

Ipswich Police Partner With Peer Departments to Address Addiction and Mental Health



Ipswich Police Department
Paul A. Nikas, Chief of Police
15 Elm St.
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For Immediate Release

Tuesday, Feb. 6, 2018

Contact: John Guilfoil
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Ipswich Police Partner With Peer Departments to Address Addiction and Mental Health

IPSWICH – Chief Paul Nikas is pleased to announce that the Ipswich Police Department has partnered with five North Shore law enforcement agencies in a Jail Arrest Diversion Program after the City of Beverly received a \$90,000 grant from the Massachusetts Department of Public Health.

This collaborative partnership grant will be shared among the Ipswich, Beverly, Gloucester, Essex, Manchester and Rockport Police Departments and support the hiring of a full-time co-responder clinician who will help police by answering calls involving individuals with mental health or substance abuse

issues.

The goal of this program is to divert people from arrest and to promote treatment interventions as an alternative to further justice system involvement. Longstanding affiliations with regional providers such as Lahey Health Behavioral Services and Eliot Community Human Services create a strong capacity to leverage health provider and treatment services.

The co-responder clinician will be based at the Beverly and Gloucester Police Departments, providing responses as needed to all six member communities. The six partnering communities represent a geographic area of 158 square miles and comprise a shared population of approximately 100,000 people.

“We’re committed to pursuing every possible avenue to better serve the people in our community struggling with mental health and substance abuse disorders,” Chief Nikas said. “I’m grateful for the opportunity to join this collaborative effort with our law enforcement partners on the North Shore and am optimistic about the impact it will have on our community.”

This new program will bolster the Ipswich Police Department’s ongoing efforts to combat the opioid crisis, including its pre-existing partnership with the Police Assisted Addiction and Recovery Initiative and the Evelyn Lilly Lutz Foundation to fund the work of a part-time recovery coach who works directly with Ipswich residents.

“We thank the Massachusetts Department of Mental Health for this generous collaborative grant to support law enforcement who respond to situations involving individuals with mental health and/or substance use issues,” Beverly Mayor Michael Cahill said. “It’s important to divert individuals with behavioral health issues away from the criminal justice system and toward appropriate treatment and recovery services.”

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**Arlington Police Chief
Frederick Ryan, Middlesex
Sheriff Peter J. Koutoujian
participate in SAMHSA/BJA
Expert Panel on Medication-
Assisted Treatment
Implementation**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**Sheriff Koutoujian, Chief Ryan participate in SAMHSA/BJA
Expert Panel on Medication-Assisted Treatment Implementation**

ROCKVILLE, Md. – Middlesex Sheriff Peter J. Koutoujian and Arlington Police Chief Fred Ryan were among the national experts to participate in a discussion on implementation of Medication-Assisted Treatment (MAT) programs today.

Sheriff Koutoujian and Chief Ryan were invited to participate in the dialogue convened by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) and the Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA) due to their leadership in implementing programs to assist individuals with substance use disorders (SUDs). The goal of the convening was to develop guidance for implementing MAT programs across the criminal justice system to assist individuals with SUDs.

Sheriff Koutoujian and Chief Ryan are nationally recognized leaders for their efforts to address the opioid crisis in Massachusetts. In addition to participating in today's convening, Sheriff Koutoujian has previously presented on the MSO's Medication Assisted Treatment and Opioid Recovery (MATADOR) program at the White House, while Chief Ryan has testified before the United States Senate regarding the Arlington Opiate Outreach Initiative.

"I want to thank SAMHSA and the BJA for the invitation to participate today," said Sheriff Koutoujian. "As we all seek to stem the tide of the opioid epidemic, nothing could be more important than learning from one another and sharing best practices. This convening provided an opportunity to do both."

“Those with Substance Use Disorders are our neighbors, friends, and loved ones, and law enforcement stands on the front lines of the battle against this epidemic,” Chief Ryan said. “I am grateful to participate in a dialog with other leaders on this subject, including my friend and colleague Sheriff Koutoujian.”

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***MEDIA ADVISORY* Whitman Hanson WILL Coalition to Host Meeting on Opioid Abuse Prevention**



Whitman Police Department
Scott D. Benton, Chief of Police
20 Essex St
Whitman, MA 02382

For Immediate Release

Monday, Nov. 13, 2017

Contact: John Guilfoil

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MEDIA ADVISORY

Whitman Hanson WILL Coalition to Host Meeting on Opioid Abuse Prevention



WHITMAN – Police Chief Scott D. Benton announces that Whitman Hanson WILL is hosting an upcoming forum for community members on the ongoing opioid epidemic, and all are welcome.

WHEN:

Tuesday, Dec. 5 at 6 p.m.

WHERE:

Hanson Public Library, [132 Maquan St.](#)

WHAT:

The meeting will include representatives from the Whitman and Hanson police and fire departments, Whitman–Hanson school system, local community outreach programs and the Plymouth County District Attorney’s office. It will be an opportunity for residents of the towns to have a conversation with officials and talk about what efforts are being done to treat and prevent opioid addiction.

“The goal is to get everybody together to get the word out there about the coalition and the resources that are available to residents,” Police Chief Scott D. Benton said. “The opioid epidemic has left no community untouched, and we encourage community members who have been affected by this disease to attend.”

Overdose deaths in Massachusetts have increased from 560 in 2010 to an estimated 2,107 in 2016, according to the state Department of Public Health. In recent months, officials have warned of increased usage of fentanyl and carfentanyl in the region and the dangers posed by using the powerful opioids that are significantly stronger than heroin.

For more information about the meeting, contact Amanda Sandoval at asandoval@hptc.org. Sandoval is the Assistant Director of Preventative Services for the High Point Treatment Center.

About Whitman Hanson WILL:

Whitman Hanson WILL is part of a regional coalition, the Brockton Area Opioid Abuse Prevention Collaborative, which works to promote advocacy and reduce the stigma associated with substance use disorders. Their mission is to provide opioid abuse and overdose prevention resources to the community through education, awareness and support.

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Newburyport Mayor Donna Holaday Joins 27 Mass. Mayors in Push to Change Federal Drug Policy



City of Newburyport
Donna Holaday, Mayor
60 Pleasant St.
Newburyport, MA 01950
For Immediate Release

Thursday, Nov. 2, 2017

Contact: John Guilfoil
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Newburyport Mayor Donna Holaday Joins 27 Massachusetts Mayors in Push to Change Federal Drug Policy

Letter Requests Restoration of DEA Enforcement Authority to Pursue Unlawful Prescription Drug Distribution

NEWBURYPORT – Mayor Donna D. Holaday announces that she has joined with 27 mayors from across Massachusetts to push for a federal law change to allow the Drug Enforcement Agency to pursue inappropriate wholesale prescription drug distribution, which fuels the opioid addiction epidemic that has afflicted cities throughout the Commonwealth and across the country.

“Every community in our Commonwealth has been impacted by this opioid epidemic, and Newburyport is not exempt,” Mayor Holaday said. “It is unconscionable given the knowledge we have about opioids and addiction that Congress would strip the DEA of enforcement of the wholesale distribution of these meds to pop up pain clinics.

“For the past several years, we and members of our communities have attended the funerals of friends, and the funerals of the children of friends, with sickening regularity,” the mayors wrote. “What we need and demand on the federal level is a Congress that will prioritize our families over the drug industry, a DEA with the enforcement authority and tools it needs to crack down on illegal corporate drug activity; and a drug czar committed to helping us in our fight instead of supporting industry profit at the expense of our children.”

The letter, addressed to President Donald J. Trump and members of Congress, urges that:

- The next nominee for the nation’s drug czar be free of financial or other connections to the prescription drug distribution industry, and be of unassailable professional and personal character; and

- That Congress repeal and replace the April 2016 law, passed through a parliamentary procedure without debate, that stripped the DEA of critical enforcement authority; the new law must give the DEA the authority to protect the interests of the public and simply cannot be bought and paid for by the legal drug distribution industry.

According to data provided by the White House, since 2000 over 300,000 Americans have died from overdoses involving opioids. Drug overdoses are now the leading cause of injury death in the United States more than traffic crashes and gun-related deaths combined. In 2015, there were 33,091 overdose deaths involving of opioids.

The nation loses 175 people every day to overdose.

The list of signatories includes:

Mayor Richard Cohen, Agawam
Mayor Michael P. Cahill, Beverly
Mayor Joseph C. Sullivan, Braintree
Mayor Bill Carpenter, Brockton
Mayor E. Denise Simmons, Cambridge
City Manager Thomas G. Ambrosino, Chelsea
Mayor Carlo DeMaria, Everett
Mayor Jasiel F. Correia II, Fall River
Mayor Stephen L. DiNatale, Fitchburg
Mayor Sefatia Romeo Theken, Gloucester
Mayor William F. Martin, Greenfield
Mayor James F. Fiorentini, Haverhill
Mayor Dan Rivera, Lawrence
Mayor Gary Christenson, Malden
Mayor Arthur Vigeant, Marlborough
Mayor Stephanie Muccini Burke, Medford
Mayor Robert J. Dolan, Melrose
Mayor Jon Mitchell, New Bedford
Mayor Donna D. Holaday, Newburyport
Mayor Setti Warren, Newton

Mayor Richard J. Alcombright, North Adams

Mayor Ted Bettencourt, Peabody

Mayor Linda M. Tyer, Pittsfield

Mayor Brian M. Arrigo, Revere

Mayor Domenic J. Sarno, Springfield

Mayor Thomas C. Hoyer, Jr., Taunton

Mayor William Reichelt, West Springfield

Mayor Scott D. Galvin, Woburn

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