



**The State of Maryland**  
**Executive Department**

EXECUTIVE ORDER  
01.01.2017.01

Inter-Agency Heroin and Opioid Coordinating Council  
(Amends Executive Order 01.01.2015.13)

- WHEREAS, The State of Maryland faces a heroin and opioid epidemic;
- WHEREAS, Heroin and opioid drug dependency surged in Maryland over the last decade, resulting in a dramatic increase in heroin-related emergency room visits;
- WHEREAS, The rise in the number of heroin and opioid overdose deaths represents an urgent and growing public health threat, cutting across all demographics and geographical settings in Maryland, and also represents a serious threat to the security and economic well-being of the State;
- WHEREAS, Maryland State agencies have different expertise, capabilities, and data that, when shared, can better inform a coordinated, statewide response to the opioid overdose epidemic;
- WHEREAS, Coordinated action among State agencies has made a greater impact in reducing abuse and overdose deaths; and
- WHEREAS, Local collaboration in the sharing of data, expertise, and capabilities, and in the delivery of services, can further reduce abuse and overdose deaths.
- 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 AMEND EXECUTIVE ORDER 01.01.2015.13 AND PROCLAIM THE FOLLOWING EXECUTIVE ORDER, EFFECTIVE IMMEDIATELY:
- A. Establishment. There is a Governor's Inter-Agency Heroin and Opioid Coordinating Council (Council).
  - B. Membership.

(1) The Council is a subcabinet of the Governor and shall consist of the heads of the following State agencies or their designee and such other executive branch agencies as the Governor may designate:

(a) The Department of Health and Mental Hygiene;

(b) The Department of State Police;

(c) The Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services;

(d) The Department of Juvenile Services;

(e) The Institute for Emergency Medical Services Systems; and

(f) The Maryland State Department of Education.

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

(3) Other State agencies may be asked to participate at the invitation of the Chair.

#### C. Duties.

(1) The member State agencies (Agencies) listed in Paragraph B (1) shall seek opportunities to share data with one another and with the Office of the Governor for the purpose of supporting public health and public safety responses to the heroin and opioid epidemic. The Agencies shall share the data in their possession relevant to the epidemic to the maximum extent permitted by law.

(2) The Council shall develop recommendations for policy, regulations, or legislation to facilitate improved sharing of public health and public safety information among State agencies.

(3) The Council shall update the Governor within 45 days of the date of this Executive Order, and biannually

thereafter, on each agency's efforts to address heroin and opioid education, treatment, interdiction, overdose, and recovery.

(4) On behalf of the Council, the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene shall submit an annual report to the Governor and the public in the form of the Inter-Agency Heroin and Opioid Coordination Plan.

**D. Procedures.**

(1) The Secretary of the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene shall chair the Council. The Chair shall:

- (a) Oversee the implementation of this Executive Order and the work of the Council;
- (b) Determine the Council's agenda; and
- (c) Identify additional support as needed.

(2) The Council shall meet on a quarterly basis, or more frequently if the members deem appropriate.

(3) In advance of each meeting of the Council, each of the Agencies shall provide updates to the Chair regarding the agency's efforts to share public safety and public health information relating to the heroin and opioid epidemic.

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

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

**E. OPIOID OPERATIONAL COMMAND CENTER.**

**(1) THERE IS AN OPIOID OPERATIONAL COMMAND CENTER (CENTER) WITHIN THE COUNCIL.**

**(2) THE CENTER SHALL:**

**(A) DEVELOP OPERATIONAL STRATEGIES TO CONTINUE IMPLEMENTING THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE HEROIN AND OPIOID EMERGENCY TASK FORCE AUTHORIZED BY EXECUTIVE ORDER 01.01.2015.12;**


**(B) COLLECT, ANALYZE, AND FACILITATE THE SHARING OF DATA RELEVANT TO THE EPIDEMIC FROM STATE AND LOCAL SOURCES WHILE MAINTAINING THE PRIVACY AND SECURITY OF SENSITIVE PERSONAL INFORMATION;**

**(C) DEVELOP A MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING AMONG STATE AND LOCAL AGENCIES THAT PROVIDES FOR THE SHARING AND COLLECTION OF HEALTH AND PUBLIC SAFETY INFORMATION AND DATA RELATING TO THE HEROIN AND OPIOID EPIDEMIC;**


**(D) ASSIST AND SUPPORT LOCAL AGENCIES IN THE CREATION OF OPIOID INTERVENTION TEAMS THAT WILL SHARE SUCH DATA; AND**

**(E) COORDINATE THE TRAINING OF AND PROVIDE RESOURCES FOR STATE AND LOCAL AGENCIES ADDRESSING THE THREAT TO THE PUBLIC HEALTH, SECURITY, AND ECONOMIC WELL-BEING OF THE STATE.**

GIVEN Under My Hand and the Great Seal of the State of Maryland, in the City of Annapolis, this 24<sup>th</sup> Day of January 2017.

  
Lawrence J. Hogan, Jr.  
Governor

ATTEST:

  
John C. Wobensmith  
Secretary of State

