



Hamilton County Sheriff's Office

Jim Neil, Sheriff



MEDIA RELEASE

SHERIFF'S OFFICE TO HOLD REGIONAL HEROIN FORUMS

Hamilton County, Ohio, May 19, 2015 – Hamilton County Sheriff Jim Neil announces Heroin Forums held around the county to give citizens critical information on what is being done to curb the epidemic and how you can help.

**Report
Heroin
Dealers**

TIP ANONYMOUSLY

Text
513-808-4500

Call
513-352-DOPE
(3673)

RENU@sheriff.hamilton-co.org

Sheriff Neil has taken an aggressive approach to fight the Heroin epidemic. Billboards (shown above) placed throughout the county have generated ten (10) times more tips from the general public than before to our Regional Enforcement Narcotic Unit agents.

The Sheriff's Office has partnered with detox and treatment facilities like never before, recognizing the same individuals coming in and out of the Justice Center on a regular basis and the need to cut down on recidivism.

Sheriff Jim Neil often states, "It's going to take education on the front end, aggressive policing by us in law enforcement, and treatment on the back end to truly impact this epidemic!"

MEDIA CONTACT: MIKE ROBISON

Regular Business Hours: M - F 8 am - 4 pm, mrobison@sheriff.hamilton-co.org Office (513) 946-6428

Evening or Weekend Hours: Mobile (513) 235-9952

Mugshot Requests: Identification@sheriff.hamilton-co.org or call (513) 946-6230

The Sheriff's Office is proud to be a big part of the Hamilton County Heroin Coalition, supplying deputies and other resources. Collaborating with all the agencies and providers involved is just the kind of approach we believe is paramount for all of us to be successful.

However, there is more to do. It is estimated at least 80% of crime can be in some way linked to drug use or drug trafficking. With heroin being the drug of choice for so many today (due to low cost and accessibility) it's critical the Sheriff's Office combat this epidemic head on! That is why law enforcement must partner with the public. Citizens need to be informed, so our office has organized two initial Heroin Forums.

Eastern Heroin Forum

Wednesday, May 27th

Anderson Center (7850 Five Mile Road, Cincinnati, 45230)

Western Heroin Forum

Wednesday, June 3rd

Miami Township Administration Building (3780 Shady Lane, North Bend, 45052)

Both Heroin Forums will begin at 6:30 P.M. and conclude approximately 8:15 P.M. For the eastern forum, attendees are asked to R.S.V.P. to Anderson Township by calling (513) 688-8400 or email ameyer@andersontownship.org

We have assembled speakers who have significant experience with the epidemic. "This isn't a bunch of politicians. These are individuals rolling their sleeves up and dealing with this problem every day," Sheriff Neil added. "People will hear directly from those on the front lines working to rid our community of this gripping epidemic."

Speakers include:



An actual former heroin addict who can speak to the addictive nature of heroin and the wake-up call he received watching his friend die in his arms. Hear what it took to get his life back on track



The Lt. Commander who oversees our Regional Enforcement Narcotics Unit (RENU) will discuss how heroin is coming into our community and what efforts are being taken to stop the traffickers



Dr. Stephen Feagins will share his experiences of how the Heroin Epidemic has affected the medical community locally and how they are responding



Sheriff's Office Major Charmaine McGuffey has seen the profound impact this epidemic has had on our criminal justice system, specifically the courts and inmates in the Hamilton County Justice Center



Hamilton County Coroner Dr. Lakshmi Sammarco sees overdoses in the morgue on a regular basis. She will share frightening stats and give her take on what we can do to make a difference



Representative(s) from the Hamilton County Heroin Coalition will give an update on how agencies from across the board, including the Sheriff's Office, are coming together to communicate and collaborate

Sheriff Neil shared, "You're going to hear about the problem, what's been done so far, and where we need to go from here to be successful. I would encourage everyone who can to attend, because every demographic is impacted by this epidemic. Families and lives are being destroyed, and money or lack of, skin color, what neighborhood you live in, none of it matters. We're all dealing with this and we all have to work together to fight it!"