

Commonwealth of Virginia

Commonwealth's Attorney

Travis D. Bird

Chief Deputy

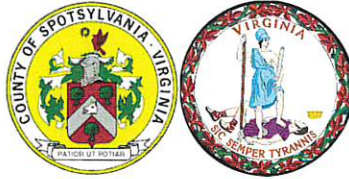
Commonwealth's Attorney

Angela M. O'Connor

Victim/Witness Program

Kathy Settle, Director

540-507-7675



Spotsylvania Commonwealth's Attorney

9111 Courthouse Road

P.O. Box 2629, Spotsylvania, VA 22553

(540) 507-7650 • Fax (540) 582-3291

Deputy Commonwealth's Attorneys

Jeffrey S. Adams

Crystal Montague-Holland

Asst. Commonwealth's Attorneys

Stephanie C. Fitzgerald

Amanda D. Sweeney

G. Ryan Mehaffey

Dircia D. Schubert

J. Allan Budny

Colleen G. Barlow

July 6, 2017

Chairman David Ross
Spotsylvania County Board of Supervisors
Mark Taylor
Spotsylvania County Administrator
9104 Courthouse Road
Spotsylvania, VA 22553

Re: Opioid Epidemic

This letter is directed to the Board and Mr. Taylor to address this Office's response to the opioid epidemic.

Spotsylvania Epidemic by the Numbers

1. According to the Spotsylvania Sheriff's Office, they have responded to 83 Opioid overdoses (resulting in 7 deaths) this calendar year, compared to 81 Opioid overdoses (resulting in 24 deaths) for the last calendar year.
2. According to the Spotsylvania Fire Department, they responded to 219 overdoses in the last fiscal year.

Office of the Commonwealth's Attorney's Response

1. This Office has attempted to take an aggressive approach to the problem in this community. In response to these staggering numbers, this Office requests no less than three active years to serve on a heroin distribution. The previous standard was one year active incarceration.
2. This Office has even held a husband liable for the death of his own wife to whom he gave heroin. He was convicted of Manslaughter, Distribution by Accommodation, and Felony Child Neglect and he received an eleven year active sentence.
3. This Office has also taken a proactive approach to the problem for simple users by limiting Spotsylvania's forty-one spots in the Rappahannock Regional Drug Court to only Opioid and

3. This Office has also taken a proactive approach to the problem for simple users by limiting Spotsylvania's forty-one spots in the Rappahannock Regional Drug Court to only Opioid and Heroin abusers. It is the best local option that the Courts have for Drug Treatment. Those defendants must successfully complete the program or must serve at least an active one year prison sentence regardless of their prior record. (Many defendant's Sentencing Guidelines will reflect a recommendation of Probation with no active time on a simple possession.) I believe the neighboring jurisdictions still allow non-heroin and opioid abusers into the Drug Court Program and require only a minimum six month active sentence if they fail the program. Due to limiting the spots to only opioid abusers to the detriment of other drug users, I felt the need for an enhanced punishment.
4. I also developed a Resource Guide for Addiction Services that the Sheriff's Office and soon the Fire Department will pass out on all overdose calls. This pamphlet contains numerous resources in it for recovery. It is hoped that the user or their family will take advantage of the information contained in the pamphlet. Samples have been delivered to the Board and County Administrators for this meeting.
5. I have participated in several Townhalls, Community Meetings, and Community Events with members of the Sheriff's Office to draw attention to this epidemic and to answer questions related to the subject.
5. This Office also intends to use Forfeiture Funds to purchase Narcan for the local Virginia State Police Troopers. At this time, the Commonwealth does not provide it to the Virginia State Police. I believe that the Virginia State Police should have the same resources as the Spotsylvania deputies to assist subjects who have overdosed and/or to save their own lives in the case of an accidental exposure.
6. Recently, I was asked and have agreed to sit on the newly created Rappahannock Healthy Community Advisory Council that will oversee three teams of community leaders who are addressing the issue in three areas: Prevention, Treatment, and Reduction of Harm. I hope that through this collaborative effort that the region will make progress in combatting this epidemic.

Sheriff Harris, Chief Cullinan, and I are fortunate to have excellent employees who are dedicated and working together to fight this epidemic. We appreciate the County leadership's support and recognition that there is a problem that the community needs to address.

Respectfully,



Travis D. Bird
Commonwealth's Attorney