



Waukesha County Office of the County Executive

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WAUKESHA COUNTY COMMEMORATES INTERNATIONAL OVERDOSE AWARENESS DAY WITH PROCLAMATION, BUTTERFLY RELEASE

(WAUKESHA, WI) – Waukesha County Executive Paul Farrow proclaimed today Overdose Awareness Day in Waukesha County to raise awareness that the tragedy of overdose death is preventable. The proclamation, made at a news conference this morning, coincides with International Overdose Awareness Day. At the event, 60 butterflies were released to represent the 60 confirmed drug-related deaths in Waukesha County last year.

“The opioid crisis is very real and it affects everyone, which is why I am making fighting this crisis a priority,” said Waukesha County Executive Paul Farrow. “The biggest part of my 2018 budget is dedicated to public safety, which includes a boost to the Sheriff’s Department’s budget, and combines county funds with federal grants to stop the opioid crisis in its tracks.”

53 of Waukesha County’s 60 confirmed drug-related deaths in 2016 are opioid-related. The County is using multiple tactics to fight the opioid crisis, including leveraging newly awarded funds from a State Targeted Response (STR) to the Opioid Crisis grant to increase access to treatment, reduce unmet treatment need, and reduce opioid overdose-related deaths. The STR grant is in addition to Waukesha County’s [participation](#) in the Wisconsin Prescription Drug/Opioid Overdose-Related Deaths Prevention Project (WI-PDO), announced in May.

Prevention and Awareness Vigil Tonight

Tonight, the Harm Reduction Pillar of the Waukesha County Heroin and Other Illicit Drug Task Force will hold a prevention and remembrance event and vigil to further commemorate International Overdose Awareness Day in Waukesha County. More information is available at www.waukeshacounty.gov/overdoseprevention.

About International Overdose Awareness Day

International Overdose Awareness Day is committed to providing a platform to acknowledge the grief felt by families and friends who have lost a loved one to overdose. More information is available at www.overdoseday.com.

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