

REVERSING THE OPIOID EPIDEMIC: STRATEGIES TO SAVE LIVES

Why this Matters to Communities; Cost and Harm to Lansing

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MUNICIPALITIES ON THE FRONT LINE





LANSING FIRE DEPARTMENT/ EMS

- For 2017, LFD estimates it incurred costs of at least \$107,775.
- From January 1, 2016, to December 15, 2016, Lansing Fire officials administered Narcan 243 times.
- From January 1, 2017, to December 16, 2017, Lansing Fire officials administered Narcan 342 times.
- As the demand for Narcan increases, so do the costs.
- Narcan administration is becoming less effective.
 - In 2017, nearly 40% of the Narcan incidences required more than one dose.
 - There were 10 incidents that required 4 or more doses to be administered.
 - **“Dirty” Heroin. Fentanyl and other additives**

*For the purposes of this presentation, all opioid reversal agents will be referred to as the generic brand name of Narcan

LANSING POLICE DEPARTMENT

- From 2015 through August of 2017, the Opioid crisis has cost LPD approximately **\$748,995.75**
- Responding to Overdoses alone has cost the Lansing Police Department **\$59,755.60** in estimated expenses and wages.

Lansing Police Surveillance Report

	<u>2015</u>	<u>2016</u>	<u>2017*</u>
Overdoses=	137	155	177
Deaths=	21	21	16
Narcan Saves=		6	10

* YTD= Jan 1st - Sept. 30th



LPD CASE EXAMPLE



- In 2010, LPD Special Operations began an investigation into the illegal prescription practices and medical fraud against medical personnel operating in and around Lansing.
- The investigation was a result of prescription pill overdoses that resulted in deaths, as well as information related to illegal practices associated to the medical businesses in the City of Lansing.
- A pattern was identified regarding fraudulent medical practices, which was the basis for a large, cooperative, federally-sponsored investigation.
- Complex case that blended together to uncover additional investigations.
- As a result of these investigations, the LPD SOS Unit contributed between 10,000 to 15,000 hours of investigative personnel time.
- The investigation found the accounts from the actual patients who were suffering from real disabilities and disease to be the real victims and the network of doctors and pharmaceutical companies combined actions to be deplorable.

Total Financial Estimate 2015-2017

TOTAL ESTIMATED HEROIN EXPENSES	
Description	\$ Amount
Overdoses	29,372.59
Overdose Investigations	2,4750
D/Sgt Phone Calls	10,020.48
Controlled Buys (monetary)	14,800
Controlled Buys (time)	35,520
PWID/Possession Cases	21,240
Search Warrants	156,036.45
QM Supplies	2,318.75
QM Time	7,392
Phone Dumping	3,600
Training Video	538.72
Detention	6,407.53
K9 Expenses	71,106.67
Total:	383,103.19

BENEFITS ESTIMATE	
Description	\$ Amount
Overdoses	29,372.59
Overdose Investigations	24,750
D/Sgt Phone Calls	10,020.48
Controlled Buys (time)	35,520
PWID/Possession Cases	21,240
Search Warrants	156,036.45
QM Time	7,392
Phone Dumping	3,600
Training Video	518.72
Detention	6,407.53
K9 Training Wages	58,866.67
Total:	353,724.44
Benefits Multiplier (1.0344)	365,892.56

383,103.19
+ 365,892.56
748,995.75

The total estimated expenses plus the wages benefits gives a total estimated expense cost of \$748,995.75



Total = \$748,995.75

DECIDING WHETHER OPIATE LITIGATION IS RIGHT FOR YOUR MUNICIPALITY

- Every municipality in the Nation has been affected by the Opiate Epidemic, but should you join the litigation?
- **A “tobacco litigation” type of award is hopeful, but certainly no guarantee.**
- Joining WILL require your municipality to do some leg work to demonstrate damages.
- Cost/Benefit Questions to consider:
 - How much money has been spent by the municipality that can be directly tied to the Opiate Epidemic?
 - How can our municipality prove what resources have been expended?
 - What are the routine record keeping and data collection practices? Electronically searchable or in boxes in some Indiana Jones-type storage?
 - Politics.

CALCULATING YOUR COSTS

- This epidemic isn't just impacting Police and Fire. Think critically about your costs!
- Parks and Recreation
 - Increased maintenance costs associated with opiate paraphernalia
- Human Resources and Community Development/Neighborhoods
 - Addiction, Treatment, and Rehabilitation Centers
 - Substance Abuse Prevention and Education Programs
 - Mental Health and Behavioral Facilities
 - Social Services
 - Family/Child Services
- Courts
 - Specialized Court costs: drug court, increased security
 - Probation

THE COST IS HIGHER THAN THE PRICE

- In just the last 3 years, at least 58 people have died from an overdose in the City
 - Impact on the lives and safety of all community members.
 - Increased crime and traffic accidents.
 - Health and Safety risks to our First Responders.
 - Mental and Emotional toll that this crisis is causing our First Responders.
 - Diversion of Resources.
 - **A true purpose of this litigation, by the MDL Judge's design, is to obtain equitable relief before ever addressing the monetary costs.**
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CHOOSING THE RIGHT LAW FIRM(S)

- There are many firms actively searching out Cities, Counties, and States.
 - SO, who should you pick?
 - Reputation and Ability
 - Retainer Agreement
 - READ the Retainer Agreement, or even DRAFT the agreement
 - There are MANY firms offering the standard 1/3 recovery, with cost and fees
 - How are they going to calculate what recovery they get to keep?
 - Are they already involved in the MDL litigation with other clients?
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