

FREDERICK COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

**HEADQUARTERS
FREDERICK COUNTY LAW
ENFORCEMENT CENTER**

110 Airport Drive East
Frederick, Md. 21701
301-600-1046
301-600-1527 (Fax)
301-600-7655 (TTY)

JUDICIAL OPERATIONS

100 W. Patrick Street
Frederick, Md. 21701
301-600-2162
301-600-3690 (Fax)



CHARLES A. JENKINS
SHERIFF

**DETENTION CENTER/
CENTRAL BOOKING**

7300 Marcie's Choice Lane
Frederick, Md. 21704
301-600-2550 (D.C.)
301-600-2566 (D.C. Fax)
301-600-1790 (C.B.)
301-600-1791 (C.B. Fax)

WORK RELEASE CENTER

7281 Marcie's Choice Lane
Frederick, Md. 21704
301-600-1727
301-600-3404 (Fax)

To: The Honorable Ms. Shane Pendergrass, and Members of the Health and Government Operations Committee

From: Sheriff Charles A. Jenkins, Frederick County

Date: February 28, 2020

Re: **HB 1516**

Position: **Support**

As Sheriff for Frederick County, I am submitting this written testimony in support of HB 1516. I would urge and support this house bill to be proposed and passed as statewide legislation to prohibit the establishment of an Opioid Associated Disease Prevention and Outreach Program as currently structured. Since late 2012, the entire state of Maryland and most regions of the United States have experienced what can be best described as a public health crisis and literally a societal plague of heroin/opioid overdoses. The most common use of heroin/opioids/fentanyl over this period has been through injection by needle.

The increase in the presence of Fentanyl being used with heroin has only made the situation more deadly and complex. Frederick County is certainly no exception, as overdose numbers have continued to climb until 2019, when the number of reported overdoses have now appeared to have leveled off. However, I believe the numbers of reported non-fatal overdoses may have leveled off or in some cases decreased is because of the widespread availability of Naloxone commonly known as (Narcan).

Public health has certainly been heavily engaged in attacking the heroin/ opioid and overall addiction problem through education, awareness, public engagement, overdose protocols, and making Narcan available to public safety personnel and the public in general. My agency and I personally, have been heavily engaged in public awareness meetings since 2012 when we saw the beginning trends of this crisis in heroin and opioid addiction. We have also been very actively involved in the Narcan program which has saved many lives since late 2013, and a very aggressive and effective enforcement effort.

The one single objection that I have with the approach and strategy of public health is the needle exchange programs that are in place in most or all counties statewide. This is absolutely the wrong message and strategy to address the heroin/opioid addiction piece of the crisis. The health departments have made it far too easy for an addict obtain needle to continue using. I understand the message and theory of the availability of clean needles to avoid sharing needles and the possibility of contracting HIV through used or infected needles. I believe that the needle exchange programs in many cases enable the user to continue, and in fact encourage the addict or user. One good analogy or comparison would be looking at this as providing someone with a gun to commit suicide, all that person needs to do is obtain the bullet.

I believe that the greatest risk to the addict or the user right now is the possibility or high probably of a fatal overdose, rather than the longer term or eventual risk of contracting HIV or other serious health complication. The immediacy of the risk outweighs the longer risk as I see it. In Frederick County we have actually responded to a fatal overdose situation where the needle used by the deceased was identified through the packaging found at the scene as being obtained through the Frederick County needle exchange program. There is a greater than not probability that in many cases needles provided through the local health departments are used in overdose situations both reported and non-reported.

In addition to the needle exchange I have concerns with some of the messaging. I have included an example of the messaging from the Frederick County Health Department, some of which I do have concerns. I believe the messaging by local health departments should be reviewed to determine a strategy and message that strongly discourages the practices and encourages seeking treatment for addiction.

I have spoken with Delegate Parrott in regard to this proposed legislation. My understanding is that this bill will be amended to be a statewide bill to propose elimination of the needle exchange program statewide. I respectfully request a favorable report by this committee on the amended HB 1516.

Using Alone?

While it is safer to use with others,
sometimes it isn't an option.

Ask
someone
you trust
to check
on you

Leave the
door
unlocked
when
possible

Snort
instead of
smoking
or
injecting

Have Narcan /
naloxone and
leave it out so
someone else can
find it

Do a tester
shot,
especially
if using a
new supply



Public Health

Prevent. Promote. Protect.

Frederick County Health Department

Barbara A. Brookmyer, M.D., M.P.H. ■ Health Officer

April 30, 2019

ALERT

The Frederick County Health Department has received reports of a high number of overdoses, including fatalities, in the City of Frederick. It is critical to practice overdose prevention strategies since fentanyl is widely known to be in many drug supplies, including heroin/opioids and cocaine. It is recommended to not use alone and to carry naloxone. If using alone is unavoidable: notify someone you trust; use in an area where help can get to you if needed (don't lock the door); explore other ways to use (for example, smoking or inhaling instead of injecting) and/or do a tester shot; and have naloxone within reach if someone else needs to administer it to you.

To help prevent overdose, the Frederick County Health Department offers free fentanyl test strips and naloxone/Narcan to people who use drugs. To obtain fentanyl test strips, or naloxone/Narcan, contact us at 301-600-1755. Fentanyl test strips and naloxone/Narcan can also be accessed during Syringe Services Program hours every Friday 9 a.m.-12 p.m. at 350 Montevue Lane, Frederick, MD. In addition to fentanyl test strips, the Program offers free sterile syringes, other injection equipment, rapid HIV and Hepatitis C testing and linkages to care/resources. The Frederick County Health Department also offers free overdose response trainings every Friday at 1 p.m. and the second Wednesday of every month at 6 p.m. at 350 Montevue Lane, Frederick, MD.

Other helpful resources: www.20secondssaves.org

Andrea L. Walker, MA, CPRP ■ Director, Frederick County Behavioral Health Services

Local Addictions Authority (LAA), Prevention Services, Youth/Adolescent Services, Adult Evaluation and Review Services (AERS), Adult Recovery Services, Harm Reduction Services

350 Montevue Lane ■ Frederick, MD 21702

Phone: 301-600-1755 ■ Fax: 301-600-3298 or 301-600-1781 ■ MD TTY: 1-800-735-2258

Detention Center Treatment Programs ■ 7300 Marcie's Choice Lane ■ Frederick, MD 21703

Phone: 301-600-3145 ■ Fax: 301-600-3144 ■ MD TTY: 1-800-735-2258

