



## FRANKLIN COUNTY HOPE TASK FORCE

### ***What is the HOPE Task Force:***

The Heroin Overdose Prevention and Education (HOPE) Task Force is made up of Detectives cross trained in Narcotics and Crimes against Persons. The goal of the task force is to track down dealers responsible for selling Heroin and other opiates such as Fentanyl which have been causing deaths and near fatal overdoses in the community. By following up on these incidents, dealers are held accountable to a higher penalty resulting in a minimum of 2-8 years in prison, whereas in the past, dealers receive probation for low level drug trafficking crimes, if they were even investigated. The HOPE task force operates with the mentality that higher penalties for those supplying the lethal doses of heroin to the community is only part of the solution. The HOPE task force works closely with treatment and recovery specialists in the community such as Southeast Healthcare Inc., Maryhaven, and Netcare. When victims are identified and located, HOPE investigators determine the supplier and continue their investigation resulting in search warrants, arrests, and indictments. The victim of the overdose is then introduced to the HOPE Outreach Coordinator funded by ADAMH through Southeast Healthcare, where they are offered medical, mental health, and treatment opportunities such as Medically Assisted Treatment, Vivitrol, Counseling, and other victim specific programs as well as Primary Care Services. Overdose survivors are held accountable for their crimes of possessing drug abuse instruments, and possession of Heroin when applicable under House Bill 110, however, these charges are at times dropped in exchange for information as to where the supply came from, and successful entry into a treatment program.

### ***What Charges are applicable?***

- **2903.04 Involuntary manslaughter. (1<sup>st</sup> Degree Felony)**
  - (A) No person shall cause the death of another or the unlawful termination of another's pregnancy as a proximate result of the offender's committing or attempting to commit a felony.
- **2925.02 Corrupting another with drugs. (2<sup>nd</sup> Degree Felony / Mandatory 2-8 years State Prison / minimum 20 years in Federal Penitentiary)**
  - (A) No person shall knowingly do any of the following:
    - (3) By any means, administer or furnish to another or induce or cause another to use a controlled substance, and thereby cause **serious physical harm** to the other person, or cause the other person to become drug dependent
    - ORC DEF 2901.01(5) "Serious physical harm to persons" means any of the following:
      - (b) Any physical harm that carries a substantial risk of death



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### ***Fatal Overdose Investigations:***

Once a body is discovered, the FCSO Detective Bureau makes a determination whether the death is the result of an Opiate Overdose Event. In these cases, the Detective Bureau calls out the HOPE Task Force who processes the scene.

- Immediate on scene Investigation
  - Primary Enforcement Goal is to determine the source of supply, and remove the lethal supply from the “market” to preserve life.
  - Witness Interviews
  - Physical Evidence (Touch DNA, Unique Packaging etc.)
  - Cell Phone and Social Media Investigation
  - Surveillance Video
  - Suspect Investigation (undercover buys, search warrants etc.)
  - Suspect Interview
  - Applicable Charges are Involuntary Manslaughter, Corrupting Another with Drugs, and Drug Trafficking

### ***Non-Fatal Overdose Investigations:***

- HOPE Investigators follow up with overdose survivors and attempt to ascertain the source of supply. Intel gathered from these investigations have provided leads to suspects in fatal investigations. Applicable charges consist of Corrupting another with Drugs and Drug Trafficking.
- Utilize the partnership made with Southeast Healthcare Services Inc. to provide healthcare, and place the survivors into counseling, detoxification, and Medically Assisted treatment programs.
- HOPE investigators educate the survivor and associates of the surviving overdose victim as to the dangers of opiate abuse.
- HOPE investigators, an Outreach Coordinator from Southeast Healthcare Inc., and local Community Paramedic EMT's conduct in home follow ups with the survivor and the survivor's family members.



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### **HOPE Task Force Expansion 2016-2017:**

Preliminary Patrol Policies have been drafted and implemented to ensure non-fatal and fatal overdose events are thoroughly investigated as a matter of policy throughout participating HOPE Task Force Police Jurisdictions. The HOPE Task Force once comprised of 1 Sergeant and 2 Investigators from the Franklin County Sheriff's Office only 1 year ago has grown to include active partnerships with 7 local police agencies who have agreed to follow the HOPE Model of Non-fatal and Fatal Overdose Investigations. The HOPE Task Force has also partnered with Homeland Security Investigations to investigate and prosecute cases on a Federal Level. The Goal of the HOPE task force is to make the HOPE model the status quo for investigating Fatal and Non Fatal Overdose Incidents across the county as a matter of Policy.

### **Statistics:**

Since the HOPE Task Force Inception in Late 2015, the HOPE Task Force has investigated a total of 186 Fatal and Non Fatal Heroin and/or Fentanyl Overdose Incidents. In 2016, HOPE investigated 111 cases and has already investigated 75 cases since January 1, 2017. With expansion to local police departments this year, the HOPE Task Force anticipates reaching 300% more individuals struggling with addiction during the full year 2017.

127 Overdose Victims have been Educated on the dangers/risk factors for Overdose, and provided outreach services linking them with Treatment, Recovery, and Healthcare Options throughout Franklin County, Ohio.

80 Individuals have scheduled initial appointments with Southeast Healthcare Inc., and 48 individuals have taken the first step to recovery by showing up at their initial assessment appointment. 45 Family members of those struggling with addiction have been linked to Family Support Services such as The Addict's Parents United and the GAP Network.

30 Drug Traffickers have been arrested and/or indicted on charges of Involuntary Manslaughter, Corrupting another with Drugs, and Trafficking in Heroin/Fentanyl through the investigation of these cases. An additional 51 suspected Heroin/Fentanyl Traffickers have been identified through the investigation of overdose cases and are currently under surveillance and investigation by the HOPE and FCDF Task Forces.

### **Planned HOPE Task Force Initiatives and Expansion:**

The HOPE Task Force is currently applying for funding through the Federal Government Comprehensive Addiction Recovery Act to support overtime costs, naloxone distribution, training and travel of Investigators, forensic equipment, and to implement a Peer Support program for individuals served by the HOPE Task Force.

The HOPE Task Force plans to expand into other local police agencies in Franklin County, and become memorialized through an MOU among partner agencies in the coming months.

The HOPE Task Force is in the planning stages of partnering with the FCSO Community Relations Street Smart in Schools program, in which HOPE patients who make it through recovery will share their stories in local schools to give back to the community by helping prevent our children from ever using Opiates/Opioids in the first place.



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### *Current Collaborators of the HOPE Task Force:*

#### **Law Enforcement Partners**

*Franklin County Sheriff's Office Drug Task Force*

*Franklin County Prosecutor Ron Obrien's Office*

*Reynoldsburg Police Department*

*Whitehall Police Department*

*Bexley Police Department*

*Blendon Township Police Department*

*Mifflin Township Police Department*

*Dublin Police Department*

*Drug Enforcement Administration*

*Homeland Security Investigations (HSI)*

#### **Treatment/Support Partners**

*Southeast Healthcare Services Inc.*

*Franklin County ADAMH Board*

*Maryhaven*

*Netcare*

*Whitehall Fire Department*

*Truro Township Fire Department*

*Prairie Township Fire Department*

*Violet Township Fire Department*

*The Addict's Parents United*

*Grief to Action for Prevention (GAP) Network*

### **For More Information Contact:**

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