APPENDIX A

The State of Maryland

Executive Department

EXECUTIVE ORDER
01.01.2015.12

Heroin and Opioid Emergency Task Force

WHEREAS, Substance abuse is an illness that threatens a person's well-being, productivity, livelihood, and relationships;

WHEREAS, The number of heroin deaths have nearly doubled between 2010 and 2013, and now the number of deaths attributable to heroin and opioids exceeds the number of homicides in the State;

WHEREAS, Many new heroin users began with a dependency on legal prescription opioids, then migrated to illegally obtained opioids including heroin, which is less expensive and often more readily available;

WHEREAS, Heroin and opioid drug abuse constitutes a public health crisis for the citizens of Maryland;

WHEREAS, Drug-related crimes, even when committed by otherwise non-violent persons, harm not only the victims of these crimes but also adds significant costs to the State, counties, and municipalities;

WHEREAS, A large number of occupants entering our detention and correctional facilities are suffering from previously untreated substance abuse disorders;

WHEREAS, This crisis is exacerbated by the trafficking of large quantities of heroin into and throughout our State, which requires increased efforts by law enforcement; and

WHEREAS, The State must take immediate steps to structure our State agencies, laws, and regulations to establish best practices.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, LAWRENCE J. HOGAN, JR., GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF MARYLAND, BY VIRTUE OF THE AUTHORITY VESTED IN ME BY THE CONSTITUTION AND LAWS OF

MARYLAND, HEREBY PROCLAIM THE FOLLOWING EXECUTIVE ORDER, EFFECTIVE IMMEDIATELY:

A. Establishment: There is a Governor's Heroin and Opioid Emergency Task Force (Task Force).

B. Membership.

(1) The Task Force shall consist of the following:

(a) The Lieutenant Governor;

(b) An appointee of the President of the Senate;

(c) An appointee of the Speaker of the House;

(d) An appointee of the Attorney General; and

(e) Seven public members to be appointed by the Governor with a range of experience related to heroin and opioid addiction treatment such as public health, mental health, public safety, and family support services.

(2) Staff members from the Offices of the Governor and Lieutenant Governor, the Governor's Office of Crime Control and Prevention, the Governor's Office of Community Initiatives, and the Office of Problem Solving Courts, will also be regular participants.

(3) Other State agencies, as well as representatives from federal agencies and law enforcement, and their staffs, may be asked to participate at the invitation of the Chair.

C. Duties.

(1) The Task Force shall advise and assist the Governor in establishing a coordinated state-wide and multijurisdictional effort to prevent, treat, and significantly reduce heroin and opioid abuse.

(2) The Task Force shall advise the Governor and the Director of Homeland Security on immediate steps to improve coordination between federal, State, and local law enforcement regarding the trafficking and distribution of heroin and opioids in Maryland.

(3) The Task Force shall submit an interim report no later than six months from the date of this Executive Order on the findings to date relating to the impact of heroin and opioid drug abuse upon public health officials, law enforcement, addiction treatment professionals, families, and other parties.

(4) The Task Force shall submit a final report to the Governor by December 1, 2015 that includes, but is not limited to recommendations for policy, regulations, or legislation to address the following:

(a) Improvement in access to heroin and opioid drug addiction treatment and recovery services across the State, including in our detention and correctional facilities, as well as development of specific metrics to track progress;

(b) Improvement and standardization of the quality of care for heroin and opioid drug addiction treatment and recovery services across the State as well as development of specific metrics to track progress;

(c) Improvement in federal, State, and local law enforcement coordination to address the trafficking and distribution of heroin and opioids throughout the State;

(d) Improvement of coordination between federal, State, county, and municipal agencies to more effectively share public health information and reduce duplicative research and reporting;

(e) Improvement in help available for parents, educators, community groups, and others to prevent youth and adolescent use of heroin and opioids;

(f) Development of alternatives to incarceration for nonviolent offenders whose crimes are driven primarily by their drug addiction; and

(g) Increased public awareness of the heroin and opioid abuse crisis, including ways to remove prejudices associated with persons suffering from substance abuse disorders.

D. Procedures.

(1) The Lieutenant Governor shall chair the Task Force. The Chair shall:

(a) Oversee the implementation of this Executive Order and the work of the Task Force;

(b) Determine the Task Force's agenda; and

(c) Identify additional support as needed.

(2) The Task Force shall convene within 21 days of this Executive Order and meet as frequently as necessary to meet the deadlines established herein.

(3) The Task Force shall conduct regional summits in various parts of the State, including the Eastern Shore, Southern Maryland, Western Maryland, Central Maryland, and the Washington, D.C. Suburbs, to study the impact of heroin and opioid drug abuse in their communities upon public health officials, law enforcement, addiction treatment professionals, families, and other parties.

(4) A majority of the Task Force members shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of any business.

(5) The Task Force may adopt other procedures as necessary to ensure the orderly transaction of business.

GIVEN Under My Hand and the Great Seal of the State of Maryland, in the City of Annapolis, effective this 24th Day of February, 2015.

Lawrence J. Hogan, Jr.
Governor

ATTEST:

John C. Wobensmith
Secretary of State