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(Little Rock, Arkansas) – The Arkansas Court Improvement Program and the Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC) provided conference attendees with more than 400 kits of Naloxone, a medication capable of rapidly reversing opioid and other drug overdoses.

Kyle Brewer of the AOC presented at the annual Children in the Courts Conference regarding the importance of the lifesaving medication. He explained to the 400+ juvenile judges and attorneys in attendance as to how Naloxone works as well as demonstrated the steps for administering the medication.

"We want to ensure our juvenile judges and the attorneys involved in the juvenile system in Arkansas have the education and the resources they need to keep our court-involved families safe," said Brooke Steen, Juvenile Division Director at the Administrative Office of the Courts. Brooke serves as the State Director for the Court Improvement Program which hosts the Children in the Courts every year. "The Arkansas Court Improvement Program strives to provide our child welfare stakeholders with the resources they need to improve the well-being of Arkansas' youth and families. I want to especially thank DHS Secretary Kristi Putnam for providing additional kits, which provided us the opportunity to provide a kit to everyone interacting with our court-involved families," said Brooke.

Naloxone reverses an overdose by blocking the effects of opioids, including heroin, fentanyl, and prescription opioids. According to data from the Arkansas Department of Health, there were 487 deaths from overdose statewide in 2022, the most recent full year for which data is available. The medication can restore normal breathing within two to three minutes when given to a person whose breathing has slowed, or even stopped, because of an opioid overdose, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

For Further Information Contact:

Brooke Steen

Director, Juvenile Division

Administrative Office of the Courts

Brooke.Steen@arcourts.gov

ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE OF THE COURTS



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JUSTICE BUILDING
625 MARSHALL STREET
SUITE 1100
LITTLE ROCK, AR 72201
