



### **Outstanding QRT, Outreach, and Engagement Initiatives: Large Community**

#### ***Lucas County Ohio, DART***

**Program Timeline** The Lucas County Sheriff's Office Drug Abuse Response Team was founded by retired Sheriff John Tharp in July of 2014. Attorney General DeWine, now Governor DeWine, provided funding to the Lucas County Sheriff's Office to create the Drug Abuse Response Team. The funding also helped with the expansion of detox beds in Lucas County. In 2014, Lucas County only had 18 detox beds available for the entire county. Today, there are over 135 available detox beds in Lucas County.

The Drug Abuse Response Team, D.A.R.T., started out with 2 deputies and 1 sergeant. To date, the Drug Abuse Response Team has engaged over 5,500 individuals in Lucas County. The unit was once a multi-jurisdictional unit with officers working full time and part time from 9 different agencies at its peak. Today, the unit has 1 LCSO lieutenant that oversees the day to day operations, 5 full time LCSO deputy sheriffs, 1 full time community advocate ( Lucas County Sheriff's Office Counselor ), and 1 part time officer from the Mercy Health Police Department.

The Drug Abuse Response Team has developed numerous partnerships throughout Lucas County including the Toledo-Lucas County Health Department, Toledo Fire Department, Lucas County Common Pleas Drug Court, all municipal courts, and every single one of the treatment centers located in the county to name a few.

The Drug Abuse Response Team is a recognized 501c3 non-profit and has a board of directors. The Bureau of Justice Assistance has recognized D.A.R.T. as one of the earliest known first responder diversion program in the United States.

**Operations, Services Provided:** Lucas County DART engages individuals battling addiction through hospital overdoses, court referrals, family referrals, self-referrals, Toledo Fire AMA ( against medical advice ) referrals, and jail referrals. The officers attend local support group meetings, are members of numerous opioid coalitions in Lucas County, and attend numerous community events throughout the year.