



CITY COUNCIL AGENDA ITEM

Date: May 3, 2106

To: Brian Kischnick, City Manager

From: Gary Mayer, Chief of Police *Gary Mayer*
 Keith A. Frye, Captain – Investigative Administrative Services Division
KA Frye

Subject: Nationwide Increase in Opioid Overdose

As recently as January 1, 2016, the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has reported that “the United States is experiencing an epidemic of drug overdose (poisoning) deaths. Since 2000, the rate of deaths from drug overdoses has increased 137%, including a 200% increase in the rate of overdose deaths involving opioids (opioid pain relievers and heroin).” Law enforcement and government officials across the country are desperately seeking solutions to the growing scourge of drugs, in particular the skyrocketing use of heroin. Many communities have proposed a variety of measures involving courts, education, and treatment in an effort to address this alarming trend. Some police departments have attracted widespread attention by introducing an unusual approach toward dealing with this problem. They have offered drug users, those whose only crime is addiction, amnesty in exchange for enrollment in treatment. “Any addict who walks into the police station with the remainder of their drug equipment or drugs and asks for help will NOT be charged”, instead the police, “will walk them through the system toward detox and recovery.” Some of these initiatives have evolved to become nonprofit organizations that aid with funding and efforts to replicate the program in other communities. The alarming increase in opioid addiction should provide the impetus for every community to review their policies and services as it relates to what some have described as a “chronic relapsing brain disorder”.

The City of Troy provides financial support to the Troy Youth Association (TYA) and the Troy Community Coalition (TCC). Both agencies are nonprofit organizations dedicated toward “at risk” individuals by providing counseling and education. The TYA is tri-sponsored by the Oakland County Circuit Court-Family Division, the Troy School District, and the City of Troy. It focuses on “confidential, family-centered counseling and referral services for youth, 16 years of age or younger, and their families who live in Troy or attend Troy schools. Referrals are accepted from school personnel, police, parents and other community sources. A professional counselor assesses the needs of each child and may provide counseling services, link families with available resources or make appropriate referrals.” Troy Police Department personnel are members of the TYA and have been part of the Board of Directors of the TYA. The TCC was established in 1991 for purposes of developing and promoting a comprehensive substance abuse prevention plan. “The Prevention Plan was developed for the community to use as a guide in the planning, development and implementation of prevention policy, programs and activities.” Both agencies work closely with the Troy Police Department to identify substance abuse trends and opportunities for individual intervention. Chief of Police Gary Mayer and City Attorney Lori Bluhm are both members of the Executive Committee of the TCC.

The Troy Police Department participates in the ongoing Operation Medicine Cabinet, and any unused medications (pills or capsules) can be brought into the police lobby and turned in. All pills and capsules may be mixed, and should be placed into a Ziploc baggie prior to bringing them into the Police Department.



CITY COUNCIL AGENDA ITEM

Alliance Mobile Health provides Medical First Responder and Advanced Life Support services to the City of Troy. Trained medical professionals are capable of providing naloxone hydrochloride (Narcan) to individuals suffering from opioid overdose. Narcan is a prescription medicine that blocks the effects of opioids and reverses an overdose.

The 52/4 District Court participates in the Michigan Drug Court Program. The Michigan Drug Court Program integrates alcohol and other drug treatment services with justice system case processing. Eligible participants are identified early and placed into the program where they are provided access to a continuum of alcohol, drug, and other related treatment and rehabilitation services. Abstinence is monitored by frequent alcohol and other drug testing. Forging partnerships among drug courts, public agencies, and community-based organizations generates local support and enhances drug court effectiveness.

Perspectives of Troy Counseling Centers is one of Metro Detroit Michigan's largest, oldest and most experienced private counseling centers serving Oakland County, Macomb County and Wayne County Michigan. They offer substance abuse and dependency evaluations and addiction recovery services. Troy Police Department Chief Gary Mayer sits on the Community Advisory Board, which provides input in accessing substance abuse trends and the effectiveness of various treatment methods and programs.

The Troy Police Department has always been proactive and creative in its approach toward quality of life issues. Each of the aforementioned initiatives is a critical component of a comprehensive multi-level approach toward addressing substance abuse and the current trend in opioid addiction. Regardless of the success of their programs, communities should remain vigilant toward drug trends and be receptive to continuing dialogue in evaluating the effectiveness of efforts in addressing substance abuse and the implementation of new initiatives.