



## APPLICATION FORM

All applications must include the following information. Separate applications must be submitted for each eligible program. **Deadline: June 2, 2017.** Please include this application form with electronic entry.

### PROGRAM INFORMATION

County: \_\_\_\_\_

Program Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Program Category: \_\_\_\_\_

### CONTACT INFORMATION

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Department: \_\_\_\_\_

Complete Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_ Website: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

### SIGNATURE OF COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR OR CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_



**Virginia Association of Counties**

**Achievement Awards**

**Larceny/Heroin Investigative Group**

**Submitted by**

**Colonel Thierry G. Dupuis**

**Chief of Police**

**Chesterfield County Police Department**

**Chesterfield County, Virginia**

### **The Problem or Need for the Program**

In early February of 2016, the Chesterfield County Police Department experienced an unprecedented number of opioid based overdoses and deaths. This caused an immediate impact on police department resources from our initial response to the investigation. In our immediate response, we notified all media outlets and our Metro Richmond partners of the spike in opioid overdoses. We assigned Special Enforcement Team members from our Uniform Operations Bureau to meet our investigative response needs while meetings were conducted with our Metro Richmond Law Enforcement Partners to assess and confront the impact to the region.

### **Overview of the Program**

Our department reacted quickly and decisively to address the national opioid overdose epidemic. A holistic approach was adopted to address this epidemic through a four prong approach of education, prevention, treatment, and enforcement. Our department conducted external meetings and internal meetings with Mental Health/Social Services, Chesterfield County Sheriff's Office, Chesterfield County Fire/EMS and SAFE (Substance Abuse Free Environment). Internally our department and detectives identified an increase in larceny from automobiles and shoplifting cases which could be linked to opioid addicts supporting their habits including one bank robbery in 2016. From this data, the Larceny/Heroin Investigative Group was formed. Their mission is to enhance existing/or create working relationships with community members and businesses to identify and arrest individuals. At the same time they are the conduit to social service organizations when the investigation reveals the suspect is supporting their addiction through criminal activity.

The following excerpt from “Heroin in Distress,” by *Chesterfield Observer* Reporter Ben Orcutt captures the transition of heroin users and the impact on the Chesterfield Police Department’s resources needed to address this opioid addiction epidemic in March of 2016.

**The heroin spike has forced the police department to reallocate manpower. Five patrol officers, a sergeant and two detectives have been reassigned to fighting the epidemic.**

**The surge in heroin use has had a ripple effect on the department. Some heroin addicts are resorting to petit larceny crimes in order to support their \$60 to \$100 daily habits, Hensley added. The street value of one gram of heroin is about \$120, Hensley said, which amounts to several hits of the drug. Many of those who use heroin are “user-dealers,” he said.**

**The police department also is partnering with county social services, mental health, the Sheriff’s Office and other local and state agencies to help stem the tide of heroin use.**

**“We’ve taken on this holistic approach now, trying to address this issue because we know we aren’t going to be able to arrest our way out of it,” Hensley said.**

### **Current Program**

Currently four detectives from the Chesterfield County Police Crimes Against Property Unit are assigned to the Larceny/Heroin Investigative group. This assignment is in addition to their normal property crime zone responsibilities. These detectives have become the central hub for larceny from automobiles and shoplifting reports. This has created consistency in identifying those involved in this type of criminal activity while focusing on the arrest or interdiction of services for those in need of addiction treatment. As part of their mission, the Larceny/Heroin Investigative Group has enhanced our working relationship with our retail business partners by facilitating meetings and monitoring the loss prevention professionals' email group.

### **Use of Technology**

No new technology was needed for implementation of the Larceny/Heroin Investigative Group. The creation of [PD LarcenyInvGroup@chesterfield.gov](mailto:PD LarcenyInvGroup@chesterfield.gov) was needed to better communicate with Richmond Metro business loss prevention professionals

### **The Cost of the Program**

Program cost are currently zero. The initial surge of resources required patrol officers to be paid detective pay during their assignment. Only one officer was assigned to the Larceny/Heroin Investigative Group for a three-month period.

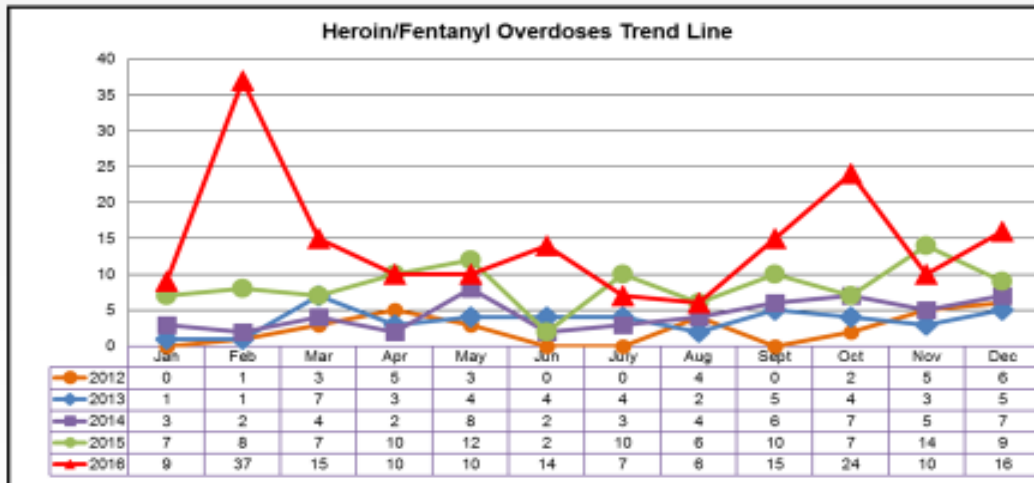
## **The Results/Success of the Program**

Within the first three months of the Larceny/Heroin Investigative Group being formed, they investigated 226 cases, successfully clearing 141 cases (62% clearance rate). The total loss to retail partners was estimated to be more than \$178,000 of which an estimated \$30,000 worth of merchandise was recovered. Over 50 people were identified and/or arrested who were provided treatment through the heroin resource card contacts created by our department with SAFE support or provided treatment through the Sheriff's Office HARP program. The group also created an email address specifically for Metro Businesses loss prevention professionals to share information at [PD.LarcenyInvGroup@chesterfield.gov](mailto:PD.LarcenyInvGroup@chesterfield.gov) which was an immediate success for sharing larceny suspect information in the Richmond Metro area and ultimately identifying opioid addicts in need of services.

This surge by our department and creation of the Larceny/Heroin Investigative Group had an immediate impact with the media, Metro Law Enforcement partners, County partners, Community Partners and Metro Businesses Loss Prevention Professionals.

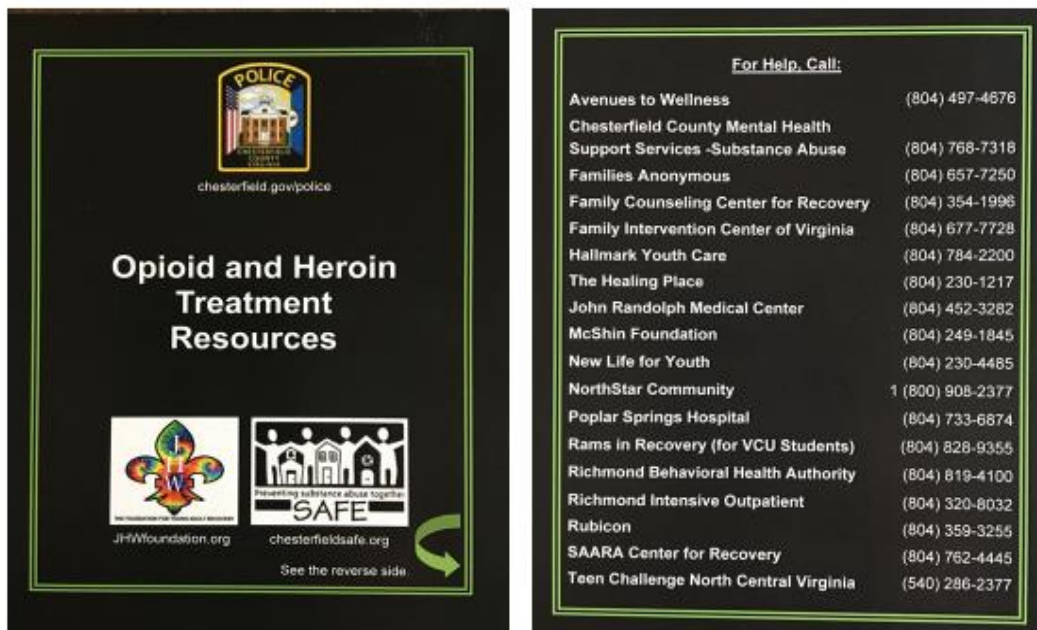
The data has shown that even though some overdoses were related to fentanyl laced heroin, the 37 overdoses experienced in February 2016 dropped to 15 in March 2016, 10 in April 2016 with lows of 7 in July and 6 in August of 2016 (Per Graph below).

## Chesterfield County Police Department Heroin Overdose Statistics



\*\* Note: Figures include both heroin and fentanyl overdoses

In conjunction with our community partners supported by SAFE, a heroin resource card was created that could be distributed to addicts or families and friends of addicts in an effort to spread the word where addicts could find services and support. At the same time Chesterfield County Sheriff Karl Leonard implemented HARP (Heroin Addiction Recovery Program) at the Chesterfield County Jail for those inmates who wanted a chance to break the cycle of addiction.





The following WRIC8 News report “Chesterfield police explore new ways to combat heroin epidemic” by 8News Reporter Mark Tenia captures our department’s vision of partnering with our community while specifically targeting the crime of shoplifting as an opportunity for intervention for those individuals suffering from addiction.

**“We can’t go at this alone, we can’t arrest our way out, that’s why we’ve involved all our community partners that we can,” said Major Chris Hensley with Chesterfield County Police.**

**In addition to SAFE, police have teamed up with retailers to help identify repeat shoplifters that are suspected of being heroin addicts.**

**“Things start to go sideways and they start committing crime to support their habit,” said Hensley.**

**Hensley says police and loss prevention personnel will start handing out cards to suspected shoplifters and addicts before they are arrested or commit a crime. On the cards, the names and numbers of places around the area that can help with addiction. Police say it’s an effort to stop petty criminals from overdosing or moving on to more serious and violent crimes like armed robbery.**

**“That’s something that we’re concerned about and we’re trying to address this on the front end right now, because we’re already seeing the transition into more violent crimes,” said Hensley.**

**Hensley says they want to give the cards out to anyone willing to take them. They say if you have a friend or family member you suspect of being an addict, contact them so they can try and get that person help.**

Even as Uniform Operations Bureau personnel needed to be reassigned back to their regular patrol assignments, this group continues today to do excellent work while disrupting drug users' habits through arrests or offerings of support/treatment through the heroin information resource card.

The professional relationships created during this epidemic have only grown stronger as we continue our monthly community partner's meeting as members of the SAFE Opioid and Heroin Prevention Taskforce with Richmond Metro Law Enforcement along with the recent implementation of quarterly meetings with our Metro Businesses Loss Prevention Professionals. Internally, we continue to meet with Chesterfield County Fire/EMS, Chesterfield County Sheriff's Office, Mental Health, and Social Services department staff to monitor and assess the epidemic and as such we are in the process of creating a Public Service Announcement (PSA) for all media.