

# Bringing HOPE to Those Who Need It Most

## The HOPE One Monmouth Mobile Unit

By Ted Freeman, Executive Undersheriff Monmouth County Sheriff's Office and Cynthia Scott, Public Information Officer



According to an article which appeared in the March 2018 issue of Mayo Clinic Proceedings entitled, "Beyond Supply: How We Must Tackle the Opioid Epidemic," by A. Benjamin Srivastava, MD and Mark S. Gold, MD, it is stated that "The opioid epidemic is the most important and most serious public health crisis today." In an article by Stephan Stirling, NJ Advance Media, more than 2,200 died from drug overdoses in New Jersey in 2016 and more than 65,000 nationwide. According to information on the website of the New Jersey Attorney General's Office, there have been 146 suspected overdose deaths in Monmouth County so far in 2018, plus 543 administrations of naloxone (Narcan) and 217,615 opioid prescriptions issued.

The opioid epidemic is real and requires a collaborative approach between law enforcement and medical services professionals to be successful. Monmouth County is taking the battle to the front lines with the Hope One Monmouth Mobile Unit. On National Night Out in Asbury Park, New Jersey on Aug. 7, 2018, Monmouth County Sheriff Shaun Golden and Prosecutor Christopher Gramiccioni launched an innovative leading approach to combating the opioid epidemic in Monmouth County with the Hope One Monmouth Mobile Unit.

The Hope One vehicle is a 32-foot-long mobile outreach unit that once served as the Monmouth County Sheriff's Office Field Communications Unit which was used as a command post and field communications center for large-scale incidents and community events. The unit has been repurposed as a mobile outreach unit to combat the current opioid epidemic. The vehicle is adorned with familiar county landmark icons as well as the insignias of the Monmouth County Sheriff's Office, Prosecutor's Office, County Clerk's Office and County Surrogate's Office. It is also adorned with a purple ribbon to exemplify recovery. The

unit will travel into communities several times a week staffed with a sheriff's officer, a certified peer recovery specialist and a licensed clinician. At the various locations to which the unit travels, Hope One staff will connect individuals with substance abuse disorder and their family members to immediate services, treatment facilities and naloxone training.

"The heroin epidemic remains one of the most important crises law enforcement in Monmouth County must conquer, and HOPE One will be a vital asset, as we continue to lead the way in the fight against drug abuse," said Sheriff Shaun Golden. "This mobile outreach component, the first of its kind in Monmouth County, will lead to a path of recovery. Instead of individuals who are struggling with addiction coming to us, we travel to them, meet one on one, and offer services and options which will help combat drug overdoses and deaths."

"HOPE One is a great example of the outside-the-box thinking that we need to help those in dire need of assistance," said Christopher Gramiccioni, Monmouth County prosecutor. "A mobile assistance

unit brings another vital resource to our communities when we cannot rely on drug abuse to stop at town boundaries. This presents us with a vital opportunity to reach a person that may not otherwise have the ability to take the first step toward addiction treatment."

"This great approach to combatting drug abuse is a partnership and commitment formed between law enforcement and substance abuse recovery specialists, who both share a common goal," said John Brogan, CEO of Lifeline Recovery Support Services. "That is to address the deadly problem of addiction in our communities and save lives by securing a path to healthier and sober living."

Monmouth County is blessed with a plethora of partnerships that make the HOPE One Monmouth Mobile Unit possible, including the Monmouth County Sheriff's Office, Prosecutor's Office, Hackensack Meridian Health, Carrier Clinic, NJ Reentry Corporation, Mainstream Recovery, Ocean Mental Health Services, and Behavioral Wellness & Recovery. Partnerships and planning produce positive results! 🌐



Ribbon cutting ceremony in Asbury Park at inauguration of HOPE One outreach program. (L-R) Freeholder Director Thomas Arnone, County Clerk Christine Hanlon, Ocean County Prosecutor Joseph Coronato, John Brogan - CEO Lifeline Recovery Support Services, Monmouth County Prosecutor Christopher Gramiccioni, Monmouth County Sheriff Shaun Golden, Chief John McCabe - Monmouth County Prosecutor's Office, Stephanie Ruane, MS, LCADC - Social Services Supervisor - Monmouth County Correctional Institution, Joel Pomaes - Certified Recovery Specialist, Undersheriff Michael Donovan, Sheriff's Officer David Lasko, Executive Assistant Selma Morris, Undersheriff Frederick Deickmann, Confidential Assistant Teresa Forbes and Kim Vieth, MS, LCSW, LCADC - Director of Adult Clinical Services, Ocean Mental Health Services.