



# BUCKEYE STATE SHERIFFS' ASSOCIATION

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April 27, 2018

Dear Attendees,

The Buckeye State Sheriffs' Association is proud to lead the efforts of all first responders in the State of Ohio. It is a multi-pronged approach that affects each and every one in the community. This is no longer an "urban" problem it is a societal problem.

As the Chief Law Enforcement officer of the county we accept the challenge to be aggressive in combating the opioid epidemic. It is for that very reason that we have endorsed and supported the attached programs that are currently operational in Ohio and a new project that will begin in the middle of May, 2018.

In June 2014 the Lucas County Sheriff's Office started a program named Drug Abuse Response Team (DART). DART was formed to change the way law enforcement responds to Ohio's most devastating crisis "the opioid epidemic". Sheriff John Tharp has increased the size of the response team from 3 deputies and a supervisor, to now include 6 deputies and a supervisor, an officer from the City of Toledo, Metro-park rangers, a Mercy Hospital police officer all of whom are assigned full-time. Part-time assistance has included officers from the University of Toledo, Oregon Police Department, Lucas County Public Library officers, Waterville Township officers, and college/high school interns. Many community organizers and leaders have stepped forward to advance this program. Funds provided by the Ohio Attorney's Office has allowed for the continuation and expansion of this program. Since the inception of this DART Unit over 2,800 cases have been handled.

## PAST PRESIDENTS CURRENT SHERIFFS

2017  
Mark Wasylyshyn  
Wood County

2016  
Randy Thorp  
Licking County

2015  
Gene Fischer  
Greene County

2013  
E. Wayne Risner  
Ashland County

2012  
Jeff Grey  
Mercer County

2010  
Timothy L. Rogers  
Coshocot County

2007  
Vernon P. Stanforth  
Fayette County

2004  
Michael E. Heldman  
Hancock County

1997  
Michael R. Hetzel  
Wyandot County

1982  
John R. Lenhart  
Shelby County

The Ohio Legislature enacted a law that allowed Common Pleas Judges to establish specialized docket courts entitled "Drug Courts". These courts dealt specifically with drug related cases.

There is a high level of participation from the Common Pleas Court, the Sheriff, local Alcohol -Drug Addiction Services and faith based organizations. Eligible candidates are vetted prior to assignment to an 18 month program which includes random drug testing, weekly or bi-weekly meetings with the Judge, and successfully complete a drug and alcohol treatment program.

On this, the 4<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the program, there has been a 75% success rate of graduates being clean and alcohol free. Funding for this program is made available through local levies for the Alcohol and Drug Addiction Services Board.

The "STAR HOUSE", Sheriff's Treatment and Recovery House, has a start date of May 16, 2018. This is a new and innovative approach to drug recovery programs. The program offers participants during their 3-6 month stay a variety of services to include counseling, medication, and life skills training. STAR HOUSE offers a safe, clean and drug-free environment which will allow individuals the opportunity to succeed. Additionally, a work place that will assist in life training skills is arranged to enhance the ability of those participating to move forward with life and become a law abiding and productive citizen in the community. Funding for this program is made available through a levy with the Tri-County Board of Recovery and Mental Health Services.