

B-2015-04

CITY OF WINCHESTER, VIRGINIA

PROPOSED CITY COUNCIL AGENDA ITEM

CITY COUNCIL/COMMITTEE MEETING OF: 1/27/15 CUT OFF DATE: 1/8/15

RESOLUTION XX ORDINANCE PUBLIC HEARING

ITEM TITLE: Resolution in support of addiction reduction efforts

STAFF RECOMMENDATION: The staff and supporters request Council action.

PUBLIC NOTICE AND HEARING: N/A

ADVISORY BOARD RECOMMENDATION: N/A

FUNDING DATA: N/A

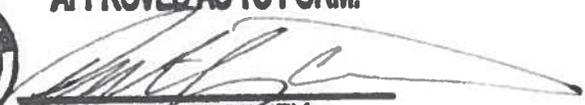
INSURANCE:N/A

The initiating Department Director will place below, in sequence of transmittal, the names of each department that must initial their review in order for this item to be placed on the City Council agenda.

<u>DEPARTMENT</u>	<u>INITIALS FOR APPROVAL</u>	<u>INITIALS FOR DISAPPROVAL</u>	<u>DATE</u>
1.	_____	_____	_____
2.	_____	_____	_____
3.	_____	_____	_____
4.	_____	_____	_____
5. City Attorney		_____	20150108
6. City Manager		_____	19 Jan 2015
7. Clerk of Council	_____	_____	_____

Initiating Department Director's Signature:  Date: 1/5/15



APPROVED AS TO FORM:

CITY ATTORNEY

CITY COUNCIL ACTION MEMO

To: Honorable Mayor and Members of City Council
From: Chief Kevin L. Sanzenbacher, Honorable Elizabeth Kellas, Timothy Coyne, esq.,
Dr. Nicholas Restrepo, Vice President Valley Health
Date: 12/15/2014
Re: Addiction Action Committee

THE ISSUE: Over the last several years the number of heroin related deaths have increased significantly. In 2014 there were 33 deaths. In order to attack this problem members of the community representing law enforcement agencies, Valley Health, Shenandoah University, the judicial systems, educators, treatment providers, social services agencies and concerned citizens have been meeting regularly in an attempt to address the public health crisis of addiction in our community. This group has become known as the Addiction Action Committee. This committee has identified the following goals:

By January 1, 2017, have a comprehensive coordinated approach to the prevention, treatment and adverse societal impact of addiction, as evidenced by:

- * A decrease in mortality from overdoses
- * A decrease in the incidence of substance exposed infants
- * A decrease in the incidence of children needing social services intervention due to parental/caregiver addiction
- * A decrease in the incidence of crimes attributable to addiction

The leadership of the Addiction Action Committee is asking the Common Council to affirm these goals and commit to supporting the mission of the committee.

RELATIONSHIP TO STRATEGIC PLAN: More livable City for all.

BACKGROUND: In 2012, one (1) person died from an opioid/heroin overdose death in the northern Shenandoah Valley, the catchment area for the Northwest VA Regional Drug Task Force (NWRDTF). In 2013, twenty one (21) people were dead from heroin overdoses in the same geographic area. In 2014, an additional thirty three (33) were dead from the same cause. The community, law enforcement, the medical profession, educators, service providers and family members, have come together to fight **this** disease and it's many and varied underlying causes in a group that has become known as the Addiction Action Committee. This committee has discovered:

- The current national issue with heroin is related to:
 - The over prescribing of opioid based pain killers.
 - Local data shows of 23 overdose victims studied, 14 (60%) had prior history of prescription drug abuse.
 - The US consumes 99% of the world's supply of OxyContin.
 - In 2010, **38,329** unintentional drug overdose deaths occurred in the United States, an increase for the 11th consecutive year; one person died every 14 minutes. 22,134 were prescription drug overdose deaths, of which opioid pain relievers were involved in 16,651 deaths (75.2 %).
 - Enough prescription pain relievers were prescribed in 2010 to medicate every American adult every four hours for a month.
 - Opioid pain relievers were involved in more overdose deaths than cocaine and heroin combined.
 - A reformulation of certain pain medications has made them more difficult to abuse.
 - Heroin has become increasing easier and cheaper to get than prescription opioid based medications.
- The heroin issue in the northern Shenandoah Valley is related to:
 - The close proximity to active drug markets in Washington, DC, Philadelphia and especially Baltimore, MD.
 - Addicts travel, usually to Baltimore, and purchase from varied sources, this leads to drugs of differing potency from day to day.
 - This varying in potency has led to the sharp increase in overdose injuries and deaths.

ACTIONS TO DATE

Since this problem was identified a number of activities have taken place to combat this problem. These have included:

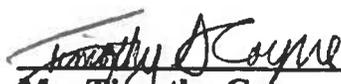
- Increased emphasis on the traditional undercover enforcement efforts for heroin.
- Greater cooperation and prosecutions by the US Attorney for the region.
- Increased effort to charge accomplices in overdose deaths with criminal responsibility for that death- this effort has been hampered by recent VA court decisions limiting the culpability of accomplices.
- Procedures to have NWRDTF members respond to each police call for an overdose to initiate an investigation into the source of the drug and develop leads and cooperation.
- Improved intelligence gathering when overdoses occur trying to determine the victim's drug involvement history.
- Increased information sharing between the medical profession and law enforcement.
- A drug take back box has been obtained from the CVS Pharmacy chain to encourage citizens to turn in unused drugs.
- Physician and dentist education sessions have been sponsored by Valley Health.
- Valley Health has changed their policy on prescribing pain relief medications.
- Four education/information sharing session have been held.
- Valley Health has made medication lock boxes available to the public.

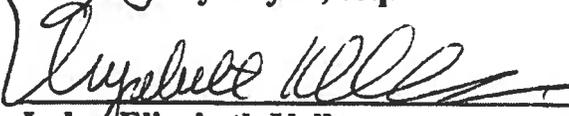
- A comprehensive website has been developed to identify resources available.
- Grants are being pursued.
- A number of best practice programs have been identified to provide the region with models that may be emulated and reproduced.

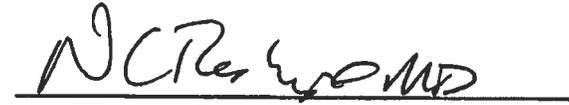
Despite these efforts much needs to be done. In order to develop a truly effective long-term program more resources need to be identified and developed. These resources will have to be developed with the help of the private sector in coordination with Federal, state and local government. The commitment of the Common Council to these solutions is vital for the overall success.

BUDGET IMPACT: Any implications for future budgets will be submitted to the Common Council through the annual budget process. Since the Committee is still examining needs and available resources from many sources to fulfill those needs a concrete budget cannot be developed. However, since Winchester is dedicated to its Strategic Plan, the Committee feels it is important at this point for the Common Council to recognize the importance to the City of ridding itself of this terrible blight by committing to this resolution at this time.

RECOMMENDATIONS: The following signatories of the Addiction Action Committee urge the Common Council to adopt this resolution.


Mr. Timothy Coyne, esq.


Judge Elizabeth Kellas


Dr. Nicolas Restrepo


Chief Kevin L. Sanzenbacher



RESOLUTION OF SUPPORT FOR CALL TO ACTION TO ADDRESS THE OPIOID ADDICTION CRISIS

WHEREAS the City of Winchester and surrounding jurisdictions in the Northern Shenandoah Valley have experienced an unprecedented increase in the number of opioid overdose deaths from 2012 to 2014, with 33 opioid overdose deaths in 2014; and

WHEREAS the City of Winchester and surrounding jurisdictions in the Northern Shenandoah Valley have also experienced a significant increase in criminal activity and arrests for drug-related offenses from 2012 to 2014; and

WHEREAS the number of children in foster care in the City of Winchester due to the drug addiction of parents or guardians has risen from 5 children in 2012 to 21 children in 2014; and

WHEREAS there has been a significant increase in the number of opioid and heroin overdose patients treated at and admitted to the Winchester Medical Center from 2012 to 2014; and

WHEREAS from 2012 to 2014 there have been 34 infants treated in the Neo-Natal Intensive Unit at the Winchester Medical Center for opioid exposure, with an average length of treatment of nearly 28 days and an average cost for treatment of more than \$47,000 per infant; and

WHEREAS the costs to the community in terms of actual expenditures, resources and human life caused by substance abuse and addiction are extraordinarily significant, if not incalculable; and

WHEREAS members of the community representing the Northwest Regional Drug Task force and local law enforcement agencies, Valley Health, Shenandoah University, the judicial systems, educators, treatment providers, social services agencies and concerned citizens have been meeting regularly in an attempt to address this public health crisis of addiction in our community;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Common Council of the City of Winchester expresses its full support for the goals of the Addiction Action Committee to, by January 1, 2017, have a comprehensive coordinated approach to the prevention, treatment and adverse societal impact of addiction, as evidenced by:

- * A decrease in mortality from overdoses
- * A decrease in the incidence of substance exposed infants
- * A decrease in the incidence of children needing social services intervention due to parental/caregiver addiction
- * A decrease in the incidence of crimes attributable to addiction"

ADOPTED this _____ day of _____, 2014.