

ANNEX 4

FOCUS AREA – LAW ENFORCEMENT

COORDINATING AGENCY:	S.C. Law Enforcement Division
PRIMARY AGENCIES:	S.C. Department of Public Safety; S.C. Office of the Attorney General; S.C. Department of Corrections; City of Columbia Police Department; Lexington County Sheriff’s Department; Myrtle Beach Police Department; S.C. Commission of Prosecution Coordination; S.C. Coroner’s Association; S.C. Department of Health and Environmental Control
SUPPORTING AGENCIES:	S.C. Law Enforcement Officers Association; U.S. Postal Inspection Service; U.S. DEA/HIDTA Atlanta and Carolinas; S.C. Sheriff’s Association; S.C. Pharmacy Association; S.C. Department of Probation, Parole and Pardon Services; S.C. Department of Juvenile Justice; S.C. Department of Social Services; S.C. Department of Alcohol and Other Drug Abuse Services

I. INTRODUCTION/PURPOSE

Focus Area 4 – Law Enforcement emphasizes five broad goals, all aimed at improving the effectiveness of law enforcement strategies for combatting the opioid crisis for the citizens of South Carolina.

- A. Focus Area 4 will help support and expand drug take-back programs to reduce the number of unused medications that are susceptible to misuse or diversion. Focus Area 4 will promote the DEA’s Take-Back Days through websites and social media and provide information on websites about environmentally friendly methods of disposal of controlled substances. Focus Area 4 will also help promote take-back sites that are available in communities year round and will encourage the establishment of new sites at law enforcement facilities throughout the state.
- B. Focus Area 4 will work to increase resources to combat illicit opioid supply chains. This will be assisted by improved intelligence and law enforcement focus in concentrated areas of high overdose and high use. Resources will be allocated to increase interdiction on major interstates, commercial parcel carriers, and other transportation methods.
- C. Focus Area 4 will endeavor to reduce the number of fatal opioid overdoses through education, training, and funding. Law enforcement agencies will be encouraged to take advantage of the Law Enforcement Officer Narcan (LEON) program. Collaboration with DAODAS is needed to seek continued funding for programs when grants end. Training for community providers is needed on the use of naloxone or other opioid antidotes.
- D. Focus Area 4 will work to increase treatment options for individuals with opioid use disorder and help facilitate access to care instead of incarceration. Recommendations and support for programs such as drug courts will be encouraged.
- E. Focus Area 4 will work to improve Driving Under the Influence of Drug Detection (DUID) and reporting of statistics from DUID cases throughout the state.

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- F. Finally, Focus Area 4 will enhance and expand current data sharing and will encourage the exchange of relevant data to assist with intelligence for officers and public health coordinators. This will assist with identifying hot spots for opioid use and trends throughout the state and will assist with data-driven decisions for areas of focused enforcement. Identifying these trends can also assist with focused resources for community education and prevention measures.

II. ASSESSMENT

From 2016 to 2018, the Drug Analysis Laboratory of the S.C. Law Enforcement Division (SLED) saw a 29% increase in the number of cases involving opioids and a 45% increase in the number of items analyzed containing opioids.¹ This follows the trends that are being observed on a state and national level. Most significantly, this has been observed through the 200% increase in opioid-related overdose deaths documented nationally since 2000.²

From 2016 to 2018, there was a 432% increase in illicit fentanyl drug cases to the SLED drug analysis laboratory.¹ During this time, as with other designer drugs previously introduced, there was a challenge to constantly chase the novel fentanyl analog compounds that were appearing on the illicit drug scene and to ensure these compounds were added to the proper controlled substance schedule in a timely manner. In February 2018, the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration took action to emergency schedule all fentanyl-related substances, that were not previously scheduled, into Schedule 1 of the Controlled Substance Code.³ In response, South Carolina needs enhancements to the sentencing penalties to include trafficking of fentanyl and fentanyl analogues.

Law enforcement encounters problems due to opioid use on a daily basis, as the 2017 Worldwide Drug Report estimates that in 2016 there were 35 million users of opioids.

¹ Data retrieved from the South Carolina Law Enforcement Division Forensic Services Laboratory, May 15, 2018.

² Rudd, R. A. (2016). Increases in Drug and Opioid Overdose Deaths – United States, 2000-2014 *MMWR*, 64, 1378-82. Retrieved April 23, 2018.

³ Federal Register, Volume 83, Number 25, pp 5188-5192; <https://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2018-02-06/pdf/2018-02319.pdf>. Retrieved May 15, 2018

III. GOALS

We have identified six goals related to law enforcement response:

- A. Expand drug take-back programs in partnership with other focus groups.
- B. Expand interdiction teams to interrupt illicit opioid supply chains.
- C. Increase availability of opioid antidotes to officers throughout the state.
- D. Explore alternatives to incarceration to develop a broad-reaching deflection program for persons with opioid use disorder.
- E. Develop data sharing that assists communities and partners in prevention, treatment, and resource delivery.
- F. Enhance Driving Under the Influence of Drug Detection (DUIID) and reporting.
- G. Enhance detection of DUIID interdiction.

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Goal 1: Expand Prescription Drug Take-Back Programming

(near-term [30-120 days], mid-term [6-12 months], long-term [12 months and beyond])

Agency	Objectives	Timelines	Measure of Success	Progress
DAODAS, DHEC	Work with local incineration company to assist local law enforcement with destruction of bulk unused medications from permanent take-back containers.	Pickups: Feb, Apr, July, Oct	3,665 pounds of unused drugs were incinerated in Feb 8,160 pounds of unused were incinerated in Apr	Feb complete-SLED Apr complete- DEA July underway - SLED Oct underway -DEA
S.C. Sheriff's Association, S.C. Police Chiefs' Association	Expand drug take-back programs to additional counties and municipalities. Recommendations would be to have at least one drop-off site in each county.	near-term mid-term	Drop-off locations in each county	Underway
SLED	Educate on drug take-back program: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • During education opportunities, incorporate information on ways to remove excess drugs from circulation • Educate on safe storage measures and how to locate drop box locations for turning over unused medication 	December 31, 2018	# of presentations where take-back options and education on programs are incorporated	Ongoing

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Goal 2: Expand interdiction teams to interrupt illicit opioid supply chains

(near-term [30-120 days], mid-term [6-12 months], long-term [12 months and beyond])

Agency	Objectives	Timelines	Measure of Success	Progress
DPS	Reinstitute interdiction teams for statewide coverage.	October 1, 2018	Full implantation of 8 interdiction teams located by region 1995 grams of Heroin 603 CS Pills	16 Agents, 9 canines added for Criminal Interdiction Unit
SLED	Increase the number of agents assigned to interdiction.	SLED 2019-2020 budget	Additional FTE agent positions assigned to interdiction in the SLED Narcotics Section	3 Agents expected for July 1, 2019 budget
Federal, State & Local Law Enforcement	Reduce, disrupt, and dismantle trafficking supply chains.	ongoing	# of supply chains interrupted <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - State/federal case Spartanburg – (Heroin/fentanyl ring) - Lexington/Saluda/Newberry – (Heroin/fentanyl ring) 	Underway
Law Enforcement Associations	Work with the S.C. Legislature to enhance penalties for trafficking of illicit opioids to include fentanyl and fentanyl analogues.	2019 Legislative Session	Law enacted	Pending
DHEC Bureau of Drug Control	Increase number of Bureau of Drug Control enforcement agents.	long-term	# of agents	Pending

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GOAL 3: Increase availability of opioid antidote to officers throughout the state

(near-term [30-120 days], mid-term [6-12 months], long-term [12 months and beyond])

Agency	Objectives	Timelines	Measure of Success	Progress
DHEC, DAODAS, Law Enforcement	Work with partner agencies to develop and implement agency policies for naloxone administration.	ongoing	# of agencies with policies to administer	Underway
Law Enforcement Training Council	Incorporate LEON program into Law Enforcement Officer Certification Program.	mid-term	Established in certification program.	Underway
DPS, DHEC	Expand training on and distribution of naloxone across DPS divisions.	mid-term long-term	# of divisions trained and equipped	Underway
SLED, DHEC	Maintain training and distribution of naloxone to agents.	June 1, 2018	Availability of an opioid antidote to SLED employees in the Narcotics Section, the Crime Scene Unit, the Evidence Control Unit, and the Forensic Services laboratory who may be exposed to opioids	Completed/ Replenished and Updated New Agents
DAODAS, DHEC, Local Law Enforcement	Monitor current funding and explore options to maintain naloxone programming statewide.	ongoing	Funding secured for sustainability	Ongoing

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GOAL 4: Explore alternatives to incarceration to develop a broad-reaching deflection program for persons with opioid use disorder (OUD)

(near-term [30-120 days], mid-term [6-12 months], long-term [12 months and beyond])

Agency	Objectives	Timelines	Measure of Success	Progress
S.C. Commission on Prosecution Coordination	Develop guidelines in alignment with – or endorse – National Association for Drug Court Professionals guidelines for drug courts throughout the state to establish consistency.	mid-term long-term	Established guidelines or full endorsement	Pending
S.C. Commission on Prosecution Coordination	Establish funding sources – or establish specific guidance – for making drug courts locally financially sustainable.	mid-term long-term	Funding sources established or guidance released	Pending SC CPC - Meeting regularly with legislative contacts for ongoing funding

GOAL 5: Enhance law enforcement ability to detect and prosecute Driving Under the Influence of Drugs (DUID)

(near-term [30-120 days], mid-term [6-12 months], long-term [12 months and beyond])

Agency	Objectives	Timelines	Measure of Success	Progress
DPS, Law Enforcement Training Council, Law Enforcement Associations	Enhance law enforcement capabilities to detect and deter DUID through expansion of the Drug Recognition Expert (DRE) program.	mid-term long-term	# of trainings held # of officers trained	Ongoing
SLED	Develop uniform measures to report statistics from drug-related driving incidents, both from DUID and traffic fatalities.	August 1, 2018	Reporting of previous 2 years' DUI and traffic fatality statistics pertaining to cases tested at SLED	Underway

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GOAL 6: Develop data sharing that assists communities and partners in prevention, treatment, and resource delivery

(near-term [30-120 days], mid-term [6-12 months], long-term [12 months and beyond])

Agency	Objectives	Timelines	Measure of Success	Progress
DHEC, Law Enforcement Associations	Implement OD Map to help identify opioid “hot spots” throughout the state through first responder activity.	mid-term long-term	Solicit participation by 100% of those that are capable 35 agencies presently participating	Underway
SLED	Provide timely law enforcement sensitive information on new drugs encountered in the state, to include location and educational information through S.C. Information Intelligence Center (SCIIC): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify focus groups that would benefit from OERT-related communications • Target communications specifically for the OERT 	ongoing	Successful transfer of intelligence	Underway
SLED	Work with DHEC to provide data for Overdose Data to Action, statistics from opioid fatalities throughout S.C. and apply for grant opportunities to increase data sharing. Opportunity will enhance reporting for South Carolina on Opioid related deaths.	ongoing	Successful transfer of data Application for grant	Underway Completed by DHEC
All Organizations	Work with OERT Data Team to maintain timely data – SCIBRS.	ongoing	Successful access and use of data	Underway
S.C. Commission on	Develop a protocol for officer response to opioid overdose. Protocols will assist with gathering information for reporting and preparing a case.	mid-term	Implementation of protocol	Pending

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Agency	Objectives	Timelines	Measure of Success	Progress
Prosecution Coordination				
S.C. Coroner's Association	Develop a protocol for coroner response to overdose to help with standardization of testing and reporting.	mid-term long-term	Implementation of protocol	Pending

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IV. CONCEPT OF THE OPERATION

State and federal agencies, associations, and private partners are operationalizing the objectives above to help combat the opioid crisis statewide and in local communities.

V. AGENCY RESPONSIBILITIES

- A. Each agency in reaching out to community partners
 - i. Outreach
 - ii. Tracking of progress
 - iii. Updating annex as needed
 - iv. Attending quarterly meetings

VI. RESOURCES *(To be added at a later date)*