

Commissioners Approve Sheriff's Request to Seek Grant Funding for Prescription Drug Initiative

1-10-2012

The Carteret County Board of Commissioners heard from Sheriff Asa Buck regarding the problems faced by Carteret County due to the prevalence and abuse of prescription medication.

The Board of Commissioners voted to allow the Sheriff to submit a grant application to the North Carolina Governors Crime Commission. The grant would fund the salary for a detective who would be assigned to investigate prescription drug diversion, fraud and related criminal activity. In addition to the law enforcement aspect this detective would also work with the mental health and medical community in an effort to change mindsets and provide education as to the dangers of prescription drugs and also work to reduce instances of over prescribing. Ultimately, all of these efforts are targeted at reducing the number of deaths directly attributable to prescription drug overdose.



Carteret County Statistics

- Over 100 people have died since 2000 from unintentional poisonings
- 2009 ranked #3 in the State for prescribing controlled substances
- Highest controlled substance prescribing rate in all of Eastern North Carolina
- Death Rate (Number of deaths per 100,000 population) is twice the State average.
- Death Rate is three times the Federal “Epidemic” standard defined as Eight deaths per 100,000 population
- Drug related ER visits are more than twice the State average

The Sheriff commended the Board of Commissioners for approving his request saying, “Our County Commissioners have been very supportive of the Sheriff’s Office and our efforts and I appreciate their continued support”.

The Sheriff went on to say that this is just the first step. “Grants are very competitive and there is no guarantee of the grant being awarded. We certainly believe we can demonstrate the need but the final decision rests with the Governors Crime Commission. Whether we get the grant or not this prescription drug initiative will continue to be a major focus of our efforts.”