August 31<sup>st</sup>, from 10:00am to 6:00pm, located at 2225 Langhorne Rd. Lynchburg, Virginia. This training event offers individuals the opportunity to learn how to respond in the event of an overdose emergency and receive free resources to prevent future overdoses. This rapid training takes as little as five minutes to complete.

This event is hosted in partnership by the Blue Ridge Emergency Medical Services Council (BREMS), Central Virginia Addiction Recovery Resources Coalition (CVARR), the Central Virginia Health District, and Horizon Behavioral Health.

Horizon Behavioral Health and allied partners publicly honor the memory of those who have died from overdose, acknowledge the grief of their families and friends, and encourage the community to take action by participating in Opioid Overdose Response Training.

“By coming together to remember them, we stand together to say that more needs to be done to end overdose in our community,” said Melissa Lucy, CEO of Horizon.

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*Horizon Behavioral Health has been the primary public behavioral healthcare provider in the Region 2000 area for more than 54 years. Horizon provides services to adults and children, addressing challenges with mental health, substance use and intellectual disabilities. Horizon is accredited by CARF International. This represents the highest level of accreditation that can be given to a behavioral health organization.*