



To: City Council

From: Jacob R. Day, Mayor

Subject: Establishing the Substance Treatment and Addiction Reduction Team (START) Task Force

Date: April 29, 2016

In 2016, Wicomico County has experienced opioid overdoses at alarming rates: 29 in January, 27 in February, 46 in March, and 56 in April – so far. These numbers are increasing and elected leaders, including each of you have expressed a desire to address this epidemic. It is a national trend, but we cannot ignore our local responsibility to serve and protect our citizens.

With the March 2016 announcement of the Wicomico County, City of Salisbury, Health Department and State's Attorney partnership resulting in the Community Outreach Action Teams (COAT) we take a step in the right direction. The additional funds we have added to bring in a moving speaker who fell victim to substance use and addiction and traveled the road of recovery, is an additional commitment to addressing the issue of opioid addiction – particularly in our youth.

While no community has discovered a silver bullet to this health, economic and social crisis, other communities are having some successes. By establishing a diverse team of focused and well-resourced individuals, the City of Salisbury will be able to identify its tools and tactics in reducing heroin and prescription opiate use and addiction and all of the externalities that come with it.

As a City Task Force, this team will exist for 9-months, have the following task and purpose: Investigate and recommend actions that the City of Salisbury Mayor and Council should consider in order to reduce opioid use and addiction.



City of
Salisbury
Jacob R. Day, Mayor

MEMORANDUM

Represented organizations will include: Peninsula Regional Medical Center, the Wicomico County Health Department, the Salisbury Fire Department, the Salisbury Police Department, the Salisbury Substance Abuse Community Center, Dri Dock, the Lower Shore Clinic, Salisbury University, Wor-Wic Community College, Jake's Foundation, Hudson Health, Salisbury Area Chamber of Commerce, Community Foundation of the Eastern Shore, Joseph's House, Wicomico County State's Attorney's Office, Stop the Violence, and Caring & Sharing.

The Task Force will submit its recommendations to Mayor and Council no later than February 2, 2017.