

BEFORE THE
HOUSE REPUBLICAN POLICY
COMMITTEE

* * * * *

IN RE: DRUG ABUSE and ENFORCEMENT
POLICIES ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION

PUBLIC HEARING

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BEFORE: DONNA OBERLANDER, Chair
Martin Causer, Member
Scott Hutchinson, Member
Michael Turzai, Member
Jeff Pyle, Member
Daryl Metcalfe, Member
Carl Walker, Member

HEARING: Friday, May 15, 2009
10:32 a.m.

LOCATION: Limestone Fire Hall
9790 Route 66
Clarion, PA 16214

WITNESSES: John Cornish, Larry
Bornack, Sheila Snyder,
Mark Aaron, Janie Smail,
Jeff Hornberger, Scott
Andreassi, Bev Voris,

WITNESSES: Barbara Carrier, Tom
Curry, Trooper Tom Dubovi,
Scott Bell, Susan Graham,
and Byron Quinton

Reporter: Diana L. Inquartano

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NONE OFFERED

P R O C E E D I N G S

1
2 -----
3 CHAIR:

4 Good morning.

5 REPRESENTATIVE TURZAI:

6 Good morning. Thank you
7 very much everybody. My name
8 is Mike Turzai and I'm the
9 Republican --- in the State
10 House of Representatives from
11 the Wexford area. And I'm not
12 too far, about an hour and a
13 half.

14 And I'm honored to be
15 here this morning with my
16 colleague, Representative Donna
17 Oberlander. I think probably
18 one of the most significant
19 issues facing our families
20 today, you know, we will
21 continue in discouraging of
22 drugs. That just devastates
23 people we love.

24 And Donna was really
25 insistent about making sure

1 that we brought the task force
2 --- the Drug and Law
3 Enforcement Task Force here to
4 Clarion County. And
5 specifically here to the
6 Limestone Fire Hall to discuss
7 this important issue and for
8 what we need to be doing to
9 help curb the problem and bring
10 relief to families.

11 And the last session I
12 had the honor of being the
13 policy chairperson. And we
14 created the Drug and Law
15 Enforcement Task Force because
16 of my qualities and your
17 neighbor, Jeff Pyle. Jeff ---
18 he's from Armstrong County. So
19 his ride was an easy one here
20 today. And he and Donna have
21 already kicked off this session
22 by trying to spearhead
23 legislation that we think will
24 have a positive effect to help
25 the law enforcement community.

1 And what we begun to
2 learn last session with it is
3 in part a law enforcement issue
4 but it is also a drug treatment
5 and prevention issue as well.
6 And we try to take a look at
7 the issue from as many facets
8 and Donna has assembled ---
9 Representative Oberlander has
10 assembled your community
11 leaders, really your community
12 leaders in, you know, the fight
13 against drugs.

14 And Donna, I have to
15 tell you on behalf of our
16 colleagues we're honored to be
17 here to meet so many of, you
18 know, the people that are out
19 front dealing with this on the
20 front lines from Clarion County
21 and Armstrong County.

22 I do want to say I have
23 to apologize up front. I did
24 get here earlier today so that
25 I could talk to folks. I'm

1 personally scheduled to give a
2 speech this afternoon back
3 towards my district. So I do
4 have to take off at a certain
5 point.

6 But in addition to Donna
7 will be --- Representative
8 Oberlander who will be
9 chairing, Representative Jeff
10 Pyle who is the head of the
11 Drug and Law Enforcement Task
12 Force will be co-chairing.

13 I know that you all know
14 Representative Oberlander as
15 your neighbor and friend. But
16 two great things about her
17 background that are so key is
18 one, she's a mom and she
19 reminded me that she has two
20 kids, a 14 year old daughter
21 and a 7 year old son. And I,
22 myself, have three boys, 10, 9,
23 and 6. And boy, it makes you
24 worry because I know so many
25 good kids that end up getting

1 into this stuff. And it just
2 tears up my heart. I mean, you
3 know, we don't think that
4 people we love, like how could
5 it happen? How could it
6 happen? And Donna's on the
7 front line there being a mom.

8 And secondly, she's the
9 County Commissioner for five
10 years in Clarion County. And
11 what you have to say about the
12 County Commissioners across the
13 state is that they are the ones
14 that are charged really by the
15 state to deal with so many
16 social issues that are here.
17 And you know, when you have
18 that job, you may not deal with
19 this on a front line basis.
20 But she did.

21 So I think that says a
22 lot about her background. Both
23 being a mom, a good wife, and
24 then on the other hand having
25 that as the County

1 Commissioner. And she wants to
2 take that knowledge and meet in
3 Harrisburg. She's going to
4 talk to you about her drug
5 ordeal and I think she is
6 actually one of the best things
7 that we have to offer. And
8 Donna will be up to give out
9 that. I'd like to turn it over
10 to Donna.

11 I, myself, was a former
12 prosecutor. I didn't handle
13 any of the big cases but I did
14 handle a good number of the
15 drug cases and it does tear
16 people's lives up and I hope we
17 can make some improvements.
18 Representative Oberlander,
19 thank you very, very much for
20 having me.

21 CHAIR:

22 Thank you. I thank all
23 of you. I'm so pleased to see
24 so many of our community here
25 and those who are in this fight

1 with me here. I also thank all
2 of my colleagues from the safe
3 house for joining us. Whom have
4 come very far and can ---
5 because this issue is important
6 to them.

7 I want to start with
8 just a couple housekeeping
9 issues. We do have a
10 stenographer here who will be
11 taking the testimony and then I
12 would like for you to make sure
13 that you say who you are before
14 you begin speaking.

15 Then we're going --- the
16 way that we're going to work
17 this is we have schools and
18 communities represented that
19 we'll be talking about the
20 issues and changes in the
21 issues that they're seeing. We
22 have members of law enforcement
23 and corrections who will talk
24 about that issue from their
25 standpoint. And then we'll

1 talk about the treatment and
2 prevention programs that are
3 available, what's working, what
4 might not be working, and
5 potentially some things that we
6 can help make that a better
7 situation. And then we will
8 have some interaction.

9 So that we can ask some
10 questions and you can submit
11 presentation as well. As
12 Representative Turzai has
13 mentioned I have introduced a
14 house bill. It does not have a
15 house bill number as of yet.
16 But it is in relationship to
17 the treatment course and it is
18 focused on reducing repeat
19 offenders, providing treatment
20 to those convicted of drug
21 crimes. It is called Drug and
22 Alcohol Crimes.

23 I'm talking more about
24 prison overcrowding than any
25 other type of crime. And you

1 will hear that repeated today.
2 Rather than providing a pathway
3 to reform, our criminal justice
4 system is becoming a revolving
5 door.

6 Drug courts are farmed
7 from the new concept. They
8 have been proven effective in
9 other states as well as other
10 areas in our Commonwealth. I
11 introduced it as legislation
12 because I believe that taking a
13 proven alternative approach to
14 drug and alcohol crimes will
15 save tax dollars, reduce
16 addiction and crimes. And most
17 importantly improve community
18 safety and save lives. So with
19 that I would like for us to
20 start gathering the people and
21 just introduce who's here.

22 MR. LECTURE:

23 Neil Lecture with the
24 Republican Office.

25 REPRESENTATIVE CAUSER:

1 I'm Representative Marty
2 Causer. I represent McKean,
3 Potter, and Cameron Counties.

4 REPRESENTATIVE HUTCHINSON:

5 I'm State Representative
6 Scott Hutchinson, 64th
7 Legislative District. My
8 District involves Venango
9 County and a portion of Butler.

10 REPRESENTATIVE PYLE:

11 Jeff Pyle, 60th
12 Legislative District. I'm from
13 Ford City. I represent most of
14 Armstrong and parts of Indiana
15 Counties.

16 REPRESENTATIVE METZGAR:

17 Carl Metzgar, State
18 Representative to Somerset and
19 Bedford County.

20 REPRESENTATIVE METCALFE:

21 Good morning. I'm State
22 Representative Daryl Metcalfe.
23 I'm Southern Butler County.

24 CHAIR:

25 Then we'll go ahead and

1 get things started. Let's go
2 ahead and start with the school
3 districts and the community and
4 maybe you can tell us a little
5 bit of information on what
6 you're seeing and some of the
7 changes that are occurring in
8 your school district.

9 MR. CORNISH:

10 My name is John Cornish.
11 I'm the Superintendent at
12 Redbank Valley School District
13 here in Clarion County and the
14 Northern part of Armstrong
15 County. One of the problems
16 we're seeing is what we believe
17 leading into the drug problem
18 is the acceptance of the
19 alcohol parties.

20 We believe that they are
21 being accepted by families and
22 actually being endorsed in some
23 cases because they're at least
24 staying in one location and not
25 going out. And not driving

1 around. That we believe is
2 just becoming such common place
3 and now, it is leading to other
4 things. We had an incident
5 this past weekend where, a
6 young man got hit in the head -
7 -- over the head with a beer
8 bottle. And there --- the law
9 enforcement we know is dealing
10 with the actual abuse and those
11 types of things. But I'm not
12 sure that they are able to deal
13 with the alcohol part of it
14 because there were a lot of
15 underage drinkers.

16 And with the way the
17 laws are set up, I do not think
18 it is the law enforcement's
19 problem but because they have
20 to have such, you know, hands
21 on seeing the people with the
22 items. It's pretty much a done
23 deal for them to be able to
24 handle the alcohol. Unless
25 they, you know, track everybody

1 down and actually find that. So
2 part of the problem is I don't
3 think that law enforcement has
4 the ability to really nail
5 people or you know, stop some
6 of the problems.

7 It's the same way with
8 the actual drugs. If law
9 enforcement is not able to, you
10 know, have it on the person and
11 have some witness, I believe
12 they're not able to actually
13 pin it on them and that's ---
14 that causes their problems. So
15 I think there needs to be that
16 assistance for law enforcement
17 to be tougher and to actually
18 get rid of it.

19 We have our DA who has
20 offered drug programs and we
21 believe that they're very
22 beneficial. But we think there
23 needs to be some assistance for
24 the DA's office and/or the
25 other programs to come into the

1 schools.

2 There needs to be some
3 sort of coordination. We need
4 to encourage the students that
5 are getting tired of hearing
6 the drug programs. Yet are we
7 really reaching them with them?

8 I don't know if it needs to be
9 jazzed up or coordinated. But
10 we need to find some way to get
11 that coordination for those
12 drug programs. So that it
13 really hits the mark and the
14 students understand it. The
15 last thing I would like to
16 address is we have the drug
17 dogs in our district. We get
18 no hits on the lockers. I
19 think it's because the students
20 are smart enough now they
21 either keep it on their person
22 or put it in their cars and,
23 you know, circling the cars is
24 not necessarily going to do us
25 much good. So they're smart

1 enough to be able to know the
2 laws and be able to get things
3 figured out so that they're not
4 getting caught with the drug
5 dogs.

6 There's this question
7 all the time of ramifications
8 whether we're allowed to do
9 drug testing. And does that
10 hit only a select few, probably
11 not the group that's really
12 going to be involved as much.
13 And then we are held to pay
14 just because of the
15 requirements and legal
16 ramifications if we do
17 something incorrectly. And
18 then when we do find them ---
19 and this year I can tell you I
20 had some experience with the
21 students bringing Vicodin to
22 school distributing and/or
23 taking.

24 So it's no longer like
25 just marijuana and those types

1 of things. We're into the
2 prescription pills. We expel
3 them and they're still our
4 responsibility because after
5 the 30 days then we have to pay
6 for their education in some
7 alternative placement which is
8 usually a lot of travel or very
9 costly. Our alternative
10 placement right now is in Oil
11 City. So those students that
12 we expelled, we bus them from
13 Armstrong County all the way up
14 into Oil City which is not
15 pleasant for those students
16 which I'm not saying it should
17 be. But, you know, some of
18 those students were leaving
19 very early in the morning to
20 get there and they go very late
21 at night. But that all comes
22 back on us with the cost per
23 day, pay for education as well
24 as the transportation.

25 I think there's some,

1 you know, --- I think we need
2 to get together and look at
3 either more locations of
4 alternative placement, you
5 know. But then when we have to
6 look at certifications and how
7 we have to operate those that
8 even becomes more costly or
9 there can be some coordinated
10 efforts between law enforcement
11 and the district to try to come
12 up with some type of program.

13 Now, I'm sure that's
14 coming from my personal
15 standpoint and I'm sure it
16 touched on some of the others
17 but, you know, we do have other
18 superintendents who can
19 probably offer something if you
20 check with them.

21 MR. BORNAK:

22 I'm Larry Bornak. I'm
23 Superintendent at Union School
24 District. I will echo what Mr.
25 Cornish just said about the

1 issue that we're dealing with.
2 To bring it closer in, we need
3 to get more staff. Your law
4 enforcement, your agencies,
5 drug and alcohol, they're
6 understaffed. When you talk to
7 them they're underfunded. You
8 know, we need to start looking
9 at some of our priorities where
10 funds are going at the state
11 and federal level because that
12 is --- our local level is here.

13 We have a need, a big need and
14 these people are going out and
15 they're trying to solve
16 problems and they don't have
17 the resources or the manpower
18 to help us.

19 When we call for help,
20 we either have to wait until
21 somebody is available or at
22 night because they can't get
23 there ---. But the state
24 police, you know, we're under
25 their jurisdiction in

1 Rimersburg in the Union School
2 District. You can obviously -
3 -- they have a large territory
4 to patrol and when we call
5 them, they respond very quickly
6 for us. But on the other hand,
7 they're not here to do our
8 discipline. And we tried to
9 handle it and bring them in
10 only when we need them.

11 So there's a lot of
12 issues out there that a group
13 can be designated for a school
14 district so that the state
15 police can still do their job.
16 The local law enforcement can
17 do their job with the
18 community. We need a
19 subsection to help out in the
20 legal areas for the school
21 districts.

22 And the same thing as
23 far as the probation officers,
24 as far as the drug and alcohol
25 agencies, they're --- it's not

1 there. And when you're running
2 seven school districts in
3 Clarion County and the
4 geography of the county that
5 this is a school district, they
6 can't get to those places that
7 are using them.

8 The other issue is
9 obviously the holes, that the
10 kids understand the law now and
11 they know how to get through
12 the loop holes. And you know,
13 some of the laws, I know
14 there's constitutional rights
15 out there. But some of these
16 laws have holes in them that
17 these folks are looking at and
18 trying to get through them and
19 they're tying the school
20 district's hands and tying the
21 law enforcement's hands and
22 even the agency to give
23 treatment. But that would be
24 an issue that I would think ---
25 recommend that if we can get

1 someone to look into the laws
2 to see if there's some holes we
3 can cover up. In Union
4 School District, we instituted
5 this year the drug testing
6 policy as Mr. Cornish
7 mentioned. It cost me \$25 a
8 student and I paid for that out
9 of my district budget and we do
10 five students per month
11 randomly. Those are students
12 that were not in activities and
13 I'm not saying that students in
14 activities do not dabble with
15 it. But we also go on to those
16 who are not to be some of our
17 biggest offenders and I can't
18 get into that over here because
19 of the law. Well, I guess my
20 concerned area is the funding
21 for that to help these
22 students. And the second thing
23 is again, the hole in the law
24 to prevent us from getting to
25 some of those students that we

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know we need help.

Representative

Oberlander, I submitted to Brian a program that we're working on for about the last six to eight months at Union School District. It's an after school program tied to our community. And basically ran the program on the staff side, it will be no cost to the taxpayers. And our teachers and our community people are involved with that, there will be no cost there. But some of the things that we're looking at is after school activities. We're thinking material, transportation, or a guest speaker to come in. They would be needing some funds. So I would probably say anything that we've looked as far as after school program funding for school districts throughout

1 the state could be a big help
2 because not every kid is in an
3 activity but they have other
4 interests that we might be able
5 to tap into and keep them safe
6 and secure.

7 Drug free money, that
8 used to be a big help to us.
9 And that pretty much is drying
10 up on a yearly basis to where
11 we do not have --- we used our
12 drug-free money within our
13 building for programs,
14 educational purposes, and it
15 also ran a summer rec program,
16 a playground program where the
17 kids can come in and --- during
18 the summer months. And they
19 would have some place to go
20 with a supervisor and they
21 would stay there most of the
22 day in a safe environment or in
23 our playground. We also had
24 the free or reduced lunches for
25 our students during the summer

1 to have that.

2 So in our school
3 district, we would have a safe
4 environment during the summer
5 time and they would have
6 nutrition. And that drug-free
7 money was drying up. Again,
8 this is something that I'm
9 looking at to support out of my
10 district funds to keep our kids
11 off the street and in an
12 environment that's safe.

13 And the last thing is
14 again, the drugs that we're
15 dealing with, a lot of them are
16 coming up in pills now. And
17 obviously as you know there's
18 drug testing. And we're
19 looking at cocaine, marijuana
20 and those kind of things.
21 These pills are not showing up
22 in a drug test.

23 So the pills and those
24 kind of things are an issue.
25 The different ways they absorb

1 them. There's some really
2 creative ways of absorbing them
3 out there and quite honestly
4 some of the things we can't
5 even look for because of the
6 way they're absorbing them.

7 So there --- again, new
8 tricks are out there and we
9 just try to stay on it and, you
10 know, I do thank the state
11 police, the agencies for all
12 the help they do give us. But
13 this is a pretty big project
14 and it is so underfunded and
15 undermanned. Thank you.

16 CHAIR:

17 We have Sheila Snyder
18 with Clarion County's Promise.

19 MS. SNYDER:

20 I'm Sheila Snyder with
21 Clarion County's Promise. We
22 provide prevention efforts in
23 the county. We're a private,
24 non-profit and we receive
25 grants through the Pennsylvania

1 Commission on Crimes to do the
2 Pennsylvania Youth Survey.

3 The results of the youth
4 survey has been done on a
5 volunteer basis. We have five
6 school districts from the
7 county that participate and
8 this is done every two years.
9 This is a very scientific
10 instrument. It is --- it has
11 very high reliability, very
12 high validity. And at the top
13 of this interval of the county
14 data is 1.9 percent which is
15 very high. We had 1,220
16 students participate in 2007
17 and I have individualized what
18 is going on in the county
19 itself which we'll hand out.

20 CHAIRMAN:

21 All the members of the
22 panel have received that.

23 MS. SNYDER:

24 The handout shows the
25 youth survey facts and on the

1 second page it shows how the
2 survey who are invalid are
3 thrown out. The state survey
4 of the Pennsylvania survey is
5 plus or minus .7 and this is
6 one survey that needs to be
7 continued across the state.

8 How do you know what's
9 going on if you don't have an
10 instrument to measure it? And
11 the Pennsylvania Commission is
12 very strong in helping
13 communities with this
14 instrument and finding out what
15 is going on in the community.

16 On page three it has the
17 30-day usage of illicit drugs
18 in 2007 and this is broken up
19 by the school districts. The
20 school districts are numbered
21 one to five, because of
22 confidentiality I will not
23 release what school districts
24 are which. And they are not in
25 any order. They're not in

1 alphabetical order. They're
2 not in geographical order. The
3 county data is number six and
4 the state data is number seven.

5 And you can see there that
6 efforts for prevention have to
7 be done individually.

8 Thirty (30) day usages
9 indicate our current usage and
10 in school number four is where
11 we have concentrated a lot of
12 our prevention efforts. School
13 number one and school number
14 two have --- school number one
15 and school number four and
16 five, we have had some efforts
17 but three and five are very
18 limited on our prevention.

19 The life time is how ---
20 have you ever in your life used
21 any of these drugs? And again,
22 you can see that in Clarion
23 County we are way high above
24 the state. We don't have the
25 actual number --- numbers. We

1 have percentages that are a lot
2 higher than the state's. And
3 so rural areas need prevention
4 efforts just as much as the
5 urban areas. It goes into the
6 inhalant use. For the past 30-
7 day and lifetime use because
8 this seems higher than illicit
9 drugs. I took this out from
10 illicit drugs.

11 On your left hand side
12 it's all percentages and I've
13 also included not medical
14 prescription drug use in the
15 county. Again, you can see
16 where we are in comparison to
17 the state which is number
18 seven. This is lifetime
19 nonmedical use, 12-month
20 nonmedical use, and 30-day
21 which is an indicator of
22 current usage.

23 And again, on a lot of
24 the areas we are higher than
25 the state percentage wise.

1 However, in school number four
2 where we had concentrated our
3 prevention efforts, we are
4 lower. Behaviors are also
5 included in this chart.
6 Indicated is selling drugs can
7 be defined. The drugs at high
8 school are there. This is
9 separated by grade levels, 6th,
10 8th, 10th and 12th have
11 participated. And again, this
12 is the way they keep their
13 habits going by selling drugs.
14 Once they get hooked on it they
15 get into selling it. And this
16 is not --- this is only from
17 the youth's perspective, it's
18 not from those who are not in
19 school.

20 And binge drinking which
21 is defined as taking two or
22 more --- five or more drinks in
23 a two hour period. Again, it
24 was very high here in Clarion
25 County, but it is a problem

1 area in certain school
2 districts more so than others.

3 Again, prevention
4 efforts need to be located to
5 where the efforts need to be
6 used the most. However,
7 lifetime alcohol use, that is
8 high across the state as well
9 as across the county. This is
10 one area where everybody is
11 concentrating their efforts.
12 Any questions?

13 CHAIR:

14 We're going to hold the
15 questions until after we hear
16 some of the other information.
17 Why don't we go ahead and just
18 move on.

19 ATTORNEY AARON:

20 First of all, my name is
21 Mark Aaron. I'm the District
22 Attorney of Clarion County and
23 also with me is William Peck,
24 our C-NET Narcotics Support
25 Team Coordinator. And also

1 here with us is Scott Andreassi
2 our neighboring county to the
3 south as their District
4 Attorney.

5 First of all, I'd like
6 to thank Representative
7 Oberlander for bringing this
8 hearing to Clarion County.
9 It's a very poignant issue in
10 our community as everyone here
11 at this table from Clarion
12 County is well aware. I'd like
13 to talk about three things.
14 The situation, what we are
15 currently doing, and what in my
16 opinion is needed.

17 In Clarion County for
18 the Representatives who aren't
19 from here. Years ago we never
20 saw heroin, it just wasn't
21 here. Before I became District
22 Attorney I was an Assistant
23 Public Defender. I actually
24 represented probably the first
25 heroin addict we ever saw in

1 Clarion County approximately 12
2 years ago. It was quite an
3 event. We had no idea how to
4 handle people in heroin
5 withdrawal in our county
6 prisons. It caused a bit of a
7 crisis in our corrections and
8 medical system at the
9 correction center at that point
10 in time.

11 Now, sadly, speaking
12 with Jeff Hornberger who's also
13 here, prison is probably one of
14 the largest cold turkey,
15 withdrawal centers in the
16 state. The situation started
17 approximately four to five
18 years ago. I wouldn't
19 analogize --- we had followed a
20 pattern similar to what Butler
21 County saw. It started about
22 ten years ago. What has
23 happened is kids, I would say
24 the age group being primarily
25 17 to 25. Similar to what they

1 did in Butler, figured out that
2 a batch of heroin is simply a
3 short car ride away to the
4 streets of Pittsburgh. Some ---
5 that's where most of it comes
6 from around here. Some comes
7 from Buffalo, the Cleveland
8 area but it is mostly coming
9 from Pittsburgh and the
10 Allegheny County area. They
11 bring it here and they share it
12 with their friends.

13 Our situation here is
14 not where there is simply one
15 large heroin dealer importing
16 large quantities of heroin in
17 Clarion County. We probably
18 have dozens of a small time
19 individuals in the 17 to 25
20 year range primarily, there are
21 some older individuals
22 involved. They bring it into
23 the county. They share it with
24 their friends and they create
25 what we call little pockets of

1 heroin addicts and heroin
2 users. That makes it even more
3 difficult for us because there
4 is a little wee --- little
5 smaller dealers everywhere that
6 we are trying to track down.

7 The problem in my
8 community became critical last
9 summer. Just for an example, I
10 live right along one of the
11 major highways in Clarion
12 County, Route 66. Last summer
13 with great frequency I would
14 have parents stop by my house
15 or they would see me in my yard
16 and come stop and talk to me.
17 And the first thing they would
18 say would be, you know, my son
19 or my daughter is in jail or
20 they're in trouble or they
21 committed a crime. And of
22 course my reaction would be
23 they're coming to maybe
24 complain or something like
25 that. Last summer many times I

1 had to deal with parents at my
2 house in tears and telling me
3 please, keep my kid in jail and
4 telling me my wife will sleep
5 tonight because she knows that
6 our kid is in jail. And that
7 was a new experience for me.
8 That really opened my eyes.

9 That's when we really
10 started in conjunction with the
11 state police to push on the
12 heroin issue with our C-NET.
13 But unfortunately, we started
14 seeing overdoses. And then we
15 started seeing deaths in
16 Clarion County. We have had
17 several unfortunate deaths in
18 Clarion and from our
19 investigation a lot of the fear
20 initially was that this was
21 heroin that was laced with
22 possibly phentanol which
23 Allegheny County saw.

24 We obtained the samples
25 of the drugs that were found

1 with some of these individuals
2 who had overdosed or passed
3 away. We had them analyzed by
4 the state police as fast as
5 possible who were very
6 cooperative and turned around
7 as fast as they could. What we
8 found that it was simply ---
9 if there is such a thing called
10 ordinary heroin. It was not
11 heroin that was laced with
12 anything toxic or it was not
13 laced with phentonol. And in
14 examining these deaths what
15 we've come to the conclusion
16 was that the overdoses and
17 deaths, primarily was caused by
18 new people moving into using
19 heroin by other drugs.

20 And one of the more
21 frightening things is when a
22 heroin dealer comes unavailable
23 either by being incarcerated or
24 they quit dealing for some
25 reason, heroin addicts need the

1 heroin. They find someone
2 else. They switch to another
3 dealer.

4 Well, possibly their
5 first dealer was selling heroin
6 that had been cut down with an
7 80 --- 30 percent pure and they
8 became accustomed to that.
9 That was their tolerance.
10 Let's say that person used
11 three bags a day. And maybe
12 then they switched to another
13 heroin dealer who doesn't cut
14 it down for some reason. And
15 that heroin is 90 percent pure.

16 That person who thought they
17 were using three bags now is
18 essentially using nine bags.
19 And that is what caused in my
20 opinion a lot of the overdoses
21 and deaths here in Clarion
22 County.

23 It is starting to
24 overburden our court system.
25 On Wednesday we had criminal

1 court here in Clarion County.
2 We had 48 cases before our
3 judge. Thirteen (13) of those
4 cases were drug cases, drug
5 dealing --- primarily drug
6 dealing, a few possession and
7 drug paraphernalia cases.
8 Eight other cases were what I
9 would call drug related thefts
10 and burglaries with individuals
11 breaking into homes and
12 stealing items to obtain drug
13 money. Almost half of our
14 court system on Wednesday was
15 dedicated to the drug issue.

16 We recently --- well,
17 actually on Wednesday we have
18 started to see higher level
19 heroin dealers. The state
20 police had their vice unit, the
21 arrest of a heroin dealer who
22 actually was caught dealing
23 over 400 bags of heroin
24 directly to state police
25 confidential informants. That

1 individual on Wednesday due to
2 the mandatory sentencing
3 provisions was sentenced to
4 over 13 years in state prison.
5 Those mandatory sentences are
6 very important to our drug
7 condition efforts and our
8 efforts in court.

9 Just as another example,
10 I have a relative of mine who
11 is a certified drug and alcohol
12 counselor. He actually works
13 on the side of Clarion County
14 but he lives in Strattanville.

15 His position is well known in
16 the community and in speaking
17 with him last week, he told me
18 in the last month four parents
19 have come to his house and
20 talked with him informally
21 asking for advice because their
22 children in Strattanville are
23 on heroin, four times in one
24 month.

25 What are we doing?

1 Approximately, three years ago
2 we started C-NET with funding
3 from Attorney General Tom
4 Corbett's office. We work in
5 conjunction with the state and
6 local police department, the
7 sheriff's department and the
8 state police. I think we have
9 developed a good working
10 relationship over the years but
11 one thing I would state to the
12 members of the Committee is it
13 takes people dedicated to drug
14 addiction to work for this
15 area.

16 We are lucky we have one
17 individual dedicated to drug
18 work in Clarion County. We're
19 lucky to have William Peck, our
20 C-NET Coordinator. It takes
21 someone who knows Clarion
22 County as well as Will does to
23 do this type of work. In
24 conjunction with the local law
25 enforcement officers and the

1 state police also add to that
2 world of knowledge. That is
3 the kind of individuals
4 dedicated to drug addiction
5 that need to address this
6 problem.

7 In 2007 we made 69 drug
8 delivery arrests with C-NET.
9 In 2008 we made 128 and we are
10 going to far exceed that this
11 year. C-NET in the last two
12 and a half years has arrested
13 over 100 drug dealers.

14 We are in schools. We
15 made an anti-heroin video from
16 a recovering heroin addict
17 which will be utilized in
18 schools as Dr. Cornish and
19 Bornak referred to. Actually,
20 we started with that video in
21 the schools several years ago
22 showing it to the 11th and 12th
23 graders. I actually thought it
24 might be a little bit too racy
25 to show it to the lower grade

1 levels. Every year we've gone
2 lower at the request of the
3 school administrations. This
4 year we showed it to the 7th
5 and 8th grade and actually next
6 year we're going to take it to
7 the elementary school because I
8 think that's where these young
9 individuals are making their
10 decision on whether or not
11 they're going to go down this
12 path.

13 We have had public
14 meetings, public forums. We
15 tried to educate the community
16 about the heroin issue.
17 Frankly, some of the time
18 they'd been more educational
19 for law enforcement as they
20 have been for the community.
21 We've found out several things.

22 Many more parents in our
23 communities didn't even know
24 what a heroin standbag looked
25 like. So we began to actually

1 take some of our heroin
2 standbags from old cases of
3 evidence that we've used
4 obviously in the possession in
5 the law enforcement officers to
6 simply display to people and I
7 would show them the pictures of
8 what heroin standbags looked
9 like. And we've had many
10 reactions of people who have
11 told us, I've seen that before
12 and I just didn't even know
13 what it was. You know, we are
14 out and we are trying to
15 educate people as to what to
16 look for.

17 In our meetings I,
18 myself, have taken a personal
19 position to promote testing,
20 parents. Some parents have
21 questioned whether or not
22 that's legal. My reaction to
23 them is you're the parent. You
24 need to be the person involved
25 and believe me it's legal for

1 your minor child.

2 One thing we have taken
3 the steps to address is many
4 parents came to us after these
5 meetings and said simply I
6 would like to test my child.
7 But I don't want to walk into
8 the local drug store and buy a
9 heroin test kit because I know
10 who works in there. I know the
11 pharmacist and people will be
12 whispering and shaking their
13 heads.

14 What we've done with
15 funding from Tom Corbett's
16 office, the Attorney General's
17 office, we're going to make
18 drug test kits available in the
19 DA's office starting next week.

20 We're going to be doing some
21 public service announcements on
22 the local radio stations and
23 newspapers that heroin test
24 kits and the drug test kits
25 will be available in the DA's

1 office. We will provide them
2 there or if you have a
3 financial wherewithal we're
4 asking that you pay. They will
5 be paid for for anyone on any
6 type of public assistance or
7 having any type of a financial
8 need. The Attorney General's
9 office has approved us handing
10 those out free to individuals
11 who need them. So we will
12 eliminate that hesitation to go
13 into the drug store and buy a
14 heroin test kit.

15 One thing that I agree
16 with the school administration
17 officials, we do need some
18 additional coordination with
19 our anti-drug policies. I
20 intend to meet with Clarion
21 County's drug and alcohol
22 agency, my office, the state
23 police over the summer to have
24 a more coordinated approach in
25 the schools because I know it

1 happened at Redbank Valley.
2 The timing of events, the state
3 police were doing something
4 very similar to what I was
5 doing maybe next week. And
6 that coordination hopefully
7 we'll be able to eliminate that
8 problem next year.

9 What in my opinion do I
10 believe we need? We have a
11 harsh solution right now. Our
12 court system and our probation,
13 Ms. Smail took the initiative
14 to establish a drug court. It's
15 grant funded and I believe it's
16 effective. What I see is these
17 individuals need to weekly ---
18 once a week go in before a
19 judge with someone who --- our
20 District Magistrate Amy Long is
21 in charge of the court here in
22 Clarion County. Go in once a
23 week before that person,
24 knowing that that person put
25 him in jail, put him on house

1 arrest, if you basically had
2 fallen out of the program, if
3 you fail a drug test or
4 something of that nature, you
5 would have been involved in
6 other types of criminal
7 activity. The accountability
8 outside the drug court that the
9 probation department can
10 provide, and I'm not being
11 critical of them, it's just
12 that manpower and the funding
13 situation, seeing your
14 probation officer maybe once a
15 month just isn't enough. The
16 problem we have in the drug
17 court right now is under the
18 grant stipulations is limited
19 to --- under the state system
20 of corrections it's limited to
21 level three and four offenders,
22 which is basically people that
23 have committed felonies. I can
24 put --- I can recommend someone
25 who has committed a felony

1 burglary to drug court and most
2 likely they'll be in. I can
3 admit someone if I choose to
4 but there's been felony drug
5 deals at the drug court.

6 However, I routinely see
7 people who commit dozens of bad
8 checks, credit card fraud,
9 identity theft, lower level
10 misdemeanor thefts that are
11 clearly addicted in committing
12 these crimes to obtain drug
13 money. And I can't put them in
14 drug court because they're
15 level one and two offenses. I
16 can't even make that
17 recommendation. They will not
18 be accepted by the drug court.
19 I feel like I'm almost in a
20 position where I have to go do
21 a burglary that will give you
22 some help at drug court. It's
23 a ridiculous situation.

24 If you want to prevent
25 crime, prevent these people

1 from becoming hopelessly
2 addicted to the point where
3 they're willing to break into
4 someone's house and steal what
5 have you to support their
6 heroin addict, we need to get
7 through to them when they're
8 committing bad checks and
9 committing credit card fraud.
10 Waiting until they do something
11 serious without being in the
12 drug court, it's just not a
13 good idea.

14 Our commissioners have
15 been supportive as possible
16 under budgetary conditions of
17 C-NET, our local narcotics
18 enforcement team. They really
19 have always been in our corner
20 to be connected for our
21 support. And I'm not saying
22 this to be critical over that.
23 But they have provided a part
24 time drug task force
25 coordinator position which is

1 William Peck who is a Clarion
2 Borough Officer and also works
3 as our Drug Task Force
4 Coordinator. That was a great
5 step in the right direction.
6 But we need more dedicated law
7 enforcement officers dedicated
8 to this issue and this issue
9 alone in Clarion County. Our
10 part time officers do a great
11 job and they work very hard at
12 it. It's very difficult to do
13 a whole day of patrol of
14 Clarion Borough or Bethel
15 Borough or Knox Borough and
16 then they called out at night
17 for C-NET Operations in Philly.
18 It's very difficult to do
19 that.

20 We have made application
21 under the cop's grant program
22 under this stimulus package
23 that came out for an additional
24 full time officer. We will see
25 how that goes but we

1 desperately need a dedicated
2 full time officer and I think
3 which --- what Mr. Bornak says
4 is correct. We need to start
5 looking at our priorities here.

6 I'm not saying this to be
7 critical of any agency but the
8 reality is we had more game
9 wardens in Clarion County
10 working on game law violations
11 than we have people dedicated
12 that they're job is drug
13 interdiction. That just
14 shouldn't be.

15 We need legislature to
16 take action on these matters.
17 Rural law enforcement is really
18 at crisis at this point in
19 time. We have seen --- when I
20 came to this county as DA, our
21 barracks had approximately ---
22 we had line troopers and NCOs
23 approximately 40 troopers.
24 We're down to just over 20 in
25 ten years. The same work load

1 and the same number of
2 incidents. But about half the
3 number of troopers. The
4 court system has ruled the
5 sheriff's department is really
6 not eligible to do
7 investigations. They're not
8 law enforcement officers
9 empowered to investigate crimes
10 that don't occur right in front
11 of them. In a rural county
12 such as ours, the 6th, the 7th,
13 and 8th class counties that is
14 very detrimental to law
15 enforcement.

16 I will ask the
17 legislature to consider
18 empowering the sheriff's
19 department as full fledged law
20 enforcement officers at least
21 in the smaller counties that
22 truly need it. I know it
23 creates great issues in the
24 larger counties but in your
25 6th, 7th, and 8th class

1 counties I would think this
2 training is what we need. I
3 will also ask the members of
4 legislature to consider
5 mandatory penalties for drug
6 trafficking are crucial to our
7 efforts in drug interdiction.

8 It makes it hurt when we
9 get the drug dealers which will
10 go directly to state prison in
11 the court. And I would ask the
12 legislature to resist any
13 effort to take those away as a
14 tool of law enforcement and the
15 District Attorneys. Thank you.

16 CHAIRMAN:

17 Thank you.

18 ATTORNEY AARON:

19 I'm sure Attorney
20 Andreassi and someone else will
21 ---.

22 CHAIRMAN:

23 I believe we have a
24 couple of questions that we had
25 before. Go ahead.

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REPRESENTATIVE PYLE:

I'm sorry to interrupt. I work with Scott quite a bit down in Armstrong. I believe Mr. Aaron has pointed out, we started detecting this four or five years ago, we're about two years ahead of you.

You made a statement about going through levels, walking through drug court in Clarion for three and four offenders. It's somewhat different than what I've seen done in --- through the other counties.

Other counties leave you eligible for a first time offender because of the public service fine system that's arranged by the judges. What it is here and Ms. Smail here is --- she's our chief probation officer and who is in one of the drug court here. She

1 might be able to address that
2 better than I can. But it's a
3 grant restriction. And the
4 grant that we applied for was
5 essentially under a program to
6 hopefully eliminate
7 overcrowding in state prisons.

8 So therefore the funding
9 that we have only applies to
10 individuals who if they weren't
11 in drug court would end up in
12 state prison. Is your funding
13 stream PCCD?

14 ATTORNEY AARON:

15 Yes.

16 REPRESENTATIVE PYLE:

17 We can talk to him about
18 that. Thank you.

19 CHAIR:

20 Well, at this point I
21 know that District Attorney
22 Andreassi has some things that
23 he --- I'm sure can mirror.
24 However, if you don't mind, we
25 can go ahead and move to more

1 of what they're seeing in the
2 corrections facility and then
3 we'll go on more when we get
4 into the drug core program.

5 MR. HORNBERGER:

6 Good afternoon
7 everybody. My name is Jeff
8 Hornberger. I'm the warden in
9 Clarion County. This morning I
10 printed out some statistics off
11 and I do believe they give you
12 a feel for what's going on in
13 Clarion County. Twenty-nine
14 (29) percent of the top 15
15 charges in Clarion County is --
16 -- the first one is unlawful
17 delivery of a controlled
18 substance. That's 29 percent
19 of all charges just this year
20 processed in a correctional
21 facility.

22 And the second is 19
23 percent and that's possession
24 of a controlled substance. So
25 we can definitely see that we

1 have a problem here in Clarion
2 County and I just want to say
3 to all the public, the public
4 does have a concern or you
5 would not be here.

6 First and foremost, this
7 starts at home. I have two
8 children of my own, 13 and 16.
9 There's not a week that goes by
10 that I don't talk to them about
11 some drug situation in the
12 county. And I think that we as
13 parents --- the general public
14 needs to talk to their children
15 about this terrible issue in
16 Clarion County. It's not hard
17 to bring the subject up. All
18 you've got to do is open the
19 local newspaper up and you can
20 find something to talk to your
21 children about drugs.

22 So just to make the
23 public aware I think it starts
24 at home and we need to, you
25 know, talk to our children

1 about that. I brought both of
2 my corrections counselors here
3 with us today because of what
4 is on our facility. When we
5 see these people coming in,
6 they receive counseling that
7 they need while they're
8 incarcerated in the facility.

9 The treatment that they
10 receive is outstanding. We -
11 -- the counselors do an
12 outstanding job, great effort
13 for our counselors. But all
14 the treatment that happens in
15 the facility counts for
16 nothing. Because we are not a
17 licensed facility, a licensed
18 drug and alcohol facility.

19 I researched the state
20 and there's only very, very few
21 counties that have a licensed
22 drug and alcohol facility. And
23 that's your much larger
24 facilities like Allegheny is
25 one and I think Philadelphia is

1 the other one. What we need to
2 see is something when those
3 people --- when the
4 individuals come in to the
5 correctional facility, we need
6 to get good quality training
7 for these individuals. I just
8 can't say enough that our
9 counselors do everything.
10 Becky actually --- Becky
11 Hedrick, she was ---
12 transferred over when we had
13 the PCCD Grant. She was a
14 licensed drug and alcohol
15 counselor. Even though she was
16 a licensed drug and alcohol
17 counselor, now that she
18 transferred over to the
19 correctional facility, she is
20 no longer --- all the work that
21 she does, even though it's the
22 same thing, straight from drug
23 and alcohol is not counted
24 towards the inmate's crimes or
25 probation or anything like

1 that. So any work that she
2 does in the facility is not
3 counted towards anything.

4 Something else. Once
5 they leave our facility, they
6 have nowhere to go to in
7 Clarion County. As everybody
8 knows we do not have any type
9 of a halfway house. We have to
10 rely on neighboring counties
11 such as Armstrong County,
12 Venango County for any type of
13 halfway house that they go to.

14 So that's something else
15 we can possibly look for
16 funding for different types of
17 halfway houses.

18 CHAIR:

19 Thank you. Is that it?

20 MR. HORNBERGER:

21 Yes.

22 CHAIR:

23 I appreciate your
24 testimony. We also have with
25 us the Chief Probation Officer

1 for Clarion County who wanted
2 to talk about the drug
3 treatment part of it and then
4 we'll go into the other things.

5

6 MS. SMAIL:

7 My name is Janie Smail.
8 I'm the Director of Probations
9 in Clarion County. In 2007 I
10 was asked to submit a context
11 paper under PCCD's restricted
12 intermediate punishment drug
13 and alcohol monies and that
14 covered strictly level three
15 and four offenders on the
16 sentencing guidelines. We were
17 lucky enough to get that money
18 and October 1st of 2007 we
19 officially started our
20 treatment court. We call it
21 treatment court rather than
22 drug court because we also had
23 DUI offenders in our court.

24 DUI offenders can be
25 entered into the court because

1 they're a mandatory sentence.
2 Level three and four offenders
3 on the sentencing guidelines
4 are people that are going to do
5 some kind of jail. There's no -
6 -- probation is not an option
7 for them. They are going to go
8 either to county or state.

9 With DUIs because
10 they're second involved
11 offenders, because they have a
12 mandatory sentence they are
13 eligible.

14 So I submitted this
15 grant and I was a little
16 concerned, the judge was a
17 little concerned because most
18 drug treatment courts are
19 presided over by a judge in the
20 county. I'm talking of Helene
21 Lacy (phonetic), she had told
22 me that Bradford had a service
23 with judges presiding over
24 theirs.

25 So that's how we decided

1 to go and anyone who's here
2 today presides over the court
3 and does a very good job. So
4 initially, the defendants enter
5 a plea. This is post the
6 sentence and alternative, they
7 go to our probation office and
8 look at --- through the
9 presentence investigation. The
10 probation officer will
11 determine if they're
12 appropriate by the sentencing
13 guidelines.

14 At that point they'll
15 make a recommendation to me and
16 we will forward that on to our
17 drug and alcohol program called
18 County Drug and Alcohol where
19 they would be for an
20 assessment. The assessment
21 will tell me if they're an
22 addict. We also have to draw
23 that line between a user and an
24 addict for the court.

25 At that point we get the

1 approval from Mark Aaron, our
2 district attorney whether he is
3 acceptable to be in it because
4 it is a two year intermediate
5 crunching program. And at the
6 time of sentencing they are
7 sent to that level of care that
8 drug and alcohol determines.
9 And that could be anything from
10 inpatient to intensive
11 outpatient, just regular
12 outpatient and do it like that.

13 And I wanted to note at that
14 point that Clarion County
15 offers outpatient counseling
16 and we do not have any
17 inpatient detox facilities, or
18 anything like that. So we have
19 to contact all outside counties
20 for those services.

21 So at the time of
22 sentencing Judge Arner
23 sentences them to an
24 intermediate crunching sentence
25 normally of two years and they

1 will have their level of care.

2 If it's inpatient,
3 they'll go directly inpatient.
4 If it's outpatient, they are
5 immediately hooked up on our
6 sobriety, which is a home
7 monitoring for at least six
8 months and after that they use
9 SCRAM which is also an alcohol
10 monitoring device.

11 They all do that for at
12 least six months and then after
13 that it's regular intensive
14 supervision. Again, we do that
15 here and I also hired a
16 probation officer. And she
17 sees the individuals at least
18 three times a week for drug
19 testing. They go to counseling
20 and they're required to do at
21 least two AA or NA meetings a
22 week. And they have to report
23 to court at least once a week.

24 As they go through the program
25 they can step down into

1 different phases. We have a
2 few now that come every other
3 week to court.

4 Right now we have 18
5 individuals in court. Nine of
6 them are drug offenders, nine
7 are DUI offenders. I do have
8 to tell you that I originally
9 starting writing the paper, I
10 wasn't a fan. I had my doubts.

11 But seeing these people ---
12 now, since we started a good
13 year, year and two, year and
14 four months. A change in their
15 appearance. It to me is just
16 amazing. You're starting with
17 all 18 people. We have two
18 that are currently in
19 innovation and one I just had
20 on the 5th.

21 All other 15 found jobs.
22 One is actually enrolled at
23 Clarion University. We have
24 another going to be enrolled in
25 the fall semester. And then

1 one who wanted to --- planning
2 on attending Dubois Triangle
3 Tech.

4 They've taken --- they
5 all --- AA and then they work
6 through the program. We tell
7 them at least two to three AA
8 meetings. Some of them take
9 four. Some are taking five.
10 It's amazing. They're a
11 support group for each other.

12 In Clarion County you
13 have very few attending AA
14 meetings so they see each other
15 because they're all going to
16 the same. And if --- they've
17 all got to go on it and they're
18 support for each other. They
19 baby sit each other's kids so
20 they can get to their meetings.

21 They're transporting each
22 other. I don't know if that's
23 good or bad, so far it's been
24 very good.

25 We've had two

1 unsuccessful completions. We
2 have one that's going for
3 inpatient treatment and one
4 who's got new charges that we
5 didn't get dismissed. Heroin
6 and DUI at this point are big
7 issues, prescription drugs in
8 another. We're trying to stay
9 away from that because it's
10 very hard to test.

11 The testing is there
12 which should stay positive.
13 They all had Script Smart. If
14 they're abusing it, they're
15 selling. So we try to stay
16 away from admitting those
17 people into the court if you
18 are using prescription drugs
19 because we can't monitor that
20 at this point.

21 To date we have say
22 5,252 days in jail which totals
23 \$246,844. Those were the
24 success --- people we have seen
25 now. We haven't had a

1 graduation yet. Again, it's a
2 two year program. So I can't
3 say that we're real --- how
4 successful we are. But sitting
5 in court and seeing these
6 people, I'd say we're
7 successful but it's still not -
8 -- this is a voluntary program.
9 They don't have to come in.
10 But so far I think it's a great
11 program.

12 CHAIR:

13 Thank you. Do you have
14 more questions?

15 REPRESENTATIVE PYLE:

16 You had mentioned
17 prescription drugs rather than
18 being on heroin is the drug of
19 choice. From your experience
20 with, you know, dealing with
21 people who are on the script.
22 Are we talking illegal scripts?
23 Are we talking sold scripts?
24 Are we talking they are abusing
25 what is legally prescribed to

1 them?

2 MS. SMAIL:

3 A little of everything.
4 They are abusing what's given
5 to them. They're doctor
6 shopping, they'll have
7 prescriptions of various
8 doctors. They would go out of
9 the county to do that.

10 REPRESENTATIVE PYLE:

11 I know the hospitals are
12 pretty tight in their
13 communication and I was
14 wondering ---

15 MS. SMAIL:

16 That's right.

17 REPRESENTATIVE PYLE:

18 --- if you could reach
19 out to them. I know they'll
20 bounce some in Clarion and go
21 down to Indiana Regional
22 Medical or Armstrong County
23 Memorial or whatnot. Because
24 we have the --- and this is
25 just a question for the --- do

1 we have any kind of
2 communications going back and
3 forth between our hospitals?

4 REPRESENTATIVE HUTCHINSON:

5 Only the federal law
6 enforcement DEA agencies can
7 actually monitor the narcotic
8 prescriptions.

9 REPRESENTATIVE PYLE:

10 Does that ---.

11 MR. CORNISH:

12 Yeah, he answered that.

13 MR. HORNBERGER:

14 Yeah. Yes.

15 CHAIR:

16 He has to go to the
17 hospital. Is that what was
18 your question?

19 ATTORNEY AARON:

20 Typically, --- really we
21 have no visibility of that.
22 Let alone ---.

23 MR. BORNAK:

24 I'm just thinking
25 tremendously that we did

1 somehow find a way to be able
2 to talk to each other. We have
3 done it from ---.

4 ATTORNEY AARON:

5 We can get the
6 pharmacist ---

7 MR. HORNBERGER:

8 That's a great idea. I
9 wouldn't believe it if she did
10 do it with the DA or for as
11 long as she's in the hospitals
12 remember to communicate back
13 and forth. What they're
14 dispensing I'm sure she's
15 fully aware.

16 There's no such
17 limitation in this which we're
18 living prior to this. You
19 know, we're also in the same
20 room here. And ---.

21 CHAIRMAN:

22 And does it in the
23 schools mean ---?

24 MR. BORNAK:

25 Excuse me. I would

1 suggest that that was the
2 extent of policies that HIPAA
3 earned the way. And the story
4 was about what we used to call
5 each other and say hey, I've
6 got Joe.

7 MR. QUINTON:

8 Joe Smith just came down
9 here and got a large Percocet.
10 Be on the lookout. I'll sit up
11 here.

12 CHAIRMAN:

13 Byron, would you come to
14 the microphone so we can hear
15 what you're saying, please?
16 What you say is very important
17 to us. So I'm going to make
18 sure we hear it.

19 MR. QUINTON:

20 There's one complaint in
21 my recommendation. I would
22 suggest that there will be some
23 violations with HIPAA.
24 Possibly and historically
25 having been able to call a

1 local office and say hey, I've
2 got Joe in here. Has he been
3 around you? Because just
4 basically we believe he's just
5 going to show up somewhere and
6 say yes.

7 And so that has been the
8 strain of this strain by legal
9 violation. I mean he had the
10 regulation. Also that may
11 extend to pharmacies I'm not
12 specifically trying to wobble
13 the pharmacies.

14 That I would think that
15 that would be a HIPAA violation
16 because of this personal health
17 information which they will be
18 contained over and over. Thank
19 you.

20 CHAIRMAN:

21 Thank you. I'm sorry.
22 Will you tell me your last
23 name, again?

24 MR. QUINTON:

25 Quinton.

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CHAIRMAN:

Byron. We'll do introductions before we move onto the other treatment programs.

MR. QUINTON:

Let me see those because I really appreciate your honesty, saying that you doubted the program. And most people wouldn't even admit that or most people see something they want to do it so bad.

That's where I stand. So people may say Hey. Tell me what your doubts were? Tell me why you doubted this. Like I said I appreciate that. I mean that's great to hear that. It makes us feel better that things are working good now since you said that.

MS. SMAIL:

Well, what I think works for the program is the

1 courtroom. It is that
2 authority figure up there that
3 they have to stick it to. I've
4 been in probation now for 18
5 years and I'd like to have
6 thought that I was providing
7 these services.

8 I'm offering these
9 people myself and I was under
10 the thought that, you know, if
11 you provided us with enough
12 probation officers, we can do
13 this. We can do the intensive
14 supervision.

15 But case loads are so
16 high in all of the counties. I
17 mean average case load reported
18 by organization. We'll always
19 be ideal at 95. My officers
20 are seeing 150 to 170 people.

21 You know, you can't ---
22 you know, so they're seeing you
23 month to month or seeing you at
24 home at least once a month.
25 It's just impossible to do

1 that. And I --- again, working
2 with these individuals all
3 these years. You got to want
4 to change.

5 And a lot of these
6 people don't see their
7 lifestyle as a problem. They
8 see they got caught. Now, how
9 can I not get caught next time?
10 That's the way their thought
11 process is.

12 And I think that having
13 them come in, in front of a
14 judge makes that difference
15 whereas the probation officer
16 makes what kind of over all
17 observation on this individual.

18 Usually, we're saying
19 somebody passed their test and
20 walk. I won't see them again.
21 And I know when they're coming.

22 I know when I come here. I
23 think that's where we got with
24 it. So that's my theory I had
25 always hoped that they were

1 doing that as a probation
2 officer.

3 And I think they could
4 if we had more attentive
5 probation officers. And I
6 think that would require more
7 officers.

8 MR. QUINTON:

9 Thank you. Thank you.

10 CHAIRMAN:

11 Is there anything else?
12 We will listen to the District
13 Attorney from Armstrong County
14 on down this way.

15 SCOTT ANDREASSI:

16 Thanks to Representative
17 Oberlander for the opportunity
18 to be here today. I want to
19 join Mark and his comments with
20 regard to law enforcement and
21 addiction efforts. The bottom
22 line is those of us in the
23 rural counties are treading
24 water.

25 We're just trying to

1 keep our heads above water
2 sometimes and the same comments
3 you made. I would make in
4 regards to law enforcement.
5 But the bottom line and I said
6 this before and I'll say it
7 again.

8 This is not a problem we
9 can arrest our way out of. We
10 built a new jail in 2003 which
11 tripled our capacity. Three
12 years after we built the jail
13 it was full. And the debris
14 that we had for a few years and
15 in our jail population is back
16 at us once more.

17 The state just termed it
18 exceeding capacity and building
19 a new prison. And the bottom
20 line is they're going to be
21 full too. We can take ten drug
22 dealers off the streets
23 tomorrow and ten more will take
24 their place because the money
25 is there. The demand is there

1 and that's the problem from our
2 perspective.

3 Is how do we address
4 that demand? How do we address
5 that customer base? And law
6 enforcement and intervention
7 are a key part of this offering
8 a solution. But education and
9 treatment and prevention have
10 to be just as important.

11 One thing I would ask
12 this to mean. Can we start
13 with the rural counties? And
14 we're always fighting Allegheny
15 and Philadelphia for dollars
16 constantly. When we apply for
17 grants.

18 When we talk about
19 programs, it's well, why don't
20 you do what they're doing? And
21 why can't you partner with
22 them. The bottom line is folks
23 it's because counties as small
24 as we are can't And we see the
25 same problems they do. That's

1 why education prevention is so
2 important and that's why
3 programs like in our county
4 promising Clarion County is so
5 important.

6 Drug courts in my
7 opinion and I wasn't the
8 biggest fan either when it
9 first came out. But they do
10 work because it holds people
11 accountable. Mark talked about
12 when is too young to start
13 talking about this.

14 I don't think any age is
15 too young to start talking
16 about it. So we started five
17 years ago the reality into a
18 program in our county. And we
19 got a group of community and
20 leaders together and we said
21 what can we do to reach out to
22 our youth?

23 And across the table we
24 all agreed. Let's bring this
25 program in. And when we first

1 started it, we thought this one
2 would be a quarterly program
3 that we would offer. I will
4 tell you since that time and we
5 are celebrating our fifth
6 anniversary.

7 We have had ten months
8 out of every year since the day
9 we started. We get 60 kids and
10 their parents every time we do
11 a tour. We're over 2500 people
12 right now. And I will also
13 tell you that we have not used
14 \$1 of the money. We have not
15 used \$1 of county money to make
16 this program happen.

17 It's been volunteers who
18 give their time because they
19 care about their community. It
20 is community foundations coming
21 forward. it's church groups.
22 It's fire companies. All coming
23 forward and saying what can we
24 do to help?

25 That's the key in my

1 opinion. Is people taking back
2 their communities. When I talk
3 to groups, they tell me drug
4 dealers are like cockroaches
5 because they are. When you turn
6 the light on, what do they do?

7 They run and hide.

8 You turn the light on
9 coke dealers in the
10 communities. They run and
11 hide. It's programs like
12 community block watch programs
13 that you take very little
14 funding. Mark has done this
15 and so have I. We've taken
16 fortune money. We've taken the
17 bad guy's money and used it
18 against them to start these
19 community block watch programs.

20 And the reality towards
21 fact based hardening two and a
22 half hour program where we
23 bring kids into our jail. And
24 we walk them through an arrest.

25 And then you take a death

1 scene, a funeral and then we
2 bring them back together. Then
3 we talk about what they just
4 viewed.

5 And we talk about a
6 death scene. That's what we
7 mean because our EMTs and our
8 hospital personnel come in and
9 give their time. We set up an
10 emergency room and we walked
11 them through right over to us.

12 I remember the very
13 first time we did this. The
14 young man who was volunteering
15 as the person who was going to
16 be overdosed. His mother was
17 part of the Rights group. She
18 was in the audience and she
19 knew what was going to happen.
20 She literally had to leave the
21 room. That's how realistic it
22 was.

23 And she said after that,
24 I had to leave because it felt
25 so real. We bring them into

1 the funeral and we have a local
2 undertaker Donate a casket.
3 And they --- each participant
4 has to walk through and meet
5 the family. The first thing is
6 over there.

7 And then you take them
8 through and show them what can
9 happen to someone who has had a
10 heroin problem. The most hard
11 hitting part of the program is
12 when we all get back together.

13 They get to talk to people who
14 have been addicted to drugs.

15 Who have had drugs
16 destroy their lives and you get
17 to ask these folks questions.
18 And the neat thing about it is
19 it's not people my age. You
20 know, nobody wants to listen to
21 old people like us. They get
22 to talk to people their age and
23 that's what's important.

24 They get the interaction
25 of high school students and

1 they get to see how this is
2 affecting their lives. I want
3 to act on something that I
4 heard earlier and
5 Representative Pyle, you just
6 mentioned.

7 We thought five, six,
8 seven, eight years ago. The
9 next drug of choice would have
10 been methamphetamine. And we
11 started watching very
12 carefully. It's not in our
13 county. The next drug of
14 choice in our county is
15 prescription medication.

16 It has exploded.
17 Whether it's mom and dad's,
18 aunt's and uncle's, grandma's
19 and grandpa's prescription. It
20 doesn't matter they're getting
21 them. They're using them and
22 they're selling them. And that
23 is going to be the next drug of
24 choice. And it's becoming the
25 next drug of choice.

1 And I would beg you.
2 Let's not forget the date rape
3 drugs. I --- part of a case we
4 used the word date rape drugs
5 because it's so overused. If
6 it's beginning drugs. It's
7 tobacco. It's alcohol. It's
8 marijuana. We tend to focus on
9 drugs like heroin and cocaine.

10 Those are the ones we
11 need to get to. Statistically,
12 there is no question that the
13 beginning drugs are what we
14 each use as label drugs. And
15 we as a society and one of the
16 Superintendants mentioned it.
17 We will come to accept alcohol
18 as a drug.

19 When our kids start
20 using tobacco and they start
21 using alcohol at a younger age,
22 they're going to move on in
23 large numbers to more and more
24 and more potent drugs. They're
25 going to use marijuana.

1 They're going to use cocaine.
2 They're going to move to heroin
3 because they're there.

4 We have to start
5 investing in prevention
6 treatment and it's education.
7 Education is not a big thing
8 that I know of. In most
9 communities people want to step
10 forward and volunteer their
11 time because they notice a
12 problem.

13 Between taking
14 leadership from the local level
15 and the state level and say
16 that this is important. It is
17 my opinion right now. It's not
18 given a priority that it needs.

19 If we don't get our 3rd
20 graders or our 4th graders. By
21 the time they get to level
22 three and four programs when
23 we're willing to commit the
24 money to them. It's in many
25 respects too late because we

1 are now spending 10, 20, and 30
2 times the money we would have
3 spent in educating them when
4 they were young.

5 CHAIRMAN:

6 Did you make any
7 questions?

8 MR. CORNISH:

9 What exactly is involved
10 here?

11 MR. BORNAK:

12 You.

13 MR. CORNISH:

14 I just want to be clear
15 on that. All right. I say
16 that to follow up because ---.

17 MR. BORNAK:

18 Ok.

19 CHAIRMAN:

20 Do we have any questions
21 or comments from any of the
22 members?

23 MR. BORNAK:

24 Yeah, I'd like to prove
25 this point and address that

1 Armstrong and Clarion are very,
2 very small. And Indiana is not
3 that far apart. What Scott's
4 been doing in Armstrong is
5 nothing short of remarkable and
6 like --- the Chief of the
7 Kittanning Police Department
8 too.

9 Scott has successfully
10 put together a great team. The
11 partnership is the role. The
12 county broke down as far as the
13 borough and township police
14 task forces, the secret shop
15 and the BTOs. I mean anybody
16 that would take five minutes to
17 listen.

18 And this kind of works
19 into what Aaron brought
20 earlier. How --- what is that
21 the --- what that meant is just
22 we need to access to get this
23 message out from a prevention
24 member?

25 I was just thinking here

1 even my daughter is
2 transitioning from one, being
3 in 6th grade down to the high
4 school next year. I'm
5 terrified. I --- she turned 12
6 yesterday. I'd like to see her
7 make 13.

8 We have to be very
9 aggressive and approach BTOs,
10 the church groups, and the fire
11 halls. All the community
12 activities that people want
13 more officers. You know, it's
14 an easy way to put it. And
15 further along on the team.

16 You know there's an easy
17 way to put it and further more
18 we're all on the team. And I'd
19 be glad to offer services to
20 you and a great team member.

21 But he probably puts his
22 best --- I mean as far as
23 putting the order down in
24 Armstrong County, Bob Bower.
25 Every year Bob shows up right

1 before the proms and he gives a
2 very, very moving talk to the
3 high school seniors which he
4 shows up with seven body bags.

5 And he starts out with a
6 full sized body bag. As he's
7 talking to the kids and telling
8 them don't drink and drive
9 especially not on prom night.
10 He just kind of offhandedly
11 mentions this as the largest
12 body bag necessarily and we all
13 have them.

14 And then he switches
15 down to a medium body bag. And
16 he keeps going for about 15 to
17 20 minutes. Of course at the
18 very end, he pulls up the
19 smallest body bag which is ---
20 if you're not broken hearted by
21 that point, you don't have a
22 heart.

23 I mean --- and this is
24 for an infant and obviously,
25 they're not driving but they

1 could have been in the car.
2 Another message Bob puts out
3 there and then I'm probably
4 going to talk even more.

5 While those kids are
6 under your roof, your job is
7 not to be their friend. Your
8 job is to be their parent.
9 That involves going through
10 their drawers and their cell
11 phones. The whole nine yards.

12 Under your --- you know,
13 I'm quite --- I'm sure we all
14 grew up with a mother or the
15 father or a friend that had
16 mother or father. They gave
17 them all of my rules speech. I
18 didn't know it was a big rite
19 of passage.

20 Then when I bought my
21 house, I brought my dad down.
22 What do you think of that rule,
23 dad? It's my rules here, dad.

24 And that was great. Anyway, I
25 just wanted to comment. Scott,

1 have some folks to join us who
2 are on the team that feel free
3 to come up and announce who you
4 are.

5 MR. TURZON:

6 Good morning.

7 MR. SNYDER:

8 Good morning. I'm
9 Clarion County Commissioner
10 Dave Snyder. I'd like to thank
11 everybody for being here today.
12 It's been very informative.

13 One comment I would like
14 to make that maybe some of you
15 are aware or not aware of is we
16 have Judge Smith in our
17 corrections facility. And
18 Judge Smith, he's a
19 psychiatrist. He's about 100 a
20 pop if you're here to visit to
21 see a psychiatrist.

22 But just if you have
23 insurance believe it or not
24 whether it's welfare, Medicare
25 or whatever before you got

1 there. Once you get admitted
2 into a correctional facilities
3 at least the counties, they'll
4 reimburse you. It's out of the
5 county funds.

6 So part of it is that I
7 would like for you folks to
8 take the initiative to be sure
9 when you see them come off the
10 street that have insurance.
11 They weren't able to use it
12 within the county system.

13 And I think the big deal
14 across the Commonwealth of
15 Pennsylvania they will tell me
16 the same thing. Once they're
17 in our facility, they're ours.
18 They could get clinical help.
19 It doesn't help me if they're
20 on a set of papers. But thank
21 you.

22 CHAIRMAN:

23 Thank you. No, thank
24 you. I'm fine.

25 BEVERLY VORIS:

1 I'm Chief Deputy Beverly
2 Voris from the Clarion County
3 Sheriff's Office and I want to
4 address to you if you want to
5 begin about not having enough
6 law enforcement?

7 On November 28th of the
8 2007 Supreme Court ruled that
9 the sheriffs --- the deputy
10 sheriffs can no longer do
11 investigations. This took away
12 over 2300 trained law
13 enforcement officers off the
14 streets. The highly trained
15 officers can no longer conduct
16 drug investigations. Our
17 officers see it almost on a
18 daily basis that due to the
19 court's decision are unable to
20 follow up on these tips when
21 everyone's counting on these
22 agencies who are also
23 overwhelmed with their own
24 tips. Believe me drugs are
25 everywhere and the more law

1 enforcement officers can work
2 on these problems that
3 are ---.

4 I ask you to consider
5 supporting a bill to reinstate
6 the investigative powers of the
7 sheriffs offices throughout the
8 state of Pennsylvania to help
9 us back --- to help us to get
10 back fighting the war against
11 drugs. Thank you.

12 CHAIRMAN:

13 Do you have an address
14 on that?

15 MS. VORIS:

16 I believe it's out on
17 Townsfield 466.

18 BARBARA CARRIER:

19 I'm Barbara Carrier from
20 the Clarion County Public
21 Defenders Office and I am going
22 to address two representatives.

23 It is past time to bring
24 public defenders under the
25 state unified judicial system

1 umbrella.

2 We are overwhelmed with
3 cases. We are under climated.
4 We are --- we don't even have
5 an office to vote and we don't
6 have enough people, you know,
7 All these other folks ask for
8 more money for the prosecution.

9
10 You can't continue to
11 fund the prosecution like this
12 without helping the defenders
13 out. Help us out. Several
14 years ago the Venango
15 (phonetic) County Public
16 Defenders Office with the ACLU
17 Student in Clarion County
18 because of their case load.

19 And they're under
20 staffed position. Through that
21 lawsuit the ACLU that shows
22 them that in realistic case
23 loads where a public defenders
24 office like Venango Counties
25 was 400 cases.

1 We entered 2009 with
2 more than 400 cases not
3 including the 300 cases that
4 we've already brought brand new
5 in since the year began. So
6 get us under the state unified
7 judicial system to make more
8 safe resources available to us.

9 There is no grant money
10 available to the defense. It's
11 all available to the office. I
12 overcome some feedback. And we
13 need to get some of that coming
14 out of the way.

15 Our county positions
16 limit us to 35 hours a week.
17 Either myself, my coworkers, my
18 public defenders especially
19 ever gets to leave that
20 building without having at
21 least 40 hours in that building
22 every week. 45 permitted so
23 that's my pitch.

24 The representatives have
25 to help us out. We need to get

1 more money for our condition.
2 The second point is that the
3 legislature needs to fix from
4 my perspective. The --- Mr.
5 Aaron mentioned these schools
6 are the answer.

7 Right now the schools
8 are under enhancement for drug
9 offenses is discretionary to
10 the District Attorney alone.
11 The judge's of the Court of
12 Common Pleas have no discretion
13 to apply or not apply to
14 schools of enhancement.

15 The problem with this is
16 the confidential informant and
17 undercover officers are setting
18 up the buys on purpose in the
19 school zones. A Commonwealth
20 sponsored drug dealer is still
21 age appropriate. So if the buy
22 is set up in a school zone by
23 the agent of the Commonwealth.

24 The school zone
25 enhancement should not be

1 allowed to be applied. The
2 purpose of that was to keep
3 drug activity out of the school
4 zones to keep children safe.
5 These school zone deals are
6 being set up at midnight in the
7 middle of the summer when
8 school was not in session. But
9 we're still living here in the
10 plot. This has got to be
11 changed.

12 This should be
13 discretionary to the judge of
14 the Court of Common Pleas not
15 to the District Attorney's
16 Office. And also marijuana
17 laws need to be reviewed.
18 Thousands --- millions of
19 people have used marijuana
20 without going onto harder
21 drugs.

22 Thousand --- millions of
23 people have drunk alcohol
24 without really wanting to
25 become alcoholics. Yeah,

1 because he didn't really try to
2 fight realistically on.
3 Marijuana right now --- our
4 office a couple years ago
5 represented a young woman.

6 That case still keeps me
7 awake at night. She made three
8 sales to an undercover officer
9 who was placed in the following
10 college dormitory And he
11 solicited the drug sales from
12 her. Altogether, she sold this
13 much. Half of a sandwich bag.

14 Two-tenths of one ounce to the
15 undercover officer.

16 She was being offered to
17 plead to two to four years in
18 state prison. When this
19 happened she was a brand new
20 college Freshman. 90 days from
21 high school, six days past her
22 18th birthday and all the
23 Commonwealth would answer
24 because it was the school zone.

25 And it was an undercover

1 officer. It was two to four
2 years in state prison that the
3 11th hour in the case was plead
4 down. She did end up ---
5 ended up doing 20 days in jail
6 and two years --- I think two
7 years less a day for it
8 balances out. And then two
9 additional years in probation.
10 That took almost \$2,000
11 of her money out of circulation
12 in the Commonwealth's
13 businesses because she can't
14 spend it there. She's got to
15 pay probation and her court
16 costs and so forth. It has
17 limited certain employment
18 opportunities as a result,
19 And on and on it goes.
20 Just this past few weeks,
21 undercover officer --- again,
22 placed in college dormitory
23 went up the hall, knocked on
24 the door, this time a young
25 man. The young man opened the

1 door. She said do you got any
2 smoke? He said no, sorry. I
3 don't have it right now.

4 And he went back a week
5 and a half later. The guy
6 decides he is going to buy some
7 smoke and dope. So being, nice
8 guy, they get down the hall.
9 Knock on her door. They say to
10 her we're going to go get some.

11 Can we get some for you too?
12 She said sure. Handed them 30
13 bucks.

14 They're both served with
15 felony possession with intent
16 to delivery marijuana. Again,
17 schools only catch that state
18 wide. This is stupid. This is
19 counter productive. This is
20 just plain damn dumb. And at
21 salvation so I'm not getting
22 with the school zone
23 enhancement.

24 I believe it's
25 discretionary to the judge of

1 the Court of Common Pleas not
2 the District Attorneys Office.
3 And I think you're the one that
4 should be decriminalized not
5 the people, just the criminal.

6
7 If it's under account,
8 it should be reduced to
9 misdemeanor regardless of their
10 circumstances. If it's under an
11 ounce, it should be a summary
12 violation.

13 We're basically
14 overwhelmed --- they have a
15 whole bunch of people on
16 supervision for some years for
17 possession of paraphernalia.
18 Why? You know, fine him and
19 let me go. If it's a second or
20 third offense then put him on
21 probation.

22 The first offense
23 follows to students in
24 particular --- this is counter
25 productive. This is crazy.

1 We've had two people involved
2 in that first drug sweep
3 involving the confidential
4 informant on campus.

5 That confidential
6 informant I have overestimated.

7 Two of those people tried to
8 commit suicide. Scholarships
9 were lost. College limit was
10 lost. These charges were not an
11 option for ---.

12 Not quiet until finals
13 week at the end of the college
14 semester. These children were
15 kicked out of college right
16 before they took their final
17 exams. They're still refunded
18 their tuition money.

19 Their parents won't get
20 any of that back. These are 18
21 year olds. They're not ---
22 sometimes not the brightest.
23 But they're 18. Yeah, they're
24 dumb. They all tell me well,
25 this would have been no big

1 deal where I come from.

2 They're right. It would
3 have been. But in this part of
4 the world it is a big deal. So
5 that's why I think legislature
6 needs to consider us.

7 CHAIRMAN:

8 Thank you. Could you
9 hand me those? Go ahead.

10 TOM CURRY:

11 More along the lines of
12 a comment. I want to thank all
13 of the panel for their
14 testimony. I think the
15 information that you've given
16 us is very helpful and
17 certainly it's been very
18 helpful for us as we're
19 developing a policy in
20 Harrisburg.

21 It's obvious from all
22 who testified who's here ---
23 all the people that are here.
24 You've got a little coordinated
25 effort to try to combat drugs

1 in Clarion County and the
2 surrounding counties.

3 I found it interesting
4 that the District Attorney's
5 comment about there being more
6 game commission officers in
7 Clarion County than drug
8 officers. And I have to say I
9 would support it if they moved
10 or reduced those game
11 commission officers so that we
12 can get some more drug
13 officers.

14 I couldn't let that pass
15 without saying. I come from
16 McKean County. So we have a
17 lot of similarities with
18 Clarion County. And to your
19 comment about giving the
20 sheriff deputies additional -
21 -- reinstate their police
22 powers.

23 Our --- one of our
24 colleagues, Representative Jim
25 Marshall is reintroducing that

1 legislation to do that. And
2 many of us here are cosponsors.

3 I think we can see how
4 important that is in a rural
5 area with a limited number of
6 law enforcement officers.

7 And certainly as long as
8 the sheriff's officers are
9 properly trained there's no
10 reason why that couldn't be a
11 great asset in a rural ---
12 particularly in a rural town.

13 So I think that's
14 something that is very
15 important for us to do. Like I
16 said many of us here are
17 cosponsors of that legislation.

18 One question that I did want
19 to ask and I don't know who to
20 direct this to.

21 But as I was sitting
22 here listening what --- a
23 question stuck out to me as
24 what effect does the university
25 have in the crime problem.

1 We know in the county
2 and you know, is a significant
3 amount of drugs coming into the
4 county because of the
5 university then filtering out
6 into the community or is it -
7 -- is that not the case?

8 CHAIRMAN:

9 No.

10 MR. CURRY:

11 Anytime that you bring
12 6,000 or 7,000 young people
13 between the age of about 18 I'd
14 say 22 or 23 in that large
15 group. People who are into
16 drug use would obviously come
17 with them.

18 It seems a lot of the
19 college students --- their drug
20 use seems to be primarily
21 marijuana. The heroin and the
22 other issues seem to be
23 primarily concentrated with
24 local people. It's not the
25 college students. I would say

1 what I would call a higher
2 level of people that are
3 bringing the drugs into the
4 county in particular the heroin
5 are more --- or tend not to be
6 college related. We've had a
7 few not many.

8 It's sort of two
9 different worlds as far as the
10 drug abuse issues go with the
11 college students and the local
12 communities. And to address
13 some of the comments I don't
14 think anyone's shocked that the
15 public defenders offices agrees
16 with the District Attorney on a
17 lot of the drug issues.

18 I don't think that's
19 news but I mean the school zone
20 mandatories are obviously an
21 important part of drug
22 addiction issues. They are a
23 tool used by all District
24 Attorneys offices. They are
25 approved at the discretion of

1 the District Attorney because
2 our legislature has decided
3 that they wish to receive ---
4 they wish to see some drug
5 taxes.

6 And we have used them.
7 We will continue to use them
8 with individuals who sale drugs
9 within our school communities
10 and we will continue to do
11 something.

12 TOM DUBOVI:

13 As a follow up to the
14 issue about the sheriff's
15 deputies is it still the case
16 where the District Attorney can
17 authorize them to be county
18 detectives to work in the area
19 of drug enforcement?

20 ATTORNEY AARON:

21 And we have done that as
22 far as our C-NET goes. So I
23 have designated that for the
24 purpose of working with Bill at
25 our C-NET Task Force. I have

1 designated them as county
2 detectives. We have not gone to
3 the point of creating those
4 general county detectives with
5 general law enforcement powers
6 in the county.

7 That obviously leads to
8 supervision issues that is
9 essentially creating a police
10 force in the DA's office. I
11 don't know how DA officer feels
12 that it would really be
13 difficult to be able to do what
14 we already have to actually
15 supervise why law enforcement
16 officers are part of the DA's
17 office.

18 I think that would
19 create --- require a great
20 expansion of resources. I
21 think we sent the task. I am
22 limited to working with the
23 drug task force. Thank you
24 very much.

25 SUE GRAHAM:

1 Mr. Aaron said that most
2 of the drug activity on campus
3 is marijuana related which is
4 true. But the one thing that
5 the large college population
6 brings crime wise to us is I
7 estimate probably 60 percent of
8 the alcohol related offenses
9 are committed by college
10 students.

11 They are
12 disproportionately represented
13 in that one category of crime
14 especially. DUIs and other
15 type of offenses we need to
16 help them.

17 CHAIRMAN:

18 If you want to go ahead,
19 sir.

20 MR. CURRY:

21 My name is Tom Curry.
22 First, I'd like to thank the
23 county for allowing me to be
24 here. I'm here as a father of
25 an addict and I feel yes, we

1 need treatment. But we need
2 intervention --- prevention
3 because when my son became a
4 victim.

5 He started off with
6 marijuana. He never intended
7 to become an addict. And I'm
8 sure a lot of these kids are
9 the same way and addiction has
10 no barriers on race, you get
11 all the background, and Social.

12
13 My son was raised in a
14 house he wasn't allowed to use
15 alcohol, tobacco or anything.
16 But it happened. But I've been
17 involved with reality sort of
18 like the Mayor started
19 addressing.

20 I got involved two years
21 ago when I came to Clarion
22 County. The first few times we
23 had very limited participation
24 the first couple of times we
25 did the ER scene. I helped with

1 that. And one girl was there
2 to learn her part.

3 She broke down and cried
4 because she said, you know, she
5 just couldn't do it. I spoke
6 to her later and she said. My
7 best friend is using drugs and
8 I don't want this to happen to
9 her. And every time we come
10 very few people leave there
11 without tears in their eyes
12 because they either have a
13 family member, a friend or a
14 friend's family member that's
15 using drugs. One guy took
16 alcohol whatever it may be.

17 And I'm very fortunate
18 my son is in prison. I have
19 friends and their children
20 died. And people think I'm
21 strange for saying that. But I
22 can go visit my son. I don't
23 have to go to the cemetery.

24 And I think the money
25 that we spend on prevention is

1 very, very important because
2 you know, if you do away with a
3 demand, the supply is going to
4 dry up. And we have brought
5 cleaning to a center.

6 MS. SNYDER:

7 It's known as a heroin
8 convoy. That's heroin.

9 MR. CURRY:

10 Like I said I've been a
11 lifelong member like all the
12 rest of Clarion County. In 15
13 years I never ever thought I'd
14 see heroin pop up. Now, I have
15 it around town and what can I
16 do?

17 I take every opportunity
18 I can, mostly because of the
19 fact that we need to not only
20 help our kids. We can't wait
21 for them to sale very, very
22 long. You know the statistics
23 show one out of five 5th
24 graders have used drugs.

25 The drug of choice?

1 Huffing. Be it paint, the
2 dusters for computer keyboards,
3 anything, gasoline, propane and
4 we need to start at a very
5 early in age. And the parents
6 think the child should not be
7 subject to this lecture.

8 They're the ones that
9 need to be down here. The last
10 reality told me we had the
11 judge mandate juvenile
12 offenders which is great but we
13 limit our reality towards the
14 30 people because this sucks we
15 have to tell them.

16 After 20 seats we wait
17 for the people to find rehab.
18 So you know, we need to do
19 something. Get more people
20 involved. And how do we do
21 that? By getting the word out
22 what is going on. You don't
23 want it to be about newspaper.

24 I'm not trying to tell
25 you don't want the job but

1 there all of a sudden there's a
2 problem. But we can't sweep it
3 under the carpet. It's not
4 going to go away.

5 And it's starting to
6 take another ten minutes and
7 not only is it because of
8 possibly the individuals, the
9 family subjected to terrible
10 strife.

11 And it needs more time
12 and on the fact that we should
13 probably buy newspapers.

14 CHAIRMAN:

15 Thank you, Mr. Curry.
16 And I appreciate you for
17 sharing your story. We still
18 have a couple more members of
19 law enforcement that I'd like
20 to kind of address this
21 mission.

22 MR. DUBOVI:

23 Thank you,
24 Representative Oberlander and
25 members of the Committee. My

1 name is Tom Dubovi. I'm the
2 Deputy of the state police out
3 in Kittanning. And on behalf
4 of Sergeant Wilbur out in
5 Clarion and the state police I
6 thank you for this opportunity
7 to address the Committee with -
8 -- I want to expound on what
9 the gentleman just said about
10 Route 28.

11 And via Aaron mentioned
12 earlier I mean it is our number
13 one court order for truly
14 bringing the drugs up out of
15 Pittsburgh. Many of the people
16 that's stationed out of
17 Kittanning.

18 Many of the people that
19 we are arresting are your
20 citizens coming back from
21 Pittsburgh with their drugs.
22 It possibly could have been
23 people from Brookville,
24 Clarion, Ridgway, Johnsonburg,
25 Punxsutawney all coming up

1 Route 28 with their heroin
2 trying to make their way back
3 up the --- where their daily
4 run.

5 And that's one of the
6 things that amazed me about the
7 runs down Route 28. It's not
8 once a week or twice a week.
9 Some of these people are going
10 everyday. There's people going
11 three and four times a day.
12 It's just amazing that they
13 mildly are consuming heroin in
14 this area in our county also.

15 To contact that Colonel
16 Poloski the Commissioner of the
17 Pennsylvania State Police has
18 continued to program called the
19 SHIELD which stands for and I'm
20 sure there's somebody out there
21 who makes up these acronyms.

22 But it's Trooper's
23 Inauguration Safe Highway
24 Issues through better Law
25 Enforcement Protection. What

1 SHIELD does is train troopers
2 that can get them put away for
3 a week and they were trained as
4 an indicator of drug usage.

5 And that program was a
6 highly successful training of
7 14 members of my station
8 currently trained in that and
9 it has allowed them to see what
10 they were missing before as an
11 indicator to the drug activity
12 when they make a traffic stop
13 for say speeding.

14 Maybe a tail light out
15 or some unsafe lane change. It
16 really boosted our numbers as
17 far as making drug arrests
18 and/or addiction arrests all on
19 the 28 were ---.

20 The other thing that has
21 helped us --- about three years
22 ago we started a drug
23 recreation program where
24 troopers are trained to
25 recognize people under the

1 influence of drugs while
2 they're driving.

3 We had one of the first
4 drug recognition experts in the
5 state as Trooper Ron Coach.
6 And that his expertise has
7 allowed other troopers to learn
8 what they need to look for in a
9 drugged driver.

10 It's a lot different
11 than a DUI driver. You know a
12 lot of times when you've got
13 somebody stopped but you don't
14 smell the alcohol. But there's
15 something else wrong there.

16 And you've got to build
17 the case. You can't just say
18 oh well, this guy looks weary
19 eyed and so. You've got to be
20 able to build a case and take
21 it to the DA. So they --- so
22 we can cross keep this.

23 Trooper Coach has
24 allowed us to be able to do
25 that and there's approximately

1 50 troopers throughout the
2 state now that are available on
3 call. When we get one of these
4 people stopped and they're able
5 to come up and evaluate them.

6 And it has caused our
7 arrest for drug trafficking
8 whereas by 76 percent last
9 year. Our numbers have
10 continued to here in the last
11 three years have been DUI ones
12 overall throughout the state.

13 And I think a lot of
14 that is pointing towards these
15 drug recognition experts who
16 have added another tool to our
17 tool box as to say. I would
18 ask that the members of the
19 legislation to continue to fund
20 those type of programs for us
21 and give us the manpower we
22 need to do the proactive
23 addiction that's been going on
24 28.

25 It's very difficult when

1 you guys are always --- I had
2 some instance in one proactive
3 where it would be a lot of
4 times could use a few more
5 troopers.

6 I ain't against driving.
7 But whatever you can do just to
8 make sure that this funding
9 stays in place for the SHIELD
10 program or the drug recognition
11 experts we will greatly
12 appreciate it.

13 CHAIRMAN:

14 Thank you. Officer?

15 SCOTT BELL:

16 Thank you everyone for
17 having me. My name is Scott
18 Bell. I'm the Police Chief
19 within the borough. Mr. Pyle
20 and myself Representative Pyle
21 which to address of course
22 along with Lieutenant Dubovi
23 has informed us with the
24 problem that we just discussed
25 on the 28.

1 I just want to make a
2 couple comments. I've made
3 some suggestions in the past.
4 One suggestion was that
5 transporting drugs we get to
6 the 28 where working --- it's
7 some kind of legislation that
8 we take when crossing boundary
9 lines?

10 If you transport
11 drugs from Allegheny into
12 Armstrong and Armstrong into
13 Clarion, there should be a
14 mandatory minimum guideline.
15 This is something that's just
16 too full. It may keep the drug
17 dealer in your county where you
18 can keep a closer watch of the
19 activity going on.

20 It will prevent people
21 from coming into your county to
22 work with them. So it's kind
23 of a beautiful thing. The
24 other one I'm also going to
25 explain. And maybe

1 Representative Pyle can refresh
2 you on this.

3 I've got a suggestion
4 about if you dealt drugs out of
5 your house and you had children
6 under the age of 18. Again,
7 there should be a mandatory
8 guideline set called up by
9 that.

10 As far as the education
11 absolutely. There's no better
12 way to get down here. However,
13 in the 22 years I've been doing
14 this I have yet to stop dealing
15 with the same people I have
16 dealt with quite a few years
17 ago.

18 And that's because it's
19 a slap on the wrist. We deal
20 with them for 22 years and
21 they're still doing the same
22 thing. The rules have got to
23 change. There has to be
24 something stiffer.

25 You have to let these

1 people know that this just
2 can't go on and like I have
3 indicated to our new
4 magistrate. We have to hit
5 them in the pockets. That's
6 the only thing they'll
7 understand. You take their
8 livelihood away from them.
9 Then you have a chance.
10 Basically that was it.

11 REPRESENTATIVE PYLE:

12 As Chief says some of
13 what he's referring to is about
14 the last section stipulated if
15 there was an act of drug and/or
16 addiction to minors were
17 present. There were issues as
18 far as additional fines laid on
19 the perpetrator.

20 That was why I did not
21 get the commission To follow up
22 with regard to whatever we
23 found. And then I know
24 Representative Oberlander has
25 already addressed the schedule

1 on today.

2 Just a few comments on
3 everything I've heard thus far.

4 I agree with the DA. We really
5 can't address our way out of
6 this. What it's going to take
7 addiction and I'm going to use
8 the word that everybody seems
9 to be shying away from is
10 parenting.

11 And you've got to catch
12 these people on the ground.
13 You can't let them get one leg
14 up in the air and let us get it
15 started again my friend, Her
16 job is not be your friend.
17 Because we must make sure they
18 come productive citizens and
19 you know I haven't talked for
20 13 years.

21 And that's what I did
22 before. And I'll a share a
23 story with you why I got
24 involved with this. And then I
25 was teaching sports in high

1 school. I had a volunteer
2 group much like Key club only
3 it was called Leo Club, they
4 were like junior lions And
5 every weekend my Leos there
6 were about 110 of them and I
7 would go out and pick out some
8 kind of local project. Whether
9 it was redoing the landscape of
10 the public library or edging
11 the walks in the community park
12 or planting trees along the
13 rails of the trails where we
14 have.

15 These kids would get out
16 there to approach two things.
17 One, they would accumulate
18 enough hours that I would write
19 them a real nice letter to the
20 school or job they wanted to go
21 for.

22 And two, they were for
23 --- they did once surprise me
24 becoming the Nintendo types.
25 Anyway I had one of the kids

1 and he was very, very involved.

2 This was boy was the typical
3 all American. He loved
4 baseball.

5 He played baseball. He
6 would have played year round.
7 If weather would have allowed
8 it but I know every Wednesday
9 regardless of what was going on
10 I was going to see him up at
11 the library because he loved
12 reading to preschool kids.

13 Well, between his junior
14 and senior year. He had hooked
15 up with a girl who messed with
16 heroin. And one night in
17 August they decided they were
18 going to go take a hotel room
19 and she was going to call one
20 of her ex-boyfriends who dabble
21 with this stuff and they went
22 to that hotel room. This is
23 how pure the heroin going
24 around is. We all have this
25 mental picture of an addict

1 huddled over a spoon and candle
2 and shooting it into his veins.

3 That's last decade.

4 The stuff is so pure
5 it's snorted, they drink it
6 much more in the glasses or
7 whatever they're drinking. It
8 comes in a lot of ugly ugly
9 varieties. And when Zack
10 snorted this stuff. And when
11 he went into convulsions, in
12 the Comfort Inn which ironic he
13 is lying in Armstrong County
14 Memorial Hospital.

15 They put him in the
16 bathtub and they let him
17 convulse and die. Five hours
18 they put him in the tub. When
19 the judge called up I mean
20 Scott and everybody else
21 involved. This is a real
22 heartbreaker.

23 Whenever the judge
24 questioned one of the young
25 people that were in the room

1 and they asked why did you not
2 call on the ambulance? They
3 all answered the same thing.
4 We were afraid we would get in
5 trouble.

6 And there's something
7 apparently wrong with that.
8 There's two schools of clause
9 that emerge. One is a good
10 Samaritan clause put forth by
11 Senator Collins. Way out east
12 somewhere. And the other one
13 is let's make a penalty where
14 our police and our DAs are
15 capable of finding these people
16 who are selling known Schedule
17 1 narcotics as identified by
18 the Federal Food and Drug
19 Administration.

20 Let's make the criminals
21 aware of what they're doing
22 than just selling poison. You
23 probably didn't know this but
24 I'm just going to do some state
25 laws. You might walk into any

1 daycare here in Clarion and out
2 of our pocket we pull a
3 brightly painted glass bottle.

4 It was all flowery and
5 sun shining and that bottle
6 contained hemlock or arsenic.
7 And we took the cap off that
8 thing and we set it down into
9 the middle of a bunch of little
10 4 year-olds rolling a ball back
11 and forth. And served it we
12 would not be guilty of what
13 happened next.

14 Because we did not
15 actually take that kid's head
16 and force that hemlock arsenic
17 down their throat. We would be
18 guilty of nothing more than ---
19 .

20 I feel that's wrong. I
21 feel somebody that sells this
22 stuff even though it's poison
23 should be held accountable. We
24 should do mandatory sentencing.
25 Or some horrific monetary

1 fines.

2 One concurrent effect we
3 want people to know so that I
4 never have to hear another
5 judge say they all said they
6 were afraid they would get
7 arrested. I want them to know
8 they will be arrested. They
9 will be incarcerated.

10 Because what they did
11 was as bad as putting that
12 bottle of arsenic in that
13 circle of 4 year-olds and ma'am
14 I'm sorry I have to disagree
15 with you. Most of it starts
16 with marijuana.

17 I have read this stuff.
18 I've been doing this for a long
19 time. And I have no use for it
20 ---. Thank you.

21 CHAIRMAN:

22 Thank you. I've got two
23 more people who would like to
24 comment and then we'll tell you
25 about that then.

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SCOTT BELL:

My name is Scott Bell
and I live in Clarion County.
With the fact you must go home
at night feeling like ---
because you know that daddy
took off. In case he doesn't
come back around the other side
of the window.

What we need --- he was
doing his job. Well, the best
thing to do it can happen. In
this county I've seen a lot of
loss. I'm not a member of the
game commission and like the
other guy said it over here
said that's kind of neat ---
said there's no more games to
inclusive and we did. We also
got a little --- going down the
game commission last. And
we're going to finish that.
Because the parking lot just
had all the placement they can
all go.

1 This gentleman he must
2 really --- he had looked so mad
3 he and do it again. What's
4 wrong with that? You going to
5 take drugs? I hate you. Let's
6 not have one let's head back.

7 And this guy --- that
8 was the guy who needed that. A
9 whole lot of it. I create the
10 law in the County. People are
11 working at it. You still got
12 to be there. People buying and
13 you got to have to --- you got
14 to have drugs coming in. You
15 got to watch these parking lots
16 for the game commission.

17 CHAIRMAN:

18 Thank you, Mr. Bell.

19 SUE GRAHAM:

20 My name is Sue Graham.
21 I lost my son December 20th. I
22 find myself drawn to the world
23 of sorrow now. I tried to find
24 out as much as I can about it
25 that's about my opinion at this

1 meeting. I think it's
2 wonderful.

3 I would like to get the
4 word out. I didn't know the
5 problem was as bad as it was in
6 Oil City until I touched a two
7 pointer. And I have trouble
8 locating ones in Oil City.
9 Allowing them to stay and use
10 drugs.

11 And I just think there
12 is a huge problem. It was the
13 third time my son had done
14 heroin. He did snort it. I
15 found him four days later dead.
16 He'd been there dead. Thank
17 you

18 CHAIRMAN:

19 Thank you, Ms. Graham.
20 I appreciate you sharing your
21 story with us and I just can't
22 imagine. As you've heard time
23 after time today it is not just
24 one person's problem like one
25 issue. We need to follow up

1 together and pull together and
2 I am going to put this out
3 there. I believe the police
4 are strongly involved in that.

5 We've just heard our
6 opinions throughout this
7 organization. And I appreciate
8 your time and your
9 consideration and this will be
10 mended to hang around to meet
11 with you if you want to talk to
12 those people.

13 If you want to just say
14 something to one county or
15 another. I would encourage you
16 do that. We will ask some more
17 questions. Please feel free to
18 stay until the end. Thank you
19 so much.

20 * * * * *

21 MEETING CONCLUDED AT 12:27 P.M.

22 * * * * *

23

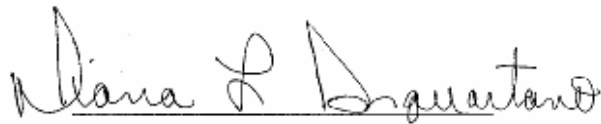
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CERTIFICATE

I hereby certify, as the stenographic reporter, that the foregoing proceedings were taken stenographically by me, and thereafter reduced to typewriting by me or under my direction; and that this transcript is a true and accurate record to the best of my ability.



Court Reporter