

ANNEX 4

FOCUS AREA – LAW ENFORCEMENT

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| COORDINATING AGENCY: | S.C. Law Enforcement Division |
| PRIMARY AGENCIES: | S.C. Department of Public Safety; S.C. Office of the Attorney General; S.C. Department of Corrections; City of Columbia Police Department; Lexington County Sheriff’s Department; Myrtle Beach Police Department; S.C. Commission of Prosecution Coordination; S.C. Coroner’s Association; S.C. Department of Health and Environmental Control |
| SUPPORTING AGENCIES: | S.C. Law Enforcement Officers Association; U.S. Postal Inspection Service; U.S. DEA/HIDTA Atlanta and Carolinas; S.C. Sheriff’s Association; S.C. Pharmacy Association; S.C. Department of Probation, Parole and Pardon Services; S.C. Department of Juvenile Justice; S.C. Department of Social Services; S.C. Department of Alcohol and Other Drug Abuse Services |

I. INTRODUCTION/PURPOSE

Focus Area 4 – Law Enforcement emphasizes five broad goals, all aimed at improving the effectiveness of law enforcement strategies for combatting the opioid crisis for the citizens of South Carolina.

- A. Focus Area 4 will help support and expand drug take-back programs to reduce the number of unused medications that are susceptible to misuse or diversion. Focus Area 4 will promote the DEA’s Take-Back Days through websites and social media and provide information on websites about environmentally friendly methods of disposal of controlled substances. Focus Area 4 will also help promote take-back sites that are available in communities year round and will encourage the establishment of new sites at law enforcement facilities throughout the state.
- B. Focus Area 4 will work to increase resources to combat illicit opioid supply chains. This will be assisted by improved intelligence and law enforcement focus in concentrated areas of high overdose and high use. Resources will be allocated to increase interdiction on major interstates, commercial parcel carriers, and other transportation methods.
- C. Focus Area 4 will endeavor to reduce the number of fatal opioid overdoses through education, training, and funding. Law enforcement agencies will be encouraged to take advantage of the Law Enforcement Officer Narcan (LEON) program. Collaboration with DAODAS is needed to seek continued funding for programs when grants end. Training for community providers is needed on the use of naloxone or other opioid antidotes.
- D. Focus Area 4 will work to increase treatment options for individuals with opioid use disorder and help facilitate access to care instead of incarceration. Recommendations and support for programs such as drug courts will be encouraged.
- E. Focus Area 4 will work to improve Driving Under the Influence of Drug Detection (DUID) and reporting of statistics from DUID cases throughout the state.

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- F. Finally, Focus Area 4 will enhance and expand current data sharing and will encourage the exchange of relevant data to assist with intelligence for officers and public health coordinators. This will assist with identifying hot spots for opioid use and trends throughout the state and will assist with data-driven decisions for areas of focused enforcement. Identifying these trends can also assist with focused resources for community education and prevention measures.

II. ASSESSMENT

From 2016 to 2017, the Drug Analysis Laboratory of the S.C. Law Enforcement Division (SLED) saw a 34% increase in the number of cases involving opioids and a 44% increase in the number of items analyzed containing opioids.¹ This follows the trends that are being observed on a state and national level. Most significantly, this has been observed through the 200% increase in opioid-related overdose deaths documented nationally since 2000.²

From 2016 to 2017, there was a 234% increase in illicit fentanyl drug cases to the SLED drug analysis laboratory.¹ During this time, as with other designer drugs previously introduced, there was a challenge to constantly chase the novel fentanyl analog compounds that were appearing on the illicit drug scene and to ensure these compounds were added to the proper controlled substance schedule in a timely manner. In February 2018, the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration took action to emergency schedule all fentanyl-related substances, that were not previously scheduled, into Schedule 1 of the Controlled Substance Code.³ In response, South Carolina needs enhancements to the sentencing penalties to include trafficking of fentanyl and fentanyl analogues.

Law enforcement encounters problems due to opioid use on a daily basis, as the 2017 Worldwide Drug Report estimates that in 2016 there were 35 million users of opioids.

¹ Data retrieved from the South Carolina Law Enforcement Division Forensic Services Laboratory, May 15, 2018.

² Rudd, R. A. (2016). Increases in Drug and Opioid Overdose Deaths – United States, 2000-2014 *MMWR*, 64, 1378-82. Retrieved April 23, 2018.

³ Federal Register, Volume 83, Number 25, pp 5188-5192; <https://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2018-02-06/pdf/2018-02319.pdf>. Retrieved May 15, 2018

III. GOALS

We have identified six goals related to law enforcement response:

- A. Expand drug take-back programs in partnership with other focus groups.
- B. Expand interdiction teams to interrupt illicit opioid supply chains.
- C. Increase availability of opioid antidotes to officers throughout the state.
- D. Explore alternatives to incarceration to develop a broad-reaching deflection program for persons with opioid use disorder.
- E. Develop data sharing that assists communities and partners in prevention, treatment, and resource delivery.
- F. Enhance Driving Under the Influence of Drug Detection (DUIID) and reporting.
- G. Enhance detection of DUIID interdiction.

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Goal 1: Expand Prescription Drug Take-Back Programming

(near-term [30-120 days], mid-term [6-12 months], long-term [12 months and beyond])

| Agency | Objectives | Timelines | Measure of Success | Progress |
|--|--|-----------------------|---|-----------------|
| DAODAS, DHEC | Work with local incineration company to assist local law enforcement with destruction of bulk unused medications from permanent take-back containers. | near-term mid-term | # pounds of unused drugs incinerated | Underway |
| S.C. Sheriff's Association, S.C. Police Chiefs' Association | Expand drug take-back programs to additional counties and municipalities. Recommendations would be to have at least one drop-off site in each county. | near-term mid-term | Drop-off locations in each county | Underway |
| DHEC | Work with Bureau of Air Quality to determine the requirements for incineration at a local site | ongoing | Overcome any barriers | Underway |
| SLED | Educate on drug take-back program: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • During education opportunities, incorporate information on ways to remove excess drugs from circulation • Educate on safe storage measures and how to locate drop box locations for turning over unused medication | December 31, 2018 | # of presentations where take-back options and education on programs are incorporated | Ongoing |

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Goal 2: Expand interdiction teams to interrupt illicit opioid supply chains

(near-term [30-120 days], mid-term [6-12 months], long-term [12 months and beyond])

| Agency | Objectives | Timelines | Measure of Success | Progress |
|--|--|--------------------------|---|-------------------------------|
| DPS | Reinstitute interdiction teams for statewide coverage. | October 1, 2018 | Full implantation of 8 interdiction teams located by region | Application process completed |
| SLED | Increase the number of agents assigned to interdiction. | SLED 2019-2020 budget | Additional FTE agent positions assigned to interdiction in the SLED Narcotics Section | Pending |
| Federal, State & Local Law Enforcement | Reduce, disrupt, and dismantle trafficking supply chains. | ongoing | # of supply chains interrupted | Underway |
| Law Enforcement Associations | Work with the S.C. Legislature to enhance penalties for trafficking of illicit opioids to include fentanyl and fentanyl analogues. | 2019 Legislative Session | Law enacted | Pending |
| DHEC Bureau of Drug Control | Increase number of Bureau of Drug Control enforcement agents. | long-term | # of agents | Pending |

GOAL 3: Increase availability of opioid antidote to officers throughout the state

(near-term [30-120 days], mid-term [6-12 months], long-term [12 months and beyond])

| Agency | Objectives | Timelines | Measure of Success | Progress |
|----------------------------------|--|-----------|---|----------|
| DHEC, DAODAS, Law Enforcement | Work with partner agencies to develop and implement agency policies for naloxone administration. | ongoing | # of agencies with policies to administer | Underway |
| Law Enforcement Training Council | Incorporate LEON program into Law Enforcement Officer Certification Program. | mid-term | Established in certification program. | Underway |

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| Agency | Objectives | Timelines | Measure of Success | Progress |
|--|---|-----------------------|--|-----------------|
| DPS, DHEC | Expand training on and distribution of naloxone across DPS divisions. | mid-term long-term | # of divisions trained and equipped | Underway |
| SLED, DHEC | Maintain training and distribution of naloxone to agents. | June 1, 2018 | Availability of an opioid antidote to SLED employees in the Narcotics Section, the Crime Scene Unit, the Evidence Control Unit, and the Forensic Services laboratory who may be exposed to opioids | Completed |
| DAODAS, DHEC, Local Law Enforcement | Monitor current funding and explore options to maintain naloxone programming statewide. | ongoing | Funding secured for sustainability | Underway |

GOAL 4: Explore alternatives to incarceration to develop a broad-reaching deflection program for persons with opioid use disorder (OUD)

(near-term [30-120 days], mid-term [6-12 months], long-term [12 months and beyond])

| Agency | Objectives | Timelines | Measure of Success | Progress |
|---|---|-----------------------|--|-----------------|
| S.C. Commission on Prosecution Coordination | Develop guidelines in alignment with – or endorse – National Association for Drug Court Professionals guidelines for drug courts throughout the state to establish consistency. | mid-term long-term | Established guidelines or full endorsement | Pending |
| S.C. Commission on Prosecution Coordination | Establish funding sources – or establish specific guidance – for making drug courts locally financially sustainable. | mid-term long-term | Funding sources established or guidance released | Pending |

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GOAL 5: Enhance law enforcement ability to detect and prosecute Driving Under the Influence of Drugs (DUID)

(near-term [30-120 days], mid-term [6-12 months], long-term [12 months and beyond])

| Agency | Objectives | Timelines | Measure of Success | Progress |
|---|---|-----------------------|---|----------|
| DPS, Law Enforcement Training Council, Law Enforcement Associations | Enhance law enforcement capabilities to detect and deter DUID through expansion of the Drug Recognition Expert (DRE) program. | mid-term long-term | # of trainings held # of officers trained | Ongoing |
| SLED | Develop uniform measures to report statistics from drug-related driving incidents, both from DUID and traffic fatalities. | August 1, 2018 | Reporting of previous 2 years' DUI and traffic fatality statistics pertaining to cases tested at SLED | Underway |

GOAL 6: Develop data sharing that assists communities and partners in prevention, treatment, and resource delivery

(near-term [30-120 days], mid-term [6-12 months], long-term [12 months and beyond])

| Agency | Objectives | Timelines | Measure of Success | Progress |
|------------------------------------|---|-----------------------|--|----------|
| DHEC, Law Enforcement Associations | Implement OD Map to help identify opioid "hot spots" throughout the state through first responder activity. | mid-term long-term | Solicit participation by 100% of those that are capable 50% participation | Underway |

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| Agency | Objectives | Timelines | Measure of Success | Progress |
|---|--|-----------------------|-------------------------------------|----------|
| SLED | Provide timely law enforcement sensitive information on new drugs encountered in the state, to include location and educational information through S.C. Information Intelligence Center (SCIIC): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify focus groups that would benefit from OERT-related communications • Target communications specifically for the OERT | ongoing | Successful transfer of intelligence | Underway |
| All Organizations | Work with OERT Data Team to maintain timely data – SCIBRS. | ongoing | Successful access and use of data | Underway |
| S.C. Commission on Prosecution Coordination | Develop a protocol for officer response to opioid overdose. Protocols will assist with gathering information for reporting and preparing a case. | mid-term | Implementation of protocol | Pending |
| S.C. Coroner’s Association | Develop a protocol for coroner response to overdose to help with standardization of testing and reporting. | mid-term long-term | Implementation of protocol | Pending |

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IV. CONCEPT OF THE OPERATION

State and federal agencies, associations, and private partners are operationalizing the objectives above to help combat the opioid crisis statewide and in local communities.

V. AGENCY RESPONSIBILITIES

- A. Each agency in reaching out to community partners
 - i. Outreach
 - ii. Tracking of progress
 - iii. Updating annex as needed
 - iv. Attending quarterly meetings

VI. RESOURCES *(To be added at a later date)*