

Media Release



Colonial Heights Police Department

An Accredited Law Enforcement Agency

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Regional Heroin and Opiate Summit, Act II

There were 1,420 drug-related deaths in Virginia in 2016. Of these deaths, 1,133 were related to opioids; 810 specifically tied to fentanyl and/or heroin use. Drug overdoses have become the number one cause of unnatural deaths in Virginia, surpassing motor vehicle and gun-related deaths, according to the Office of the Chief Medical Examiner.

To continue addressing the problem of heroin addiction in our region, Colonial Heights Public Schools, the City of Colonial Heights and the Colonial Heights Commonwealth Attorney's Office have joined together to host the second Regional Heroin and Opiate Summit on Tuesday, May 2, 2017, at 6:30 p.m., in the Colonial Heights High School auditorium, located at 3600 Conduit Road. Doors will open at 5:30 p.m. for individuals to gather information and talk with professionals in the drug abuse field and those offering alternatives for pain management.

This educational program is free and open to the public and will include experts in the field of heroin and drug abuse. There will be testimonials from recovering addicts and affected family members. Information about treatment programs, including Heroin Addiction Recovery Program (HARP), Chesterfield/Colonial Heights Drug Court, and McShin Foundation will be provided. Members of the public will have an opportunity to ask questions of the panelists, and seek advice from medical and legal professionals, law enforcement, and drug rehabilitation counselors.

Over twenty agencies/organizations will be providing information concerning heroin, drug abuse and recovery from addiction during the networking session beginning at 5:30 p.m. Representatives from the addiction recovery field will include experienced personnel from Chesterfield-Colonial Heights Drug Court, HARP, District 19, McShin Foundation and Regenesys programs. Representatives from Virginia ABC, Virginia Attorney General's Office and Chesterfield SAFE, among others, will be available with educational information. Two chiropractic practitioners will share alternatives to medication for pain management.

Everyone is invited to learn about the nationwide heroin problem—warning signs, effects of heroin and opiates on the human body, and where help is available in our region.