Outstanding QRT, Outreach, and Engagement Initiatives: Law Enforcement-led Team

Fairfield County, Ohio-Project F.O.R.T.

Program Timeline Project FORT became a full-time program in March 2018, however planning Project FORT started in 2016. What started small has grown into an outreach program that is now known throughout the county and throughout the state. The Project FORT team consists of the project Director who is a retired agent from the Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigation, who now has over 36 years of law enforcement experience. The team also has an embedded Peer Recovery Coach. The team also includes one full time Community Paramedic from the Violet Township Fire Department and several full time Paramedics from the City of Lancaster. The team also has treatment providers who can respond and are available in instances where they are deemed necessary for assessment and placement.

One of the keys to the success of Project FORT program has been the collaboration and partnerships with community stakeholders.

Operations, Services Provided: Project FORT (Fairfield County Overdose Response Team) is a collaborative initiative between the South-Central Ohio Major Crimes Unit and community stakeholders to address the substance use disorder issue facing Fairfield County.

- **Individual Outreach Services:** The "Pre-arrest diversion quick response team" model is designed to meet with survivors of an unintentional overdose within 24-48 hours of the event and connect that person to available treatment and recovery resources while providing support for their families or other support systems
- **Family Outreach Services:** They also provide valuable resources to the families of fatal overdoses who must deal with the loss of a loved one who fell victim to an unintentional

overdose. The goal of Project FORT is to reduce the number of unintentional overdoses and to eliminate overdose deaths.

- **Real time information sharing:** HIDTA provides support with ODMaps, which provides real time overdose date to our team. We review that data in real time, which is important on both the outreach side and enforcement side. Project FORT also utilizes CORDATA as our main platform to track our clients. What started as a relatively small pilot project has grown into a data collection system that is paramount to Project FORTS success.