



City of Elyria

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Press Release

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Elyria Police Implements Programs to Combat Opioid Crisis

The Elyria Police Department is proud to announce the implementation of two programs that will aid in combating the opioid crisis. In May 2018, the Elyria Police Department started a pilot program in partnership with the Lorain County Alcohol and Drug Addiction Services Board (ADAS) and Firelands Counseling & Recovery Services called the **Quick Response Team (QRT)**. *The QRT is designed to offer screening, support, and linkage to treatment and recovery following an opiate overdose revival.*

The QRT is comprised of a Law Enforcement Officer and Mental Health Clinician and the team performs weekly outreach to overdose survivors. The team's goal is to contact the survivor or family member within seven days after the overdose and complete a screening of the individual to determine if they would benefit from treatment. The team assists the overdose survivor in connecting them to recovery services that best meets the individual's financial needs and provides information on supportive services for their family members as well.

The QRT pilot program ran from May-July, and within that time the EPD QRT was successful in reaching 38% of the total number of overdose victims in Elyria. This is a high percentage rate, especially when considering that many overdose victims in Elyria don't actually reside in Elyria and the QRT is limited to outreach for Elyria residents. The QRT does refer the non-resident overdose victims to their respective jurisdictional QRT's, if one exists. Because of the Elyria pilot success and the overwhelming positive response received, we will be continuing this program on a permanent basis.

The Elyria Police Department is also implementing a **Voluntary Drug Intervention Program (VDIP)** that will begin 19SEP2018 and compliment the efforts of our QRT. *The VDIP is a police assisted effort designed to help drug addicts, who voluntarily seek help through the police, in linking them to recovery services.* This program has yielded a partnership with Let's Get Real, Inc. and the national organization called PAARI-Police Assisted Addiction and Recovery Initiative. These organizations will provide 24/7 Law Enforcement access to recovery specialists, who will immediately respond to the station when an individual seeks help with recovery through the Elyria Police Department.

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