



# The State of Maryland

## Executive Department

EXECUTIVE ORDER  
01.01.2014.12

### Overdose Prevention Council

- Whereas, Many states across the country, including Maryland, have seen a rising number of deaths caused by alcohol and drug overdoses in recent years;
- Whereas, Most recently, in 2013 a total of 858 drug and alcohol-related intoxication deaths occurred in Maryland, a seven percent increase over the number of deaths in 2012;
- Whereas, Opioids have been involved in the majority of overdose deaths since 2007. Opioids include heroin and prescription opioid drugs such as oxycodone, hydrocodone, hydromorphone, methadone, fentanyl, tramadol, and codeine;
- Whereas, The Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene identified a shift from prescription opioids to heroin among drug overdose deaths in 2012 and 2013. There was an 18% increase in the number of heroin-related deaths between 2012 and 2013, and there has been an 88% increase since 2011;
- Whereas, The rise in the number of 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, One of the Governor's 16 strategic goals is to reduce overdose deaths by 20% by the end of 2015;
- 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; and
- Whereas, Coordinated action among State agencies can make a greater impact in reducing overdose deaths.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, MARTIN O'MALLEY, 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 Overdose Prevention 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; and

(e) The Institute for Emergency Medical Services Systems.

(2) Staff members from the Office of the Governor and from other State agencies, 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 Council shall advise and assist the Governor in establishing a coordinated, statewide effort to reduce the number of fatal and non-fatal unintentional overdoses in the State.

(2) 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 opioid

overdose epidemic. The Agencies shall share the data in their possession relevant to the overdose epidemic to the maximum extent permitted by law.

(3) The Council shall develop recommendations for policy, regulations, or legislation to address the opioid overdose epidemic and facilitate improved sharing of public health and public safety information among State agencies.

(4) The Council shall build on existing efforts and develop a statewide plan to reduce the number of fatal and non-fatal overdoses in the State, with strategic interventions to include:

(a) Sharing information and data on opioid interdiction, addiction, and overdose across State agencies and analyzing the data to detect trends and target prevention efforts;

(b) Expanding access and eliminating barriers to treatment and recovery services for individuals suffering from opioid use disorders;

(c) Exploring ways to offer treatment to individuals who may have experienced a drug overdose; and

(d) Considering opportunities to emphasize treatment over enforcement in appropriate circumstances, particularly as consistent with Maryland's "Good Samaritan Law" as enacted by Chapter 401 of the Acts of the General Assembly of 2014, effective October 1, 2014.

(5) The Department of State Police, the Institute for Emergency Medical Services Systems, and the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene shall work together to train and equip first responders, including law enforcement officers, to administer naloxone to individuals who may have experienced a drug overdose. Within 60 days, the Department of State Police, the Institute for Emergency Medical Services Systems, and the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene shall each submit to the Office of the Governor and the Council that agency's plan for expanding training for naloxone distribution.

(6) The Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services shall review the availability of treatment and recovery services in its facilities and, within 90 days, shall submit to the Office of the Governor and the Council a report and recommendations regarding access to treatment.

(7) In coordination with the Secretary of the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, the Boards of Physicians, Nursing, and Dental Examiners shall consider requiring education among medical professionals on appropriate opioid prescribing and access to addiction treatment services.

(8) On behalf of the Council, the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene shall:

(a) Submit an annual report to the Governor and the public in the form of the Maryland Overdose Prevention Plan, which shall include contributions from each of the Council's member agencies; and

(b) Release quarterly reports to the Governor and the public summarizing and analyzing data on fatal overdoses in the State.

(9) On behalf of the Council, the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene shall launch a public relations campaign, with a special focus on families, to raise awareness of the overdose epidemic.

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 and the Office of the Governor regarding the agency's efforts to reduce the number of overdoses.

(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.

GIVEN Under My Hand and the Great Seal of the State of Maryland, in the City of Annapolis, this 27<sup>th</sup> Day of June, 2014.



Martin O'Malley  
Governor

ATTEST:

  
John P. McDonough  
Secretary of State