

Information on Heroin Addiction Prevention – At a Waukesha County Cooperation Meeting on April 28, 2014, District Attorney Brad Schimel and Deputy District Attorney Sue Opper presented information on the heroin problem in Waukesha County. Accidental opiate deaths have tripled and the users are much younger with the average age of 19. The purity of heroin is much higher and more dangerous than it was years ago, and half of the accidental deaths are due to prescription medicines and half heroin use. Illegal use of prescription drugs has been shown to be a gateway to heroin use, due to ready availability of the heroin and low cost. There is a definite link to drug use and violent crimes, robberies, burglaries, prostitution, and human trafficking. The District Attorney's office is proud of the cooperation of EMS and Law Enforcement in working with them in the prosecution of drug users and suppliers. The majority of the suppliers are in Milwaukee. Also schools and service groups are getting involved as they see the need for prevention. If you have questions or would like more information, Sue Opper, Deputy District Attorney, can be contacted at opper.sue@da.wi.gov or 548-7076. Julianne Davan, Waukesha County Executive's Office, gave information on the efforts and successes of Drug Free Communities of Waukesha County, as they partner with Addiction Resource Council and Your Choice to Live, to get information out to parents, teenagers, and the community at large. Studies have shown that alcohol is actually the initial gateway to use of drugs. If a young person has their first drink of alcohol before 16, they are 47% more likely to become an alcoholic. Wisconsin has a slightly lower use than the national average for teens using alcohol illegally but a much higher than the national average of using pharmaceuticals illegally. Recently Drug Free Communities held their fifth drug collection in eight locations around the County, and collected over 6,000 pounds of pills, of which about one-third were controlled substances. Collection of these drugs keeps unused drugs out of the hands of our youth and also prevents improper disposal that pollutes our waterways. For more information about Drug Free Communities, please go to www.waukeshacounty.gov/dfc or contact Julianne Davan, County Executive's office at 548-7902.