

COVER STORY

# HITTING the demand side HARD



## AG Yost providing seed money, guidance for creation of 'john schools' in Ohio

At his third annual Human Trafficking Summit in January, Ohio Attorney General Dave Yost announced the creation of guidelines for courts and communities interested in establishing "john schools" as well as seed money to help develop, or improve, 10 such programs statewide.

"To the sex buyers we're going to bust in 2022, you're going back to school, because you've got some learning to do!" Yost told the 1,100+ participants in the virtual event. "This education shows sex buyers the ugly truth about the market they encourage and support."



**Top:** Trafficking survivor Cyntoia Brown Long gives the keynote address virtually at the third annual Human Trafficking Summit.

**Above:** Attorney General Dave Yost addresses a group gathered for the live portion of the summit, as well as the 1,100+ virtual participants.

**L**ike doctors and nurses, law enforcement officers have been on the front line against COVID-19 from day one.

By the nature of their job, officers are essential workers, especially because the pandemic has not put a dent in crime. In fact, some categories of crime — including homicide — have seen dramatic increases in our major cities during the past two years.

And there's no way to maintain social distancing when you're wrestling with a violent suspect or rescuing a driver from a burning car. Much of an officer's job involves activities that put him or her close to other people, increasing the chances of viral infection.

Police departments and sheriff's offices throughout the state continue to grapple with staff shortages as officers are sidelined by each new variant of the disease.

In some cases, infections have had tragic consequences. The online Officer Down Memorial Page lists the COVID-related deaths of four Ohio officers: Patrolman Sean E. VanDenberg of the Lawrence Township Police Department; Corrections Lt. David W. Reynolds and Deputy Sheriff Robert Craig Mills of the Butler County Sheriff's Office; and Deputy Sheriff Donald Raymond Gilreath III of the Hamilton County Sheriff's Office.

I offer my condolences to their families and to their brothers and sisters in uniform, and I honor their service and sacrifice.

Beyond the health risks of the virus, COVID has threatened Ohio law enforcement in other ways, too. One such threat is overreach by the federal government.

On Sept. 9, President Biden issued an executive order requiring all employees of federal contractors to be vaccinated against COVID. Failure to comply would result in loss of the federal contract and the federal money that comes with it.

Numerous private and public entities in Ohio have contracts with the federal government, including state universities and state agencies (such as the Ohio Department of Health). Also among these entities are some of Ohio's



county sheriffs, who contract with the federal government to hold federal prisoners in their county jails, such as people detained by U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE). For sheriffs, the vaccine mandate was a lose-lose proposition. If they failed to require vaccination for their deputies and other staff members, they would have lost the revenue that comes from the federal contract. If they enforced the mandate, it would have meant the loss of staff members who refused to comply.

A loss of staff would have negatively impacted the many duties that sheriffs are required to perform under state law. In addition to running county jails, sheriffs must provide physical security at the county courthouse, transport criminal suspects to and from the jail and the county courthouse, maintain sex-offender and violent-offender registrations, process concealed-carry applications, and run public-safety dispatch centers.

Recognizing the threat, we went to bat for Seneca County Sheriff Fredrick W. Stevens and Geauga County Sheriff Scott A. Hildenbrand in the U.S. District Court for Eastern Kentucky. Joining us in the effort were the attorneys general of Kentucky and Tennessee.

We argued that the president lacks the constitutional and congressional authority to issue the mandate, especially not in an area such as the regulation of public health, which the U.S. Constitution leaves largely to the states. And we prevailed.

In his ruling on Nov. 30, Judge Gregory F. Van Tatenhove granted an injunction preventing the vaccine mandate from taking effect in Ohio, Kentucky and Tennessee. On Jan. 18, a federal judge in Georgia applied the injunction nationwide.

I don't oppose the COVID vaccine. I've had the vaccine and the booster, and I encourage everyone to do the same. But I do oppose federal overreach, especially when it can have a direct, harmful effect on local law enforcement in Ohio.

I'll stand up against that every time.

Yours,

**Dave Yost**  
Ohio Attorney General

# OPOTA initiates training required for officers in 2022

**T**hroughout Ohio in 2022, law enforcement officers will be taking additional training to better protect themselves and the public.

Effective police training requires a solid plan and money.

Thanks to an allocation last year by the legislature, this year Ohio Attorney General Dave Yost and his team at the Ohio Peace Officer Training Academy (OPOTA) are implementing a \$15 million program in Continuing Professional Training (CPT). The extra training is mandated for 33,000+ law enforcement officers (LEOs) in Ohio, including police officers, deputies, troopers, auxiliary officers and others.

"Policing has always evolved in response to changes in society's resources, norms, needs and expectations," AG Yost said. "We're excited about the program we're introducing in Ohio. And we're excited about improving safety for our officers and the public."

By the end of 2022, every LEO is required to complete 24 hours of training in the following areas:

- Four hours must deal with diversity, inclusion and equity.
- Twelve hours must come from any three of the following areas: responding to mental health events; use of force; legal updates; officer personal wellness; responding to sexual assaults; and domestic violence.
- The remaining eight hours must come from the leftover categories from the list just mentioned or from standards set by the Ohio Collaborative Community-Police Advisory Board. (For additional details, visit [www.OhioAttorneyGeneral.gov/CPT](http://www.OhioAttorneyGeneral.gov/CPT).)

The funding, believed to be the single-largest investment in CPT in state history, will help Ohio's peace officers better serve their respective communities. And the priority placed on training reinforces the integral role that law enforcement plays in any civil society.

In response to suggestions that many law enforcement agencies had for OPOTA, the 2022 training includes options closer to officers' homes and workplaces — namely, regional course offerings and online classes. Likewise, OPOTA has worked hard to improve the training quality. The revamped approach compels officer interaction and is responsive to timely issues that surface out on the streets.

Separately from the courses related to the CPT requirements, OPOTA has launched a series of "Roll Call Refreshers." Offered through OPOTA Online, these virtual pop-up classes are intended as supplemental education, offering guidance on how to handle situations that might bubble up in communities.

In December, for example, OPOTA introduced a training on hate crimes after FBI statistics detailed a 63% increase in reports of such crimes in 2019. The Roll Call Refresher focused on how officers can recognize a hate crime, options in pursuing charges against any potential suspects, and reporting requirements.

To access this supplemental training, log in to OPOTA Online, click on "Catalog," then click on "Roll Call Refreshers."

Questions about CPT or Roll Call Refreshers? Email them to [askOPOTA@OhioAGO.gov](mailto:askOPOTA@OhioAGO.gov).



In an online "Roll Call Refresher" on K-9 training, Columbus Police Officer David Jones works with his partner, Ayko, a 7-year-old Belgian Malinois.

## WHO WILL BE TRAINED?

A breakdown of the 33,000+ Ohio law enforcement officers who are required to take Continuing Professional Training in 2022, as reported by their appointing authorities:

**24,954**  
Full-time

**3,454**  
Part-time

**2,197**  
Special

**1,273**  
Auxiliary

**1,060**  
Reserve

**163**  
Reserve/Auxiliary

**20**  
Seasonal

Source: Ohio Peace Officer Training Academy



On the Job is typically published four times a year by the Ohio Attorney General's Office.

To offer story ideas, contact Editor Tom Rinderle at **614-644-5397** or [Thomas.Rinderle@OhioAGO.gov](mailto:Thomas.Rinderle@OhioAGO.gov). Sign up for the electronic edition at [www.OhioAttorneyGeneral.gov/EmailUpdates](http://www.OhioAttorneyGeneral.gov/EmailUpdates).

WINTER 2022 | Volume 14, Issue 1

Copyright 2022 by Ohio Attorney General's Office 30 E. Broad St., 17th Floor Columbus, OH 43215

[www.OhioAttorneyGeneral.gov/OnTheJob](http://www.OhioAttorneyGeneral.gov/OnTheJob)



## TWO WAYS TO ACCESS CPT TRAINING

For in-person training, go to: OPOTA Portal, <https://opota.ohioattorneygeneral.gov>

For virtual/online training, go to: OPOTA Online, <https://opotaonline.inquisiqlms.com>

Continued from Page 1

The new guide and impending grants stem from House Bill 431, which Yost and his Human Trafficking Initiative team pushed the General Assembly to pass in late 2020. The law, which took effect last spring, established legal sanctions aimed specifically at sex buyers, including stiffer fines and a requirement that offenders convicted of “engaging in prostitution” attend a john school, more formally known as a sex buyer education program.

“In order to send buyers to john school, we first have to have john schools to send them to,” the AG said. “There are some programs around the state, but we’re going to need more. And we need to make sure they are effective.”

Since taking office in January 2019, AG Yost has made human trafficking a top priority, focusing particularly on curbing demand.

“As long as sex buyers create demand, human trafficking will continue,” he told summit attendees. “So we need to hit the demand side hard.”

One outgrowth of AG Yost’s Human Trafficking Initiative (HTI) is the annual summit, which for the past three years has brought together an increasing number of health-care workers, law enforcement officers, social-service providers, prosecutors, survivors, community members and others involved in combatting this societal scourge.

The summit provides an opportunity for participants to share expertise and resources, attend workshops, celebrate the successes of the previous year and examine the challenges still ahead.

In his welcoming address for the 2022 event, held on Jan. 22, the attorney general praised this diverse group of professionals for the difficult work they do in the trenches. Human trafficking victims, he noted, have to believe they are worthy of recovery — and that isn’t always easy, given the damage that their traffickers do.

“You all know how a trafficker looks for insecure, half-formed and wounded souls, then pretends to offer them solace, security, fulfillment and love,” he told them. “And when the hook is set, he reels them in and begins to extract his price.”

That price, he noted, “is not only the total surrender of the victim’s body, but also of her will and her identity. ... A trafficker deconstructs a victim’s identity until there is little left but a sexual commodity that he can sell for a profit.”

Gone are her name, her unique self and her dignity.



**MORE ON THE GRANTS, ‘JOHN SCHOOL’ GUIDE**

The newly created “John School: Guidelines for Sex Buyer Education Programs” can be found on the attorney general’s website at [www.OhioAttorneyGeneral.gov/JohnSchoolGuidelines](http://www.OhioAttorneyGeneral.gov/JohnSchoolGuidelines).

AG Yost’s office is providing seed money of up to \$10,000 each for 10 communities looking to develop a “john school” or improve an existing program in Ohio.

The Human Trafficking Initiative team expects to finalize the grant requirements and application this spring. Questions? Email [HTI@OhioAGO.gov](mailto:HTI@OhioAGO.gov).

Yost reiterated his unwavering commitment to those who help victims, one by one, take that first step toward recovery on the “Highway to Hope” — and continue moving forward.

Jennifer Rausch, legal director of the AG’s Human Trafficking Initiative, who, along with the rest of her team, plans and coordinates the HT Summit, said the attention given to trafficking survivors at this year’s summit was deliberate.

“An emphasis was placed on survivors as workshop presenters — an intentional focus and reminder of the different pathways from victim to survivor,” Rausch said.

Likewise, the keynote address was delivered by Cyntoia Brown Long, a survivor who has become a nationally recognized advocate for criminal justice reform and trafficking victims.

As for the successes of the past year, AG Yost raised as an example Operation Ohio Knows, a law enforcement sting that took place in October 2021.

The anti-trafficking operation netted 161 arrests



— including people seeking to buy sex with children. As part of the operation, participating partners were able to make contact with 51 trafficking victims and offer them help.

The would-be sex buyers who were arrested and charged with engaging in prostitution, the first-degree misdemeanor created as part of House Bill 431, face the enhanced penalty of attending john school.

The educational mandate mirrors that of driver-intervention programs — better known as DUI classes — which have reduced the number of repeat DUI offenders.

“It forces sex buyers to look at the drug addiction, the violence, the child sexual abuse and the degradation that they are responsible for,” AG Yost told summit participants. “We lay it at their feet and tell them, ‘You made this.’”

In the months between last year’s summit and the 2022 event, the attorney general’s HTI staff created the john school guide, timed for unveiling — along with the seed money for such programs — during the summit.

“An emphasis was placed on survivors as workshop presenters — an intentional focus and reminder of the different pathways from victim to survivor.”

— JENNIFER RAUSCH (shown above)  
Legal Director of the Human Trafficking Initiative

“John School: Guidelines for Sex Buyer Education Programs,” available on the AG’s website, is intended to help communities create such programs or enhance existing ones. The guide outlines steps to developing a sex-buyer education program, reviews applicable Ohio law, debunks myths, dives deep into the

demand that drives human trafficking and examines the effects of sex buying.

“This road map is backed by support from the attorney general’s HTI team,” Rausch said. “We are always eager to train, share best practices and link organizations facing common problems to find a collective solution.”

**A BROAD-BASED EFFORT**

The Attorney General’s Office relies on these resources in the fight against human trafficking in Ohio:

**The Human Trafficking Initiative** works to build awareness, empower Ohioans to take action in their communities, strengthen victim services throughout the state and ensure that traffickers and “johns” are brought to justice.



**The Human Trafficking Commission** — consisting of a diverse membership of law enforcement officers, social-service providers, academic experts and government partners — works collaboratively and comprehensively to enhance Ohio’s response to human trafficking.



**The Ohio Organized Crime Investigations Commission (OOCIC)** forms special task forces by teaming with local law enforcement agencies to conduct operations and otherwise fight organized crime in Ohio, including human trafficking.



**The Ohio Peace Officer Training Academy (OPOTA)** trains law enforcement officers to both identify and investigate cases of human trafficking statewide.



**The Bureau of Criminal Investigation** processes evidence from human trafficking cases throughout the state, hires agents and criminal intelligence analysts who investigate such cases, and assists in demand-reduction operations.

# Attorney General's Drug Dropoff Days complement DEA's Take Back Days



The two Drug Dropoff Day events hosted to date by Ohio Attorney General Dave Yost have yielded more than 1,100 pounds of unused or expired prescription medications.

“There’s no better way to reduce the risk of these drugs ending up in the wrong hands,” Yost said. “We’re going to continue to do our part by providing Ohioans with regular opportunities to clean out their medicine cabinets and discard anything that’s expired or no longer needed.”

Dropoff events, he added, also help keep Ohioans from flushing unused or dated drugs down toilets, which is not environmentally friendly.

Most recently, for his second Drug Dropoff Day, AG Yost partnered with the Clark County Sheriff’s Office, the Montgomery County Sheriff’s Office and Dayton 24/7 Now. The event, held Jan. 22 at three sites, elicited 710 pounds of medications and medical sharps.

A breakdown of the collections:

- **Dayton:** 495 pounds of drugs and 40 pounds of sharps
- **Springfield:** 63 pounds of drugs
- **New Carlisle:** 112 pounds of drugs

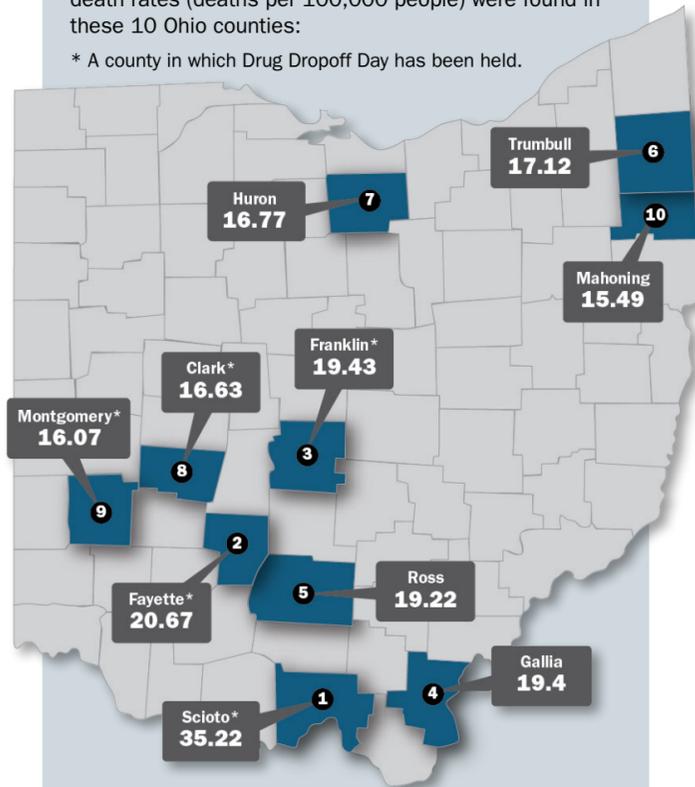
The Attorney General’s Drug Dropoff Days are modeled after the Drug Enforcement Administration’s Drug Take Back Days, held during the spring and fall. With the DEA’s support, Attorney General Yost opted to give Ohioans additional disposal opportunities, adding events during the winter and summer.

The first AG Drug Dropoff Day took place on July 31 at two sites each

## DATA-DRIVEN DECISIONS

When opioid overdose deaths spiked during the second quarter of 2020 amid the COVID-19 pandemic, the AG’s Scientific Committee on Opioid Prevention and Education (SCOPE) mapped the deaths to identify the hardest-hit areas of Ohio. AG Yost used this data to determine where to focus his early Drug Dropoff Day efforts. The highest death rates (deaths per 100,000 people) were found in these 10 Ohio counties:

\* A county in which Drug Dropoff Day has been held.



Interested in shareable materials regarding safe storage and safe disposal of medications? Contact the Attorney General’s Office at 800-282-0515.

in Franklin, Fayette and Scioto counties. Those collections weighed in at 446 pounds.

The five counties chosen for the first two events have one notable commonality: Their opioid death rates ranked among the top 10 based on a county-by-county analysis by AG Yost’s Scientific Committee on Opioid Prevention and Education (SCOPE) after a spike in opioid deaths in the second quarter of 2020.

SCOPE drives cutting-edge research and analysis of the opioid epidemic.

Opioids have wreaked havoc on many Ohioans’ lives, and the attorney general has made it a priority to ensure that the drug manufacturers and distributors responsible for fueling the devastation are held accountable.

In September, he won the support of local governments throughout Ohio to secure a major victory in the state’s opioid litigation. Cardinal Health, McKesson and AmerisourceBergen, three of the largest opioid distributors, agreed to pay Ohio \$808 million over 18 years.

AG Yost’s third Drug Dropoff Day is being planned for this summer, again with the help of local law enforcement, media and other partners.

# Honoring a pair of heroes

## Police departments face off in hockey fundraiser to pay tribute to two fallen Toledo officers



Attorney General Dave Yost dropped the puck at the Toledo Memorial Classic in late January, helping to kick off a charity hockey game to honor fallen Toledo Police Officers Anthony Dia and Brandon Stalker.

The event, held Jan. 30 at the Huntington Center in Toledo, pitted the Toledo Police Department against Columbus’ finest. The families of the fallen officers assisted with the puck drop, and AG Yost gave both teams a pregame pep talk.

“What a great way to remember these heroes,” the AG said later, during a sideline interview. “They lost their lives in the line of duty, but they were heroes long before their watch ended. They were heroes every single day that they showed up for work knowing what might be required of them.”

The game was organized by the Columbus-based First Responder Face-Off Foundation, through its Hockey Helping Heroes program and in partnership with the Toledo Public Schools Foundation, which runs the Toledo Police Department’s Fallen Officer Memorial Scholarship.

More than \$13,500 was raised from ticket sales, with the proceeds benefiting a scholarship fund named in memory of Dia and Stalker. Graduating seniors in Toledo Public Schools who want to pursue a career in public safety — whether as a police officer, firefighter, paramedic or emergency medical technician — are eligible to apply for the scholarships.

“Everybody knows that college is increasingly expensive every year,” AG Yost said, “and what we’re seeing is, as police forces professionalize — and they are, all across the country and certainly across Ohio — more and more forces need you to have a two-year or even a four-year degree for the job. Helping young people pay for that education is so important.”

Dia and Stalker were killed on the job within seven months of each other — Dia in July 2020, Stalker in January 2021. At that time, COVID-19 restrictions called for social distancing, keeping organizers from holding the fundraiser sooner.



“We wanted to do this game a year ago, but unfortunately weren’t able to get it done because of the restrictions,” said Don Zender, director of the First Responder Face-Off Foundation.

The Toledo Walleye, a professional hockey team that competes in the ECHL, donated the venue — the Huntington Center is the team’s home ice rink — for the event.

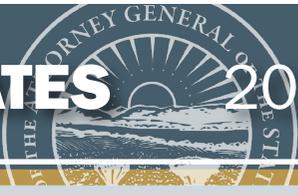
Zender said the Columbus Police Department’s hockey team got involved to show its support for its law enforcement family in Toledo.

The hockey game ended in a 1-1 tie.

AG Yost tweeted after the game: “As appropriate for a benefit game remembering fallen officers, there was no final face-off to break the tie.”

For more information about Hockey Helping Heroes, visit [www.hockeyhelpingheroes.org](http://www.hockeyhelpingheroes.org).





## Mark Your Calendar

### New for Sunshine Week

Sunshine Week (March 13-19) is a national initiative promoting government transparency and access to public information. AG Yost is marking the occasion this year with updated open-records training and a comprehensive calendar of training opportunities.



### A busy May ahead

The Attorney General's Office will host two key events in early May: the annual **Ohio Peace Officers Memorial Ceremony** on May 5 and the **Two Days in May Conference on Victim Assistance** on May 9-10.



# ON THE JOB

CRIMINAL JUSTICE UPDATE

DRUG DROPOFF DAY

REDUCING

THE RISK

AG's collections work in tandem with DEA's | 6

'22 HT SUMMIT 'SEX BUYERS HAVE

SOME LEARNING TO DO' | 1,4-5

POLICE TRAINING OPOTA LAUNCHES

CPT FOR 2022 | 3



DAVE YOST  
OHIO ATTORNEY GENERAL

