

# Creston Police Department



*Bryon C. Meshew*  
*Chief of Police*

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## **Policy 60: Operation: "Second Chance" Drug Initiative**

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## **60.1 Purpose**

The Creston Police Department has partnered with the Police Assisted Addiction Recovery Initiative (PAARI). The department's Operation: "Second Chance" program is an effort to reduce the number of people addicted to opiates within the Village of Creston with hopes to significantly reduce the number of property crimes that are investigated. No Village of Creston money will be used to facilitate this program.

## **60.2 Program History**

In 2015, Police Chief Leonard Campanello of Gloucester, Massachusetts, developed a new way to fight the war on drugs by doing something about the demand, not just the supply. Under Chief's plan, drug addicts who ask for the help of the police for their addiction would be taken to a hospital and placed in a recovery program; without arrest or jail. The PAARI program works directly with treatment centers to secure scholarships and fully-funded in-patient programs for addicts while working with police departments, pharmacies, and families to supply Narcan. We understand Narcan is not an all-fixing remedy; it can save the life of an overdose patient and give that person another opportunity to get into treatment and fight their disease.

## **60.3 Program Mission**

Our mission is to:

- A. Encourage opioid drug users to seek recovery
- B. Help distribute life-saving opioid blocking drugs to prevent and treat overdoses, through partnership with the Wayne County Mental Health Recovery Board
- C. Connect addicts with treatment programs and facilities
- D. Provide resources and other police departments and communities that want to do more to fight this epidemic
- E. To reduce the stigma commonly thought of when dealing with an "addict."

## **60.4 Officer Responsibilities**

- A. Officers responding to any call for service or performing any police action will be cognizant for the potential that the involved parties may be suffering from a heroin/opiate addiction.
- B. Officers interacting with persons suffering from addiction will be professional, compassionate and understanding. Often times, people suffering from addiction ask for help only as a "last resort" and may be considering self-harm or suicide. Your interaction with them can help make a difference.
- C. In all instances, officers will continue to take enforcement action within their discretion and normal scope of duties to address criminal activity. At the same time, officers will recognize the fact that such criminal may result from a medical condition (addiction).
- D. In addition to any police action taken in such circumstances involving known or suspected heroin – opiate addiction (i.e. citizen contacts, warnings, summons, arrest, etc.) the officer will provide the involved parties an Operation: Second Chance flyer, advising them of the program and other related services.
- E. The department will make use of its social media presence (Facebook, Twitter, etc.) to market Operation: Second Chance using the same messages communicated on the flyer.

## 60.5 Program Guidelines

It shall be the policy of the Creston Police Department that:

- A. Any person who enters the police station and requests help with their addiction to heroin or opiates will immediately be screened for potential participation in Operation: Second Chance.
- B. If the initial contact is made on the street, officers shall use discretion that we exercise on a daily basis. This program specifically and exclusively applies to persons who present at the police station for help.
- C. All department personnel having contact with anyone entering the police department and requesting help with their addiction will be professional and compassionate at all times.
- D. If such a person who has requested help with their addiction is in possession of drugs or their drug equipment (needles, etc.), they will not be criminally charged. The materials will be collected and secured for later destruction.
- E. No questioning of the person will be undertaken in an effort to collect drug intelligence, determine the origin or any drugs relinquished by the person, or any other effort which may undermine the intended purpose of this program namely to encourage persons to seek police assistance in getting help for their addiction without fear of arrest or police action.
- F. The officer having initial contact with the program participant will immediately notify their supervisor that a potential Operation: Second Chance participant is requesting help with their addiction.
- G. The participant will not be allowed into the program if any of the following are determined:
  1. The participant has pending charges against them in any jurisdiction
  2. The participant has been charged with a violent crime in the past
  3. The participant is currently a registered sex offender, or has any past arrests for any sex-related crime
  4. The participant is currently on probation/parole