

The Times

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COUNTYWIDE

Police get supply of heroin OD antidotes

Prosecutor also announces initiative to fight addiction

Kevin Shea For Times of Trenton

The Mercer County Prosecutor's Office delivered a second shipment of heroin-antidote kits to all the county's police agencies Thursday afternoon.

Acting Mercer County Prosecutor Angelo Onofri also announced a new initiative to combat heroin addiction and abuse in the county, called the One Voice Initiative.

And, Onofri announced with Capital Health System CEO Dr. Al Maghazeh that the hospital company paid \$13,000 for 530 doses of the antidote — nasal-injected naloxone. The opiate overdose reverser is well known by the brand name Narcan.

"Heroin's cheap, readily available, and we need to do something before our kids get hooked on it," Onofri said Thursday at Capital Health's Hopewell Medical Center campus.

The prosecutor's office first equipped county police departments with naloxone in November 2014, at a price tag of about \$19,000, which the prosecutor's office paid for by using forfeiture funds.

Onofri said he met with Maghazeh several months ago and explained the 2014 batch was about to expire, and asked for help replenishing the supply.

"Their answer was an immediate yes — and they agreed to not only replace the

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100 YEARS OF



NATIONAL PARKS

New Jersey's National Park sites



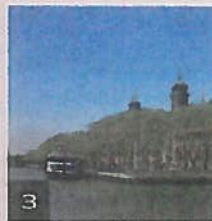
HOW MANY OF THE 12 HAVE YOU VISITED?



Appalachian Trail National Scenic Trail
New Jersey's 72-mile stretch of the 2,180-mile trail begins at the Delaware Water Gap and goes to the New York border.



Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area
The 70,000-acre park is along the Delaware River on both sides of New Jersey and Pennsylvania.



Ellis Island (Part of the Statue of Liberty National Monument)
Nearly 12 million immigrants passed through Ellis Island on their way to a new life in the United States.



Sandy Hook/Gateway National Recreation Area
The Gateway National Recreation Area includes 27,000 acres along the ocean and bays in New Jersey, Brooklyn, Queens and Staten Island. New Jersey's portion is Sandy Hook.



POLICE

FROM A1

expired Narcan, but also replenish it on an on-going basis," Onofri said. From Nov. 5, 2014 to Aug. 24, 2016, Mercer officers used the antidote 131 times, with 115 successful reversals. Ten patients died from overdoses once treated, and six were deemed "not sure" if the naloxone worked.

After the announcement, police leaders from each agency were called to the front of the room and received a box with doses apportioned to the size of the department. Also receiving kits were the public safety departments from The College of New Jersey and Rider and Princeton universities, and Mercer County park rangers.

Onofri said his office will start the One Voice Initiative, a coordination and coalescing of overdose and addiction voices and resources to deliver a focused message.

The Initiative was pioneered by Hunterdon County Prosecutor Anthony Kearns, Onofri said. The initiative will work with existing organizations such as City of Angels, the Heroin and Opioid Task Force, and programs already underway in Hamilton, Robbinsville and elsewhere.

Onofri also said he's worked with Hamilton Mayor Kelly Yaede on anti-heroin initiatives and those



Hamilton officials receive a second shipment of the heroin antidote naloxone from the Mercer County Prosecutor's Office on Thursday.
Kevin Shea/For Times of Trenton

efforts have yielded a plan for the 2016-17 school year to explain the Overdose Prevention Act to health classes in the township's three

high schools.

Part of the law provides for immunity from prosecution for someone for possession or use of illegal drugs

if they call for help during an overdose situation. Many programs center around this use the catch phrase, "Don't Run. Call 911."

Onofri hopes to expand such law explanations to all Mercer County high schools in the near future.

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