

Orange County Heroin Task Force

Law Enforcement Subcommittee Report



Law Enforcement Subcommittee

Subcommittee Co-Chairs:

- Chief John Mina, Orlando Police Department
- Steve Collins, Director, Central Florida HIDTA
- Danny Banks, SAC, Orlando Region, FDLE
- Captain Carlos Espinosa, Orange County Sheriff's Office Narcotics Unit



Participating Agencies/Members:

Florida Department of Law Enforcement,
Orlando Region
Harriet Ford, Reserve Deputy, Orange County
Sheriff's Office
Metropolitan Bureau of Investigation
Ocoee Police Department
Orange County Corrections
Orange County Public Schools
Orange County Sheriff's Office

Agencies:

Orlando Police Department
State Attorney's Office, Ninth
Judicial Circuit
UCF Police Department
US Attorney's Office Middle District
of Florida
US Drug Enforcement Agency, Orlando
Region
Winter Park Police Department

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Objectives:

- 1) Subcommittee agencies, Orange County Sheriff's Office and the Orlando Police Department will work together to conduct joint heroin-related operations and involve other enforcement agencies per jurisdictional boundaries
- 2) Gather information on heroin-related arrests in the community, examine data for trafficking trends and work jointly with the other committees on strategies to share de-identified heroin and prescription opioid data to better direct community resources
- 3) Review training needs with law enforcement agencies on heroin drug-related investigations and prosecution as well as other areas as needed

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Objectives:

- 4) Work with the Central Florida HIDTA Investigative Support Center to provide law enforcement agencies and other parties timely and strategic information regarding heroin-related overdoses, particularly multiple overdoses as well as other data gathered/received by mutual partners
- 5) Work jointly with the Education and Prevention Subcommittee on community engagement and awareness regarding the heroin problem and identify how individuals and organizations can assist law enforcement

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Proposed Recommendation #1:

- **Continue Joint Enforcement Details** with the Orange County Sheriff's Office, the Orlando Police Department and state and federal partners to attack the supply side of the heroin market
- Joint operations conducted during Task Force:
 - **Operation Snow Plow, December 2015 (OCSO, OPD, MBI, FDLE, DEA, Central Florida HIDTA)**
 - 221 Arrests
 - 12 Search Warrants
 - Seized 18 Firearms
 - Recovered 8.5 kilos of Heroin (Kilo of Heroin worth \$60K-\$80K)



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Proposed Recommendation #1:

- Joint operations conducted during Task Force:
 - **Deals on Wheels, January 2016 (DEA , HIDTA Group I)**
 - Distribution of over 2 kilos a month
 - 14 Arrests & 5 Guns
 - Seized street level amounts of heroin, cocaine, marijuana & prescription pills, currency and kilo press
 - **La Compania Heroin Trafficking Operation in February 2016 (DEA, FBI, US Marshal, MBI, OCSO, OPD)**
 - 12 Arrests
 - Drug sales ranged from 5 baggies of heroin for \$100 to 200 bags for \$2K
 - More than 100 grams of heroin sold to law enforcement during investigation

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Proposed Recommendation #1:

- **Continue Joint Enforcement Details** with the Orange County Sheriff's Office, the Orlando Police Department and state and federal partners to attack the supply side of the heroin market
- **Overall Heroin Arrests Since Convening of Task Force:**
 - Orange County Sheriff's Office, Orlando Police Department & MBI
 - 372 Arrests
 - 8.9 Kilograms of Heroin Seized
 - \$712K



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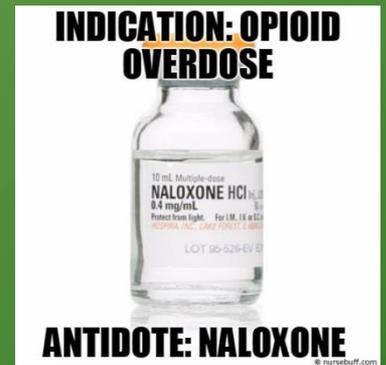
Proposed Recommendation #2 & #4:

- **Increase Bond Amounts for Heroin Trafficking** for 1st Degree Felony and 2nd Degree Felony charges
 - Review of the heroin-related arrests and prosecutions in 2015:
 - **169 arrests for trafficking and 46 cases disposed by State Attorney's Office**
 - Numbers of arrests and cases disposed has increased from 2014
- **Continue to work with the United States Attorney's Office for Middle District of Florida on Title 21 Violations & mandatory sentencing for prosecution of heroin-related trafficking/distribution cases that result in death**

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Proposed Recommendation: #3

- Equip Law Enforcement Agencies with Naloxone should be determined by each individual agency
 - Subcommittee recommends law enforcement agencies work with their local fire department to collect data on emergency response times on overdose calls to assist in the agency's determination to supply officers/deputies with naloxone
 - Orange County Medical Director's Office will assist with training module for law enforcement and supply additional information on two FDA approved naloxone administration devices



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Proposed Recommendation #5:

- **Advocate for State Rescheduling of Fentanyl from Controlled Substance to a Trafficking Charge** due to number of heroin-related arrests and purchases of Fentanyl which can lead to lethal overdoses
 - **Florida State Statute Chapter 893.135 - minimum mandatory sentences for trafficking** include the following drugs:
 - Cannabis, Cocaine, Oxycodone, Hydrocodone, Morphine and Hydromorphone, Amphetamine & Methamphetamine, and Heroin
 - **Subcommittee recommends Fentanyl to be included as trafficking classification equivalent to heroin**



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Proposed Recommendation #6:

- **Continue to Provide Training Opportunities for local, state and federal agencies in the Orlando region as well as community partners on:**
 - Heroin Trends
 - Enforcement Operations
 - Court Programs & Treatment Options
 - Prevention Initiatives
- **Work with Valencia College School of Public Safety to enhance drug-related training for police academy recruits**



Conference on *Heroin: From the Poppy Plant to Recovery* is an example of a successful joint training initiative to tackle this issue from a collaborative perspective

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Proposed Recommendation #7:

- **Continue to Collect Data on Heroin-Related Law Enforcement Arrests** and operations, corrections bookings, FDLE lab admissions, overdose calls, and prosecutions on quarterly basis
- **Track Drug Trafficking Trends and Share Information** with other subcommittees to effectively tackle the problem with resources available & measure progress

