DeWine details plan to fight epidemic at drugmakers’ expense

Ohio Attorney General Mike DeWine traveled around the state Oct. 30 through Nov. 1 providing details of his 12-point plan to combat the opioid epidemic and get drugmakers to pay for it.

“Recognizing this problem for the deadly emergency that it is requires us to think differently,” DeWine said. “We need to do more to fully combat this scourge.”

“Recovery Ohio” calls for legislation to give the governor the ability to declare a public health emergency; an updated law enforcement data infrastructure; more drug task forces and drug courts; an expansion of substance-use treatment; incentives to increase the number of specialists working with drug users, to encourage employers to help employees seek treatment while remaining employed, and to entice business owners to hire those in recovery; the creation of a cabinet-level position to oversee opioid programs; the implementation of proven drug-prevention education in all grades; the introduction of a statewide drug-prevention media campaign; and the expansion of early intervention programs for families and children involved in foster care.

Continued on Page 7

Attorney General gathers medical professionals for statewide opioid summit

In the third installment of his “Ideas” series addressing the state’s opioid crisis, Ohio Attorney General Mike DeWine focused on the medical and treatment community.

About 700 medical professionals gathered at 18 satellite locations throughout the state on Sept. 25 to participate in the live “Ideas in Practice: A Closer Look at the Continuum of Addiction Treatment” event hosted at the 4-H Center at Ohio State University. During four sessions, panelists discussed evidence-based practices for helping opioid-addicted patients.

“The bad news is pretty obvious: 12 to 15 people die every day,” DeWine said. “Half of the kids in foster care are there because one or both of their parents are drug addicts. Our jails are detox centers. I don’t have to tell you about the impact on the medical community.”

“But what I find is that in community after community, people are doing amazing work,” he said. “What we have tried to do at the Attorney General’s Office is to figure out where we could be value-added in dealing with this problem.”

Continued on Page 7

New K-9 agent has a nose for electronics

A new crime fighter has been unleashed to sniff out evidence in Ohio.

Reptar, a 2-year-old Labrador retriever, works for the Ohio Attorney General’s Bureau of Criminal Investigation (BCI) with his handler, Special Agent Josh Rammel, to locate hidden electronic devices with storage capabilities, particularly during searches for child pornography.

“Reptar finds the devices that are hidden in plain sight — and the ones that are purposefully concealed because a suspect does not want us to find them,” Ohio Attorney General Mike DeWine said during a news conference announcing the availability of the investigative team.

While executing recent search warrants, Reptar sniffed out an SD memory card in a drawer that had a false bottom and a flash drive hidden inside a truck stereo.

Continued on Page 7
The opioid epidemic is a human tragedy of epic proportion. The foster care system is bursting at the seams, jails are serving as detox centers, employers can’t find qualified applicants who can pass a drug test, and tragically, at least 15 Ohioans are dying from overdoses every day.

My office’s Bureau of Criminal Investigation (BCI) continues to see more fentanyl, fentanyl-related compounds, and carfentanil. As of December, there had been a 380 percent increase in submissions of carfentanil to the lab compared with all of 2016! Additionally, in 2017, there was a 46 percent increase in fentanyl and fentanyl-related compounds submitted by law enforcement.

Opioid addiction is a complex problem that requires attention and action. My office is working hard to come up with solutions. We kicked off the new year with “Ideas for Advocacy: Working Together for Addiction Recovery in Ohio,” which focused on social services. This edition of Criminal Justice Update offers several stories about a few of my office’s additional efforts to make a difference in the fight. The main story on the cover is about my “Recovery Ohio” plan, a set of 12 initiatives to combat the opioid crisis.

Also, my office’s Heroin Unit is working on new installments in the “Ideas” series against drug abuse. This issue of the CJU features a story about our “Ideas” conference that addressed the opioid epidemic with medical professionals. This program — “Ideas in Practice: A Closer Look at the Continuum of Addiction Treatment” — drew about 700 people to locations throughout the state to take part in sessions on evidenced-based practices for helping opioid-addicted patients. Medical professionals on the panels discussed the latest in treatment and the need for collaboration.

At the Attorney General’s Office, we will continue our lawsuit against the opioid manufacturers and our work with communities and law enforcement to face this crisis. If you have any questions, please contact us at HeroinUnit@OhioAttorneyGeneral.gov. We can provide assistance in a number of ways, including community engagement, task force development, and investigative strategies.

Ohioans are not afraid to face challenges and won’t back down from this fight. The time has come to hold the drug companies accountable and take back our communities from the grip of addiction. Together, we can do this.

Very respectfully yours,

Mike DeWine
Ohio Attorney General
Agencies invited to borrow training equipment

A new program from the Attorney General’s Ohio Peace Officer Training Academy (OPOTA) is bringing free, scenario-based training to the doorsteps of local law enforcement agencies.

During his 2017 Law Enforcement Conference, Ohio Attorney General Mike DeWine announced the Scenario Training Equipment Program (STEP), which offers an inventory of training equipment that OPOTA manages like a library.

“We know that not everyone can send their officers to OPOTA in London,” DeWine said. “So we are trying to expand scenario-based training with the STEP program.”

To borrow the equipment, the agency has to send at least one instructor to attend OPOTA’s Scenario Based Training Instructor course and submit a safety plan and scenario lesson plan. Once the instructor has completed the course, the agency may borrow from OPOTA’s library of equipment.

Joseph Sidoti, a course instructor, said the class teaches the safest and most effective ways to conduct force-on-force training.

Some of the topics covered include the psychological and physiological effects of stress on human performance; safely creating stress during training; developing scenarios to meet an agency’s needs; documenting scenario-based training; managing the logistical challenges of training; best practices for debriefing; and increasing officer performance.

Each kit includes:
• Training pistols.
• Training rifles (AR-style).
• Marking cartridges.
• Training Tasers, pepper spray, and batons.
• Protective gear for students, role players, and instructors.
• Role player props.

Upon request, the kits are delivered to agencies and picked up by members of the OPOTA staff.

To register for the instructor course, visit www.OhioAttorneyGeneral.gov/OPOTACourses. For more information, send an email to AskOPOTA@OhioAttorneyGeneral.gov.

Enforcement Valor Award
Capt. Jack L. Tremain, Distinguished Law Enforcement Group
The Ohio State University Police Department

On Nov. 28, 2016, Officer Alan Horujko called on his training to quickly respond to, and end, a terrorist attack on a group of university students and faculty. As an 18-year-old student, who was inspired to commit terrorism by ISIS propaganda, purposely drove his car over a curb and into the group, he jumped out and began waving a machete and singing a song. Officer Horujko ordered the attacker to drop the knife. The man refused and ran at the officer, who fired his gun, killing the attacker.

DeWine presents Officer Alan Horujko with a valor award. (Ohio Attorney General Mike DeWine)

Distinguished Law Enforcement Community Achievement Award
Lt. Brandon Yankanin, Det. Jason Kenney, Dustin Money, and Adam Tabor
Ohio State University Police Division

The training provided by The Ohio State University Police Division's Ordnance Team—made up of Lt. Brandon Yankanin, Det. Jason Kenney, Dustin Money, and Adam Tabor—prevented Officer Horujko from react quickly to stop a terrorist attack on campus in 2016. The Ordnance Team conducts training sessions throughout the year on subjects such as firearms proficiency, tactics, building search techniques, combat first aid, and active shooter response. The instructors also work hard to secure funding and support for the trainings.

The Miami Valley Bulk Smuggling Task Force, an Ohio Organized Crime Investigations Commission Task Force, which operates in the vicinity of the I-75 and I-70 corridors, combats national and international drug traffickers and those who smuggle U.S. currency. The task force uses investigations, surveillance, and informants to target criminals. It focuses on hotels, strip clubs, bars, and drug territories in the Montgomery County area. With the support of a friend of the citizens of Prairie Township, she has become recognized as a leader of the residents, trustees, businesses, organizations, and other first responders.

Distinguished Law Enforcement Achievement Award
Deputy Erica Russell, Miami County Sheriff's Office

During her 25 years in law enforcement, Det. Gerard ‘Jerry’ Antenucci, Barberton Police Department, has received recognition for his actions on many cases, including one where a traffic stop turned into a major drug arrest and another where a warrant sweep resulted in 50 people and the confiscation of weapons.

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Roundtable discussion centers on cybersecurity

Law enforcement officials, business owners, technologists, and education professionals gathered Oct. 12 at the Ohio Attorney General’s 2017 Law Enforcement Conference to talk about cybersecurity and the need for collaboration to fight cybercrime.

Ohio Attorney General Mike DeWine’s Sexual Assault Kit (SAK) Testing Initiative reached a milestone in the fall as it surpassed 13,000 kits analyzed.

DeWine launched the statewide initiative in 2011 after learning that many law enforcement agencies throughout the state were in possession of rape kits — some decades old — that had never been sent to a DNA lab for testing. DeWine made an open call to law enforcement to submit their kits to the Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigation (BCI) at no cost.

Also, Senate Bill 316, which went into effect in March 2015, required law enforcement to turn over any remaining older kits to a crime laboratory within one year. The law also requires that all newly collected rape kits be submitted to a crime lab no later than 30 days after law enforcement determines a crime has been committed.

About 300 local law enforcement agencies have submitted a total of 13,931 sexual assault kits for analysis as part of the initiative. As of Dec. 1, 13,463 of the submitted kits — or 97 percent — have been tested by BCI forensic scientists.

“This initiative is helping to hold accountable sexual predators who may have thought they had long ago gotten away with their crimes,” DeWine said.

For example, DNA testing conducted as part of the initiative helped investigators with the Muskingum County Sheriff’s Office make an arrest in connection with a 1998 sexual assault.

The suspect, John Iden, 43, of Newark, pleaded not guilty in September to attempted murder, and multiple counts of kidnapping, rape, and felonious assault.

Cyber Crimes Unit offers to help investigators crack skimmer cases

The Cyber Crimes Unit of the Ohio Attorney General’s Bureau of Criminal Investigation (BCI) is helping law enforcement agencies investigate crimes involving credit-card skimmers.

Computer forensic specialists at BCI are using new technology to extract data from skimmers — devices planted by thieves on the card-sweep mechanisms of ATMs or gas pumps to steal credit card information during transactions.

Once a victim’s credit-card information is stolen, thieves will either create a cloned credit card to make purchases in stores, use the account to make purchases online, or sell the information.

The technology that is now in use at BCI allows agents to pull data from the skimmers to aid local law enforcement in identifying the victims, who may be unaware that their accounts have been compromised, and the suspects.

For more information on how BCI can assist in skimmer cases, call 855-BCI-OHIO (855-224-6446).

The group expressed a need for more educational opportunities, such as the CyberOhio Business Summit conducted by the Ohio Attorney General’s Office.

“For this meeting, we wanted to get everyone together to see how experts in cybersecurity and law enforcement can work together.”

The group’s conversation was varied and covered topics such as reasonable standards for data handling and security, risk assessment and analysis, barriers to starting a cybersecurity program, actions to take after a security breach, and the need for ongoing education for business leaders.

For information on cybersecurity education for businesses, send an email to the CyberOhio team at CyberOhio@OhioAttorneyGeneral.gov.
Opioid summit continued from page 1

The Attorney General’s Office operates three state crime labs to which 90 percent of Ohio’s police departments submit drug evidence. The office also takes part in multijurisdictional task forces involving the Drug Enforcement Administration, the FBI, and local law enforcement, among others.

The Attorney General’s Office formed a Heroin Unit and tasked members to work with local communities on grass-roots efforts.

The group was recently invited to speak to OhioHealth nurses and doctors as the hospital system was preparing to start a pilot project to do more for patients with substance use disorder.

DeWine talks about his plan, and its tools for law enforcement, at the Toledo Police Department.

Opioid summit continued from page 1

DeWine said he will escalate the matter “until we get their attention.”

DeWine details drug plan continued from page 1

The initiatives should be paid for by those chiefly responsible for the crisis, DeWine said. To correspond with the announcement, he sent a letter to Purdue Pharma, Endo Health Solutions, Teva, Johnson & Johnson, and Allergan — the companies he filed suit against in May.

The lawsuit alleges that the drug companies violated the Ohio Consumer Sales Practices Act, defrauded the state’s Medicaid and workers’ compensation systems, engaged in a pattern of corrupt activities, and created a public nuisance by disseminating false and misleading statements about the risks and benefits of opioids.

The Attorney General gave the companies a deadline to begin settlement solutions.

“They must be held to account,” he said. “And I will do everything within my power to make them do that.”

He also sent letters to distributors Cardinal Health, McKesson, and Amerisource Bergen to urge them to pay their fair share.

If the companies fail to comply with the request, DeWine said he will escalate the matter “until we get their attention.”

New K-9 agent continued from page 1

An SD card the size of a fingernail can hold up to 200,000 images.

“This is precisely the kind of device that a child pornographer likes to have. And it’s the kind of device that can be hard to find during an investigation,” DeWine said.

While working, Reptar responds to Rammel’s commands to search. When Reptar makes a discovery, he alerts his handler and is rewarded with food.

“The dog is trained to pick up on the scent of a chemical that is used on all electronics that have the capability of storage,” Rammel said. “I’m trained to properly place him and to be able to identify his call signs.”

Reptar was trained to be an electronic-detection dog by Jordan Detective K9 of Greenfield, Ind. Two grants covered the $11,000 cost to buy and train Reptar, who is primarily working in the Attorney General’s Crimes Against Children Unit at BCI.

In 2016, the unit investigated 161 cases, assisting 98 law enforcement agencies in 47 counties in Ohio. Also, the unit served — or assisted in serving — 87 children exploitation search warrants.

“In about seven of those cases, our agents did not uncover any sort of electronic storage device,” DeWine said. “We believe it’s likely we had the right suspect, but without the electronic evidence, it’s more difficult to hold the suspect to justice. With Reptar and Agent Rammel as a team, we hope this will be a game-changer.”

Ohio Attorney General Mike DeWine announces that Reptar and his handler, Josh Rammel, are available to provide free assistance to law enforcement agencies.

For more information or assistance, call 855-BCI-OHIO (855-224-6446).

To view the materials and videos presented at the meeting, visit www.OhioAttorneyGeneral.gov, look for “Training & Education” and click on “Drug Abuse.”
This year's theme is Advancing Advocacy to Serve All Victims. Many of the conference's workshops and speakers will emphasize ways to assist victims with special needs or disabilities and foreign-born victims who face physical, language, or cultural barriers to healing.

Ohio Peace Officers' Memorial Ceremony

When: May 3
Where: Ohio Peace Officer Training Academy, London
For information: Call 740-845-2684.

Two Days in May Conference on Victim Assistance

When: May 14-15
Where: Greater Columbus Convention Center
For information: Visit www.OhioAttorneyGeneral.gov/TDIM or send email to TDIM@OhioAttorneyGeneral.gov.

Ohio Attorney General Mike DeWine recently joined about 50 students from three elementary schools in Ross and Pickaway counties at a Bureau of Criminal Investigation (BCI) Science School learning day at a Chillicothe barn. The activity was designed to spark fourth-graders' interest in forensic science and law enforcement. The children conducted experiments involving crime scene investigative tools. To download free science school lessons and see related videos, visit www.OhioAttorneyGeneral.gov/BCIScienceSchool.