

Overdose Awareness Day to be observed in city Aug. 31

New Bedford has planned several events to commemorate International Overdose Awareness Day, which is Thursday, Aug. 31.

The opioid epidemic affects a growing number of Americans.

Events scheduled to commemorate the day include:

5:15 p.m. New Bedford City Hall. Opening ceremonies and speakers.

5:45 p.m. Vigil and procession beginning at City Hall and ending at Pilgrim United Church of Christ, 635 Purchase St.

6 p.m. Drop-in center opens at 634 Purchase St. for light refreshments and resources to help those coping with substance abuse and their loved ones.

7 p.m. Candlelight service at Pilgrim United Church of Christ, 635 Purchase St., across the street from the drop-in center.

International Overdose Awareness Day is a global event held Aug. 31. The day aims to raise awareness of overdoses and reduces the stigma of drug-related death.

The observance also acknowledges the grief experienced by families and friends for those who have died or suffered permanent injury as a result of a drug overdose.

Overdose Awareness Day spreads the message that the tragedy of overdose death is preventable.

The New Bedford events are sponsored by the Greater New Bedford Opioid Task Force. For more information, call 508-993-6242 ext. 127 or visit the Facebook page at

fb.me/gnbotf.