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PRESS RELEASE: CURRENT HEROIN THREAT TRAINING

April 12, 2017

The Franklin County District Attorney's Office recently partnered with the Pennsylvania Counterdrug Joint Task Force to bring *Current Heroin Threat* training to Franklin County Law Enforcement personnel. *Current Heroin Threat* is an eight-hour training module that examines all aspects related to the current heroin threat. During this program of instruction, the explosion of heroin usage over the past several years was reviewed in the context of its history, as were the current trends related to the manufacturing, sales, usage of heroin, and the investigation of those involved. The overall pharmacological and psychological effects on both short-term and long-term users were also discussed. Information was also provided on the latest law enforcement techniques used to investigate heroin trafficking, including overdose investigations, as well as best practices being used in various jurisdictions affected by high rates of heroin usage. The final block of instruction focused on the resources being dedicated to both treatment and prevention.

The training, which was held on April 12th at the Franklin County Public Safety Training Center, was organized by the Franklin County District Attorney's Office and funded by the PA Counterdrug Joint Task Force. Forty local, state, and federal police officers, probation / parole officers and coroner's office personnel from West Virginia, Maryland, and Pennsylvania participated in this training program.

The Franklin County District Attorney's Office organized this particular training in response to the national epidemic of heroin that has continued devastating communities throughout Franklin County, while further taxing our law enforcement, treatment, and EMS resources. Fatal drug overdoses in Franklin County increased 100% from 2015 to 2016. In 2016, there were 46 fatal drug overdoses reported by the Franklin County Coroner's Office, despite scores of overdose reversals through the use of

Naloxone by law enforcement and first responding medical personnel. The majority of those fatal overdoses involved Fentanyl, heroin, or other opioids.

Unlike traditional drug investigations, law enforcement personnel involved with heroin related investigations are being asked to maintain their investigative and enforcement responsibilities, while simultaneously being tasked with administering life-saving medical interventions in the street. After completing this training program, law enforcement personnel will be able to pair their ongoing investigative work, including the vigorous investigation of fatal drug overdoses and heroin trafficking, with an increased awareness of addiction, treatment, and prevention.