

CRIMINAL JUSTICE UPDATE

WINTER 2016 Vol. 8 | No. 1

MIKE DEWINE
OHIO ATTORNEY GENERAL



As part of the conference in Mason, Ohio Attorney General Mike DeWine, right, takes part in a panel discussion with, from left: Hamilton County Commissioner Greg Hartmann, Warren County Prosecutor David Fornshell, Warren County Coroner Chief Investigator Doyle Burke and Warren County Sheriff Larry Sims.

Blue Courage designed to revitalize officers, improve culture



Blue Courage, a nationally recognized program containing workshops that cover topics such as police culture, resilience and positive psychology, has been added to the basic and advanced training required of Ohio's law enforcement officers.



Jim Willock, chief of police for Mill Creek MetroParks in Youngstown, leads a discussion during a Blue Courage training session.

The program was developed by Michael Nila, a former Aurora, Ill., police commander, with support from the U.S. Justice Department, to teach officers how to manage stress and to fight cynicism.

David Dubois, a consultant for Blue Courage who is also the sheriff of Strafford County, N.H., helped instruct 25 trainers in November at the Ohio Peace Officer Training Academy in London.

Dubois said he has seen positive changes in himself and his staff thanks to Blue Courage, which focuses on physical and mental wellness; discretion and practical wisdom; respect; positive psychology; and the impact law enforcement has on others.

"We provide tools to law enforcement so that they can do the difficult job that faces them," he said.

Blue Courage is a two-day course, but can be broken down into shorter segments, Dubois said.

Howard Powers, a senior consultant for Blue Courage, said the program uses a holistic approach. "We ask, 'How can we take care of officers so they can honor their oath?'"

Building support for communities battling heroin

COVER STORY

A former heroin addict who spoke at the "Taking Back Our Communities" conference in Mason, Ohio, said his recovery was a "journey of a million tiny steps." And, fortunately for him, along the way, there were people to help. He has been clean for three years.

Community involvement is vital in the fight against heroin, Ohio Attorney General Mike DeWine told more than 100 concerned citizens who gathered on Oct. 20 at Christ's Church.

In a series of conferences open to faith-based and community leaders, grassroots organizations and members of the public, DeWine is encouraging communities to rise up against the epidemic of heroin that is plaguing all 88 counties of Ohio.

"The counties where I have seen some real progress have been counties where it got so bad, people got so sick of seeing their kids die and their neighbor's kids die, that they just literally rose up and started a grassroots effort," he said.

The Attorney General's Heroin Unit, developed in 2013, helps local law enforcement and prosecutors as they pursue upper-level dealers. But, DeWine said, he knew he had to do more. "We aren't going to arrest our way out of this problem. This is a consumption problem."



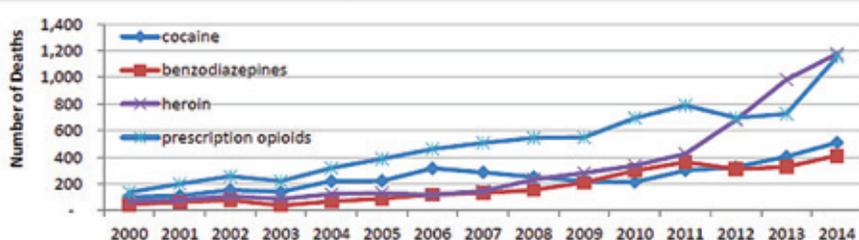
Marin Riggs

DeWine expanded the Heroin Unit into education and outreach and hired a team to foster grassroots efforts.

To raise awareness about the dangers of heroin, the Attorney General's website features a video about Marin Riggs, a 20-year-old who died of an overdose. *Marin's Story: The Battle Against Heroin*, is available at www.OhioAttorneyGeneral.gov.

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Number of Unintentional Overdoses Involving Selected Drugs, by year, in Ohio 2000-2014



Source: Ohio Department of Health; Office of Vital Statistics; Analysis conducted by Injury Prevention Program (Multiple drugs are usually involved in overdose deaths. Individual deaths may be reported in more than one category.)

FROM THE ATTORNEY GENERAL



When I started my career as a Greene County assistant prosecuting attorney, heroin was a drug found in the back alleys of big cities. Today, heroin is everywhere in Ohio. It's delivered like pizza right to the front doors of homes in the suburbs and small towns. People of every age, race, and geographic location are becoming hooked on it, and then killed by it. Officially, in 2013, 2,110 people died from drug overdoses in Ohio, according to the Ohio Department of Health. In 2014, the number climbed to 2,482.



A few years ago, my office set up a Heroin Unit to help law enforcement pursue high-level drug traffickers and to work with communities affected by the opiate epidemic. Our Ohio Organized Crime Investigations Commission (OOCIC), Bureau of Criminal Investigation (BCI), Special Prosecutions Section and drug-abuse outreach specialists work together to help communities fight the

heroin problem. We provide local law enforcement and prosecutors with equipment and expertise to help initiate investigations and to help take those investigations beyond street-level dealers to get high up the chain. Such investigations are often beyond the resources of most small and midsize departments. So far, we've had a lot of success.

However, we aren't going to arrest our way out of this. The heroin epidemic is a consumption problem. The Mexican drug cartels and the drug dealers are sophisticated marketers. While heroin starts cheap at about \$15, the habit soon becomes expensive to maintain — about \$1,500 a day for some. Without the means to buy the heroin, addicts often turn to crime.

This issue of *Criminal Justice Update* touches on just a few of the things that my office is doing to reach out to communities struggling in this crisis. On the cover, the main story tells how we organized a series of "Taking Back Our Communities" conferences and resource fairs to encourage faith-based and community leaders, grassroots organizations, and members of the public to unite

against the problem. On Page 3, a Q&A feature on our Heroin Unit offers information on what the group does to help make a difference in this fight. On the same page, a sidebar reviews the 60 *Minutes* segment "Heroin in the Heartland," which put a national spotlight on drug use in Ohio and our efforts to gain the upper hand.

My staff and other state, local, and federal authorities can't win this battle alone. Everyone in the community needs to be involved at the grassroots level to raise awareness, make it harder for dealers to do business, support addicts through treatment, and educate adults and children. We need more local groups, churches, and citizens to rise up and take back their communities. My office can help you get started — visit www.ohioattorneygeneral.gov/DrugAbuse.

Very respectfully yours,

Mike DeWine
Ohio Attorney General

IN THE COURTS



United States v. Bah, U.S. Court of Appeals for the 6th Circuit, July 24, 2015



The 6th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals addressed whether an individual has a reasonable expectation of privacy when it comes to the information stored on the magnetic strips on credit, debit and gift cards.

Brief facts: Police officers in Morristown, Tenn., stopped a rental vehicle driven by Mamadou Bah for speeding. Bah was arrested for driving on a suspended license. Officers searched the vehicle before having it towed and found several cellphones and 68 credit, debit and gift cards. Bah and his passenger were taken to the police department where more cards were recovered from the wallets of both Bah and his passenger. Without a warrant, detectives used a magnetic card reader to reveal the information encoded on the magnetic strips of the cards. Detectives determined that the majority of the cards had been re-encoded so that the financial information they contained didn't match the information printed on the fronts and backs of the cards. Bah and his passenger were charged with production,

use, or trafficking in counterfeit devices. Bah sought to suppress the warrantless searches of the magnetic strips on the cards, claiming the reading violated his Fourth Amendment protection against unreasonable searches.

Court's findings: The court held that the use of the skimmer to read the cards wasn't a search for purposes of the Fourth Amendment because the scans didn't involve a physical intrusion of a constitutionally protected area, and the scans didn't violate the cardholders' reasonable expectations of privacy. Further, because the magnetic strips are routinely read by private parties at gas stations and grocery stores, an expectation of privacy is not reasonable. When law enforcement has lawful possession of the cards, there is no separate privacy interest in the magnetic strip.



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CRIMINAL JUSTICE UPDATE

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Q&A

The Ohio Attorney General's Heroin Unit, developed in 2013 to help law enforcement pursue high-level traffickers and to work with communities affected by the opiate epidemic, combines the talents of the Ohio Organized Crime Investigations Commission (OOCIC), the Bureau of Criminal Investigation (BCI), the Special Prosecutions Section and drug-abuse outreach specialists.

We spoke with Amy O'Grady, director of Criminal Justice Initiatives, who heads the unit; Scott Duff, BCI special agent supervisor, who leads the unit's law enforcement-related efforts; and Jennifer Biddinger, who oversees outreach.

How does the Heroin Unit get involved in a case?

O'Grady: We learn about circumstances in a county through our involvement on the law enforcement end. Otherwise, our outreach group receives referrals from other counties, or we proactively reach out to counties to see what we can do to help.

Duff: BCI is a request agency, so we are called in at the request of a local law enforcement department. Within the Heroin Unit, we have four special agents assigned regionally to assist local law enforcement with heroin-related investigations. We have also staffed the Heroin Unit with four criminal investigators who assist in the preparation of cases, as well.

Typically, how long does an investigation last?

Duff: That depends, but these investigations are not normally quick investigations. They are extremely time consuming and may take as long as a year, maybe longer.

Can you say what help you offer to law enforcement?

Duff: We offer investigative expertise, using experienced narcotics agents who work in the field. That may mean cultivating informants, making drug buys, conducting hundreds of hours of surveillance, etc. We use some of the most state-of-the-art electronic surveillance equipment to assist local agencies, as well. We also offer financial assistance for certain things associated with conducting these long-term investigations. Many law enforcement agencies do not have adequate resources to do that, so the Attorney General's Office offers some help in that regard.

How does the unit's community outreach work?

O'Grady: We provide education about the opioid epidemic, county by county. We also help counties identify areas where they may need additional assistance in fighting the opioid epidemic, and suggest resources to fulfill those needs.

Biddinger: More people are getting to know about us. Recently, the *60 Minutes* piece caused a flurry of activity. I get outreach-related calls every day, and (the Attorney General's) Constituent Services section has also been helping people get in touch with me.

How many cases can the unit work at one time?

Duff: That depends on what the needs are. We can juggle multiple cases to a certain degree, and, at times, we concentrate on one investigation. It depends on what stage the investigation is in. We also do our best to prioritize the cases to make sure that we are using our resources in the most effective and efficient manner.

READ MORE: Read an extended interview with the Heroin Unit at www.OhioAttorneyGeneral.gov/CriminalJusticeUpdate.

'60 Minutes' shines national spotlight on heroin scourge

Efforts by the Ohio Attorney General's Office to fight the state's heroin epidemic drew the attention of *60 Minutes*, which put together a "Heroin in the Heartland" segment focusing on drug use in the suburbs of Columbus.

"This is the worst drug epidemic I've seen in my lifetime," Ohio Attorney General Mike DeWine told *60 Minutes* correspondent Bill Whitaker in the broadcast that aired Nov. 1.



"It's in every single county. It's in our cities, but it's also in our wealthier suburbs. It's in our small towns. There's no place in Ohio where you can hide from it. There is no place in Ohio where you couldn't have it delivered to you in 15 or 20 minutes."

Hannah Morris, a college student from Worthington confirmed that assessment.

"To me it was easier to get than weed," said Morris, who got hooked on heroin when she was 15.

She told Whitaker how she and her friends would shoot up in the school restroom.



The *60 Minutes* crew visited the Attorney General's Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigation (BCI) in London, where they were shown capsules and tablets of heroin seized during arrests.

At BCI, DeWine talked about the difference between today's heroin use and that of decades ago, when, seemingly, only urban dwellers in the worst environments used the drug that is most effective when injected with a needle — a barrier for many.

"There's no psychological barrier anymore that stops a young person or an older person from taking heroin. Anybody watching today, it can be your family. There's no typical person. It has permeated every segment of society in Ohio," he said.

Parents who have lost children to heroin told *60 Minutes* that they feel guilty about missing the signs of heroin use.

"No one was talking about that we had heroin in Pickerington," said Heidi Riggs, who lost her 20-year-old daughter, Marin, to a heroin overdose. "We were in total shock."

To watch a related CBS interview with the Attorney General, visit www.OhioAttorneyGeneral.gov/HeroinInTheHeartland.

Protecting Ohio's Teens



“Those receiving awards this year have kept others out of harm’s way, have served their communities and departments with distinction, and have shown bravery in the line of duty to protect the citizens of Ohio.”

- Attorney General Mike DeWine

Salute to the best

A police officer who saved a woman from a knife-wielding attacker, six others who were stalked by an angry gunman, and a crew who rescued a man from a burning van were among the more than three dozen individuals and groups honored in October at the Ohio Attorney General’s 2015 Law Enforcement Conference.



The conference, an annual gathering of law enforcement officers from throughout Ohio, features speakers and workshops covering a range of topics, which this year focused on “Protecting Ohio’s Teens.”

The awards:

Distinguished Civilian Leadership Award

Theresa Kay Snyder,
Perry Behavioral Health Choices

Snyder has been a driving force for addiction prevention and recovery as director of Perry Behavioral Health Choices, an outpatient drug and alcohol treatment center, and as a member of the Perry County Drug Coalition. New Lexington Police Chief Scott Ervin praised Snyder’s efforts against drug abuse. “Through Theresa’s positive leadership skills, along with her passion and dedication to the community, she has teamed up with local law enforcement to assist us in any way possible in working through the opiate epidemic that affects our community.” Through the treatment center, Snyder secured a grant to open a sober house and a men’s rehabilitation facility. Using her health-care knowledge, Snyder, a registered nurse, has educated many in the community about addiction.

Distinguished Law Enforcement Community Service Award

Det. Kimberly Mager, Ashland Police Division

In 2001, when Mager was a patrol officer with just a few years on the force, a boy who had been removed from his parents due to neglect confided that he had received nothing for Christmas. Officers pooled their money and bought gifts for him. The next year, Mager decided to do something to bring Christmas cheer to other needy children — and Shop With a Cop was born. She gathered resources and contacted Job and Family Services and schools to identify children in need. The first year, a few dozen children were able to shop. Each year, the program has expanded. It now includes all Ashland County law enforcement agencies, the Ohio State Highway Patrol and area fire departments. Last year, about 180 kids were able to take part.

Distinguished Law Enforcement Training Award

Chief Cel Rivera and Officer Michael Gidich, Lorain Police Department

Rivera and Gidich, in an effort to stem the tide of opiate-related overdose deaths in their community, succeeded in an early program to equip officers with naloxone, a drug that blocks the effects of opioids on the brain. In 2013, Rivera found that a police department in Massachusetts had trained officers to administer naloxone. Rivera met with Dr. William Evans, the Lorain County coroner, and contacted the Ohio State Board of Pharmacy to see about obtaining naloxone for his officers to carry. After hitting a snag, Rivera contacted state Sen. Gayle Manning and they succeeded in gaining permission to equip officers with the drug. Soon, Senate Bill 57 was signed into law allowing first responders to carry naloxone. Rivera prepared a naloxone policy, and Evans and Gidich finished a training presentation and video within two weeks.

Mark Losey Distinguished Law Enforcement Service Award

Officer Kurt A. Holden,
Wright State University Police Department

Holden, a six-year veteran of the force, is a versatile officer who works on the Bike Patrol, K9, and Crime Prevention units, and as a field training officer and supervisor. In addition to his busy schedule, he finds time to be a mentor to foster youths at the university. The mentoring is close to Holden's heart because he grew up in foster care. Today, he is a member of the Independent Scholars Network committee, a program to help former foster children succeed in college.

Mark Losey Distinguished Law Enforcement Service Award

Col. Paul A. Pride, superintendent,
Ohio State Highway Patrol

Pride, a 26-year veteran of the patrol, is nationally known for his work to reduce traffic-crash deaths. His tenure as superintendent is marked by several innovative initiatives. His latest, the Trooper Shield program, is meant to reduce traffic-related fatalities and increase criminal patrol efforts. As heroin abuse reached epidemic proportions in 2012, Pride thought officers could make strides in targeting the method of transport. Under the Trooper Shield program, the basic traffic stop acts as a gateway to identify criminal operations, with officers being urged to spend more time with traffic violators and look more closely to identify signs of illegal activity.

Distinguished Law Enforcement Group Achievement Award

Cincinnati Police Department/Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF) Organized Crime Investigative Squad

Members of the Cincinnati Police Department and the ATF work together as the Organized Crime Investigative Squad (OCIS) task force to target gangs and illegal traffickers in firearms in southwestern Ohio. The task force was recognized for breaking up two violent robbery crews that were operating in Ohio and Kentucky.

Distinguished Law Enforcement Group Achievement Award

Mahoning Valley Law Enforcement Task Force

The Mahoning Valley Law Enforcement Task Force is a multi-jurisdictional group made up of agents and officers from federal, state and local law enforcement agencies. It targets drug trafficking organizations in northeastern Ohio. In one recent case, the task force investigated a group that was suspected of bringing vast quantities of heroin into Youngstown and western Pennsylvania. During a two-year investigation, the task force employed a variety of techniques that resulted in the indictment of 18 people in U.S. Northern District Court, Eastern Division, on 129 counts. In addition, 37 others were indicted in Mahoning County Common Pleas Court.

Distinguished Law Enforcement Group Achievement Award

U.S. Secret Service Southern District of Ohio Electronic & Financial Crimes Task Force

The U.S. Secret Service Southern District of Ohio Electronic & Financial Crimes Task Force spent almost four years building a case against, and then dismantling, a multimillion-dollar fraud and money laundering scheme in central Ohio. In March, six search warrants were executed. Two family members suspected in the scheme, and accomplices, were sent to court to answer to the charges. Bank accounts and almost 50 ATMs were seized for a total asset seizure of about \$750,000.

Distinguished Law Enforcement Meritorious Service Award

Det. Michael McNeeley, Det. Brian Middaugh and Det. Anthony Sauto,
Cleveland Division of Police

While trying to make a neighborhood safe from gang violence, three detectives put their lives at risk to bring a fugitive to justice. On July 21, 2014, McNeeley, Middaugh and Sauto, who were assigned to the Gang Impact Unit, set out to patrol a neighborhood in response to a series of violent crimes. The three suspected that a fugitive being sought for a shooting was involved in gang activity, so they decided to watch his home. Soon, the detectives saw the suspect and another man leave, and they confronted the pair, who turned out to be armed. Sauto disarmed and captured one of them, but the other man brandished a handgun and ran. McNeeley and Middaugh chased the suspect and defended themselves by firing several shots. The suspect, who was wounded, was captured and charged.

Distinguished Law Enforcement Meritorious Service Award

Lt. Clint G. Arnold, Lt. Matthew J. Hamilton, Lt. Kevin S. Long, Sgt. Joseph J. Luebbbers,
Ohio State Highway Patrol; **Lt. Morgan A. Dallman, Deputy Brian L. Oswald,**
Butler County Sheriff's Office

A team of troopers and two deputies worked together and risked their lives to try to save a mother who had been abducted. On Sept. 12, 2014, the Ohio State Highway Patrol (OSHP) was notified that the suspect in a murder and abduction in Paducah, Ky., and his captive were believed to be traveling into Ohio. A short time later, an OSHP trooper advised that he was following the suspect's vehicle on I-75. Other troopers joined the pursuit and signaled the suspect to pull over. As troopers left their cars, they heard gunshots coming from inside the SUV, but its tinted windows blocked the view. Using a loudspeaker, the troopers ordered the suspect to surrender. Along with the lieutenant and deputy from the Butler County Sheriff's Office, the troopers formed two teams to approach the vehicle. The right team broke the rear window, and the left team broke the driver's window. In the vehicle, the suspect was found wounded; the captive was dead. The suspect is facing aggravated murder and kidnapping charges.

Distinguished Law Enforcement Valor Award

Sgt. Kevin Coleman, Patrol Officer Daniel Jopek, Patrol Officer Kevin Kincaid Jr., Patrol Officer Robert Mangan, Patrol Officer James Merritt, Patrol Officer Ian Mussell, Patrol Officer Mark Pesta, Patrol Officer Robby Prock,
Cleveland Division of Police

On June 1, 2014, the officers of the 4th District station put their lives at risk to rescue a man in a wheelchair from a burning vehicle. The officers heard a crash and found that two vehicles had collided next to the station, and one of the vehicles was on fire. The officers worked together to pull the driver to safety.

Distinguished Law Enforcement Valor Award

Patrol Officer Timothy Hannon, Patrol Officer John Jarrell, Patrol Officer John Lyons, Patrol Officer Brandon Melbar, Patrol Officer David Muniz, Patrol Officer Michael Surtz,
Cleveland Division of Police

In March, a man who had been drinking got in an argument with his wife and threatened her and the landlord with a handgun. The wife went to the 4th District station for help. Four officers accompanied the landlord to the stairs leading to the apartment door. Before they reached the door, the suspect stepped out and fired two shots, striking Muniz in the chest, hitting his ballistic vest. All of the officers rushed to covered positions. They told

the suspect to drop the gun, but he refused and walked toward the officers and raised his weapon. Hannon, Jarrell, Lyons and Surtz fired in defense of their lives, killing the suspect.

Distinguished Law Enforcement Valor Award

Patrol Officer John Lyons, Patrol Officer Matthew Pollack,
Cleveland Division of Police

On Oct. 11, 2014, the officers were working a night patrol when they got a call with the location of a man who was wanted on outstanding warrants. They reached the address and saw the suspect. They left the patrol car and approached him. The suspect pulled out a handgun and fired at Lyons' chest, hitting his ballistic vest. Lyons took cover and fired at the suspect. Pollack exchanged gunfire with the suspect, who fled. Eventually, the suspect emerged with a gunshot wound. He was arrested and taken to a hospital. The shooter was sentenced to 25 years in prison. Lyons was treated for his injuries and released.

Distinguished Law Enforcement Valor Award

Captain David A. Brown, Sgt. Michael P. Batchik
Uniontown Police Department

On Sept. 15, 2014, Brown and Batchik responded to calls of a man trapped in a burning vehicle in the parking lot of a grocery store. The two worked together to gain entry into the vehicle and to pull the 6-foot-2-inch, 220-pound victim to safety. Firefighters and paramedics soon arrived to help. The victim was treated at the hospital.

Distinguished Law Enforcement Valor Award

Patrol Officer Joseph Edwards IV, Patrol Officer Nicholas Lombardi,
Cleveland Division of Police

While on patrol on Jan. 21, 2015, Edwards and Lombardi received information that shots had been fired during a burglary and that the suspect fled in a gold truck. Later, the two saw a truck matching the description and began to follow it. The truck stopped in a driveway and the driver got out and started walking toward a house. The officers ordered the man to return to his truck, where they attempted to pat him down for weapons. The suspect wouldn't keep his hands on the truck. Lombardi tried to put the suspect's hands behind his back. The suspect pulled out a gun and fired inches from Edwards' head. The officer fell but then jumped up to help his partner get the suspect in handcuffs. Both officers were treated for injuries.

Distinguished Law Enforcement Valor Award

Patrolman Steve Wilson,
South Euclid Police Department

On Oct. 18, 2014, Wilson and Det. Sgt. Rick Friedl responded to calls of a burglary in progress. When they arrived at the home, they heard a woman screaming and saw that the back door had been forced open. The two went inside and saw a man with a knife on top of an injured woman. Both ordered the man to put the knife down, but he refused. Wilson fired two shots, both of which hit the suspect, who later died. Afterward, the victim wrote a letter to her rescuers, saying, "Thank you for doing a superb job as police officers. Most importantly, thank you Steve for saving my life."



WINTER 2016 NEWS & NOTES



CART recruiting additional coordinators

The Child Abduction Response Team (CART) program is seeking coordinators.



The program offers administrative and operational assistance to law enforcement agencies in anticipation of, or in the event of, the abduction of a child. After an abduction, the CART program is designed to quickly summon resources, help manage the recovery of the child, and assist in the criminal investigation.

Larry McCoy, a special agent for the Ohio Attorney General's Bureau of Criminal Investigation (BCI) and the Ohio CART coordinator, said the program has 40 coordinators but having more would be beneficial to law enforcement.

Cart coordinators act as the leaders of CART within their jurisdictions. They know where to find resources in their region and how to tailor a response to the unique circumstances of an abduction. CART coordinators receive advanced training and are considered assets to their agencies and communities, McCoy said.

A law enforcement chief executive can identify and register a CART coordinator through the Ohio Law Enforcement Gateway (OHLEG) portal. The application is available on the OHLEG home page.

For more information on CART, call 855-BCI-OHIO or send an email to OhioCart@OhioAttorneyGeneral.gov.

OPOTA puts required continuing training in easy reach



Peace officers and troopers are required to complete 11 hours of Continuing Professional Training (CPT) this year, up from four hours last year, and Ohio Attorney General Mike DeWine announced the requirements in October during the opening session of the Law Enforcement Conference.

In April, DeWine's Advisory Group on Law Enforcement Training recommended that the state increase annual advanced training, later, the Ohio Legislature mandated that all officers take 11 hours of CPT, with the subjects of the training required for reimbursement to be determined by the Attorney General's Office.

"It is critically important that law enforcement officers continuously receive high-quality training throughout their careers," DeWine said.

Officers can take any training approved by the

Ohio Peace Officer Training Commission to meet the 11 hours required. However, to be reimbursed, they must take training on the critical subjects of:

- Community-police relations with a suggested focus on implicit bias, procedural justice, and Blue Courage (4 hours)
- Crisis de-escalation with a required focus on mental illness (2 hours)
- Constitutional use of force (2 hours)

As an option to fulfill the reimbursement requirements, those topics will be combined in the new course "Policing in the 21st Century," a live 8-hour class to be taught by the Ohio Peace Officer Training Academy (OPOTA) in London, Richfield and at select regional locations, according to Mary Davis, executive director. The course will also be streamed live online.

The one-hour human trafficking update course, which is a required critical subject for reimbursement, will be available in a separate online course.

The remaining two hours of required training may be about general law enforcement topics, for which OPOTA has added five new, one-hour eOPOTA courses from which to choose.

For more information, send an email to AskOpota@OhioAttorneyGeneral.gov. To view a course catalog, visit www.OhioAttorneyGeneral.gov/OPOTA.



For information about submitting an officer for induction to the Ohio Fallen Officers' Memorial Wall, contact Kelly Cain at Kelly.Cain@OhioAttorneyGeneral.gov or 740-845-2684.

Attorney General's initiative using grants to expand services for victims of crime

Victims of domestic violence in Logan County have had to travel at least 30 miles to seek emergency shelter, but a \$416,676 grant – one of many from the Ohio Attorney General's Expanding Services and Empowering Victims Initiative – is changing that.

Consolidated Care Inc. of Bellefontaine is using the money to establish a shelter for those seeking to get away from abusers.

"No matter where you live in this state, we want victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, and

other crimes to have access to the essential services needed to report crimes, seek justice, and recover," said Attorney General Mike DeWine.

The Ohio Attorney General's Expanding Services and Empowering Victims Initiative, announced on Oct. 7, is aimed at starting new victim service programs, enhancing services already available, and empowering survivors. The Attorney General's office is providing up to \$70 million in grants to crime victim service providers throughout the state. Grant funding from federal court settlements is also being used for the Attorney General's

Sexual Assault Expansion Program (SAEP), an effort to increase the core services provided to sexual assault survivors.

In 2013, only 35 counties in Ohio provided all core sexual assault services, eight provided none. The Attorney General's Office plans to administer an evaluation at the beginning of 2016 and is expected to find that more than 70 counties now provide all core services.

COVER STORY

continued from page 1

“Our goal today is to have fewer families go through what Marin’s family has gone through,” DeWine said. “This is an epidemic that is different than any drug epidemic I’ve ever seen.”

“I started my career as a prosecuting attorney in Greene County in the 1970s. In those days, heroin was something that we expected to find in the big cities. ...It was not a drug you expected to find in Mason, Ohio, or Cedarville, Ohio, or any small village or in our suburbs. Today, heroin is everywhere in Ohio.”

Warren County Sheriff Larry Sims said his jail, particularly the female unit, is full thanks to heroin. “They are in there either because of the heroin-related crimes or for possession. We struggle to find resources to get them out of the facility.”

Warren County Coroner Chief Investigator Doyle Burke agreed that the problem is widespread.

“Five or six years ago, if there was an overdose, it was usually prescription drugs,” he said. “But the pendulum shifted. And now heroin is the most prolific drug we see in our drug overdoses.”

“The way we are going to combat this is by the initiatives like Attorney General DeWine is doing,” Burke said. “You need to put a face to these people. ... It’s time to take back our communities.” Among the faith-based groups taking on



Alisha Nelson, a community outreach specialist for the Attorney General's Office, signs a visitor into the conference in Mason.

Unintentional drug overdoses caused the deaths of **2,482** Ohio residents in 2014, according to preliminary data. This is the highest number of deaths on record from drug overdose and reflects a **17.6** percent increase compared with 2013, when there were **2,110** drug overdose deaths.

Source: Ohio Department of Health

the heroin crisis is the Champions Network. It seeks to connect addicts to resources and solutions through churches. The group relies on churches throughout the state to pick “champions” from their congregations who can reach out to those who need help.

For more information about the Champions Network, visit www.ohiochampionsnetwork.org. To find out about future “Taking Back Our Communities” events, visit www.OhioAttorneyGeneral.gov.

DeWine calls for uniform pre-certification standards for academy applicants

In an effort to standardize the training of Ohio’s peace officers, Attorney General Mike DeWine asked the Ohio Peace Officer Training Commission (OPOTC) to adopt a set of pre-certification standards for academies.

“It is time for uniformity of qualifications for all peace officer basic training applicants in Ohio,” DeWine said at a Dec. 8 news conference.

During its January meeting, OPOTC is asked to consider the request that, among other requirements, each applicant passes a drug screening, a psychological exam, a truth-verification test and a physical assessment. DeWine also called for additional criminal disqualifiers. The Attorney General’s request was based on the findings of the Advisory Group on Law Enforcement Training, which DeWine convened in 2014.

At a meeting on Nov. 12, Reginald A. Wilkinson, chairman of the advisory group, said he is pleased by the progress OPOTC is making on the recommendations.

As of November, OPOTC had made changes in response to eight recommendations, including:

- Applicants for peace officer training are required to have a diploma or GED.
- OPOTC set an order of topics to be taught in basic training (mandatory on July 1).



- Lesson plans are to be taught in their entirety.
- The minimum number of hours for basic training was raised from 605 to 653.
- Implicit bias, procedural justice and Blue Courage have been added to basic training.
- A mental-health panel will take part in basic training.
- Additional scenario-based training activities have been added to basic training.
- Advanced training on legal updates, community-police relationships and mental health have been made critical subjects of Continuing Professional Training.

LEGISLATIVE INITIATIVES



Adult Protective Services

House Bill 24 (Elder Justice Act)

Sponsors: Reps. Mike Dovilla, Wes Retherford

Status: Passed by House; pending in Senate committee

House Bill 24 enhances Adult Protective Services (APS) by requiring the program to assist an older victim of abuse whether or not the perpetrator is a caretaker, expands the list of mandatory reporters to include financial institutions, and gives APS the ability to seek protective orders regarding irreparable financial harm.



Foster Care-Adoption Assistance Age

House Bill 50

Sponsors: Reps. Dorothy Pelanda, Cheryl Grossman

Status: Passed by House

House Bill 50 would extend the eligibility age for federal foster care and adoption assistance payments to 21, and require that a guardian receive the “Ohio Guardianship Guide.”



Police Training

House Bill 204

Sponsors: Reps. Tim Derickson, Nathan Manning

Status: Passed by House; pending in Senate committee

House Bill 204 would lift the cap on the number of hours of basic training required for peace officers. It also requires all new peace officers to have a high school diploma or GED.



Protected Consumer-Credit Freeze

House Bill 317

Sponsors: Rep. Ron Maag

Status: Pending a House floor vote

House Bill 317 would allow parents or guardians to apply a security “freeze” to a child’s credit to help stop identity thieves from opening accounts in the child’s name.



Firearm-Prison Terms

Senate Bill 97 (Violent Career Criminal)

Sponsors: Sens. Jim Hughes, Frank LaRose

Status: Passed by Senate; pending in House committee

Senate Bill 97 would increase the mandatory prison term by 50 percent for an offender convicted of a firearm specification and who has been previously convicted of a firearm specification.

KEY EVENTS | 2016



Ohio Peace Officers' Memorial Ceremony

When: May 5
Where: Ohio Peace Officer Training Academy in London
For information: Call 740-845-2684.



Two Days in May Conference on Victim Assistance

When: May 23-24
Where: Greater Columbus Convention Center (new venue)
For information: Visit www.OhioAttorneyGeneral.gov/TDIM or email TDIM@OhioAttorneyGeneral.gov.



Ohio Attorney General's Law Enforcement Conference

When: Oct. 4-5
Where: Hyatt Regency Columbus
For information: Visit www.OhioAttorneyGeneral.gov/LEConference or call 740-845-2684.



60
MINUTES

Attorney General Mike DeWine speaks with 60 Minutes correspondent Bill Whitaker at BCI headquarters in London about the heroin epidemic.

TV news program visits BCI

While working on a story about the state's heroin epidemic, the 60 Minutes crew visited the Ohio Attorney General's Bureau of Criminal Investigation in London to see what is being done to combat the problem. For more about the "Heroin in the Heartland" segment, see Page 3.

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