Henderson County Opioid Leadership Forum
Wednesday, March 28, 2018
OFFICE OF THE SHERIFF
Henderson County
North Carolina

“A Brotherhood in Pursuit of Excellence”

Sheriff Charles S. McDonald
Over 30 years of service my thoughts have changed. As a drug agent, I looked at the “war on drugs” through the prism of enforcement and incarceration. We now understand that we face an epidemic that cannot be met or defeated without a combined effort that includes prevention, enforcement and rehabilitation.

Without this spectrum approach, and the involvement of all community partners in the effort, we cannot hope to succeed. We cannot just arrest our way out of the opioid problem. There must be combined efforts aimed at preventing people from beginning drug use, enforcing laws against those who sell and use, as well as opportunities for treatment in our community for the addicted.

Sheriff Charles S. McDonald
What we know...

So much of the crime we see in Henderson County is directly driven by substance abuse. It is estimated that between 80-90% of all crime we deal with is a direct or indirect result of someone’s addiction to drugs and/or alcohol.

In addition to the typical crimes we associate with an addict’s need to support their drug use; like theft and breaking and entering crimes, substance abuse is a leading factor in the majority of our domestic violence and many of our child abuse related calls for service. Family violence calls are currently the second most frequent calls our Deputies respond to, and by their very nature, some of the most devastating situations for our community.

“A Brotherhood in Pursuit of Excellence”
What we know...

The hidden costs to our community are even greater. While the parents of children are incarcerated, someone must step in and take care of them. When there is no family support the children often times are put into foster care. So the system of foster care, health services and public schools are tasked with providing a stop gap measure until a parent might possibly return home and be in a condition to care for their children.

A recent survey of data from our jail shows that from January 2015 to August 2017, 500 inmates were incarcerated at least 3 or more times. One inmate over 22 times! Those 500 inmates spent just over 32,000 days in jail at a daily rate of $76.84, and cost Henderson County tax payers nearly $2.5 million. The majority of those incarcerated suffered from the effects of substance abuse and/or mental health issues.

Through our Community Jail concept, we hope to provide opportunities for the inmates while they are incarcerated to find a job, find treatment or mental health services once they leave jail and guide them to a mentor or person to help them navigate the maze of services, we hope to turn a jail sentence into a stepping stone back into society that may bring healing and hope to families and help to our communities.
The Sheriff’s Office has seen an exponential increase in overdose related calls for service since 2014, and was one of the first in NC to deploy the opioid reversal medication Narcan (Naloxone) to all sworn and Detention personnel in January 2015.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Substance abuse &amp; addiction affects us all. IN HENDERSON COUNTY:</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>3-4</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Overdose Deaths each month</td>
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“*A Brotherhood in Pursuit of Excellence*”
To date, the Sheriff’s Office has had 23 successful reversals both on Patrol and in the Detention Facility.
Our Sheriff’s Office employees are often the front line in the response to the opioid crisis and our jail is, sadly, the largest detox facility in Henderson County. As such, we understand our role as a facilitator in the efforts of our community to deal with the opioid epidemic. As we continue to work with many of our community partners like HopeRx, The Free Clinics, Blue Ridge Community Health, First Contact Ministries, Family Preservation, Blue Ridge Jail Ministries, Blue Ridge Community College, Pardee Hospital, Park Ridge Hospital and others, we are working to break the cycle of recidivism. I believe the examples set with the community collaboration between the Sheriff’s Office, our Detention Facility and our community partners should be a model for solutions which we as a community may wish to pursue in regards to this epidemic.
Over the past few years the rate of calls for service have increased. These increases have the potential of impacting responses for other emergency calls for service.

- These responses affect all divisions of public safety.
In addition to the increase in calls for service, the administration of NARCAN to counteract the effects of opioids has increased drastically.

* General public administration not included
In many cases patients are now requiring high-dose NARCAN to counteract the effects of narcotics. This indicates more potent drugs on the streets.
Impacts – Community Costs

- The actual costs of NARCAN have increased over the past few years from $15.60 in 2014 to $38.00 in 2017, a 144% increase.
In addition to the actual costs of medication the overall costs of providing services have been evaluated. A review conducted in 2017 revealed the following costs and revenues:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Total Patients</th>
<th>139</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total Ambulance Charges</td>
<td>$74,331.36</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Reimbursed</td>
<td>$11,396.49</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Net Deficit</td>
<td>($67,953.51)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*EMS Financial Impacts Only*
Community Impacts

- Henderson County is seeing a wider variety of age groups and socio-economic experiencing the effects of opioid abuse. 
  *Ages range from teens to patients in their 70’s*

- The typical pickup locations are changing: patients are found in affluent areas as well as more typical drug prone areas.

- Patients are being found in businesses and other public spaces where they may desire to be found if unconscious.
Striving For Change

- Henderson County EMS works with several community partners to share data related to impacts:
  - HOPE RX, Department of Public Health, Sheriff’s Office

- EMS personnel share information with patients and families who are seeking help directing them to community resources for treatment and recovery support.
Perspective on Substance Misuse

Henderson County Department of Social Services:
Social Work Programs
Here is the basic impact on Henderson County Social Work Programs

- In 2017 substance misuse was a contributing factor to abuse/neglect of children in more than 80% of cases.
- HCDSS handles about 1200 Investigation/Assessments; 146 In-Home Cases; and served a total of 238 children in foster care.
- 1/6 of the substances were Opioids; 2/3 were methamphetamine or heroine; 1/5 of the cases are marijuana, alcohol, cocaine, and benzodiazepines.
A point of new study needed: substance affected babies
Observations over the last 4 months

• Conversations between Henderson County Social Work Programs and Buncombe County have raised concern for babies that are being weaned on methadone or other Medical Assistance Treatment (MAT).

• Between the two counties it is understood that 6 children have died of Sudden Infant Death Syndrome (SIDS). These 6 children were receiving MAT treatment due to the mother using substances during pregnancy. This includes mothers that were prescribed Methadone or other MAT to treat substance misuse.
Substance Misuse and the Elderly

- Henderson County Social Work Programs are aware there are increased national and state trends.
- Of the 324 cases in Adult Social Work programs approximately 7% of those individuals struggle with substance misuse.
The Opioid Epidemic
A Public Health Perspective

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“We in public health count dead people. It’s one of the things we do”.

- Nancy Krieger, Epidemiologist
  Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health
Figure. Contributions of Selected Causes of Death to the Change in Life Expectancy in the United States, 2000-2015

12 Leading causes of death (ranked highest to lowest according to No. of deaths in year 2015)

- Diseases of the heart
- Malignant neoplasms
- Chronic lower respiratory diseases
- Unintentional Injuries
- Cerebrovascular diseases
- Alzheimer disease
- Diabetes mellitus
- Influenza and pneumonia
- Nephritis, nephrotic syndrome, and nephrosis
- Suicide
- Septicemia
- Chronic liver disease and cirrhosis
- Drug, opioid, and alcohol poisoning deaths* 

*Drug poisoning, Opioid-involved poisoning, Alcohol poisoning

Contribution to Change in Life Expectancy, y

-0.4 -0.2 0 0.2 0.4 0.6 0.8 1.0 1.2

*In ranked cause-of-death classification, drug, opioid, and alcohol poisoning are not considered to be unique cause-of-death categories. Instead, poisoning deaths are classified as either accidental poisonings (which contribute to unintentional injuries), suicides, or homicides (ranked 16th in leading causes of death). Contributions from drug, opioid, and alcohol poisoning deaths overlap with both unintentional injury deaths and suicides and cannot be summed with these leading ranked causes of death.
United States consumes more than 80% of the global supply of prescription pain medications (5% of the population)

In 2016, more than 46 people died everyday from prescription opioid overdoses

CDC Data
Statewide Medication & Drug Overdose Deaths by Intent
North Carolina Residents, 1999-2016

Medication and drug overdose: X40-X44, X60-X64, Y10-Y14, X85.
Analysis by Injury Epidemiology and Surveillance Unit
Rate of Unintentional Medication & Drug Deaths by County
per 100,000 North Carolina Residents, 2012-2016

| Rate of Unintentional Overdose Deaths, Henderson County Residents, 2012-2016 | 13.3 |
| Rate of Unintentional Overdose Deaths, Local Health Director Region 2 Residents, 2012-2016 | 16.0 |
| Rate of Unintentional Overdose Deaths, North Carolina Residents, 2012-2016 | 12.2 |

Analysis by Injury Epidemiology and Surveillance Unit
County Medication & Drug Overdose Deaths by Intent

Henderson County Residents, 1999-2016

- All Intents
- Unintentional
- Self-Inflicted
- Undetermined
- Assault

Medication and drug overdose: X40-X44, X60-X64, Y10-Y14, X85.
Analysis by Injury Epidemiology and Surveillance Unit
Substances* Contributing to Unintentional Medication and Drug Overdose Deaths, Henderson County Residents, 1999-2016

*These counts are not mutually exclusive. If the death involved multiple drugs it can be counted on multiple lines.

Source: N.C. State Center for Health Statistics, Vital Statistics-Deaths, 1999-2016,
Unintentional medication and drug overdose: X40-X44 with any mention of specific T-codes by drug type.
Analysis by Injury Epidemiology and Surveillance Unit
### The 5 Conditions of Collective Impact

1. **Common Agenda**
   - Common understanding of the problem
   - Shared vision for change

2. **Shared Measurement**
   - Collecting data and measuring results
   - Focus on performance management
   - Shared accountability

3. **Mutually Reinforcing Activities**
   - Differentiated approaches
   - Coordination through joint plan of action

4. **Continuous Communication**
   - Consistent and open communication
   - Focus on building trust

5. **Backbone Support**
   - Separate organization(s) with staff
   - Resources and skills to convene and coordinate participating organizations
Optimism is the faith that leads to achievement. Nothing can be done without hope and confidence.

- Helen Keller
For additional information please visit
www.hendersoncountync.org
and click on Opioid Crisis