

Monthly Messenger from Commissioner Bill Dwyer
*Serving the Cities of Farmington, Farmington Hills, the
Township of Southfield, and the Villages of Beverly Hills,
Bingham Farms, Franklin*



Community:

In Michigan, more people die from drug overdoses than car crashes. For decades, police officers have been on the front lines of the war on drugs. To disrupt an ever-increasing supply chain, police officers often find themselves arresting drug addicts as much, if not more so, than drug dealers and traffickers. Meanwhile, heroin and opioid addiction has become a severe public health concern in the United States, destroying and often ending lives. Opioids are one of the oldest known forms of pain relief in the world and is now regulated by the federal Controlled Substances Act, most opioids are only available by prescription. This has had far reaching consequences to persons obtaining opioid prescriptions for pain relief. Given their close chemical relationship to heroin, abuse of prescription opioids can lead to users transitioning to heroin.

The Michigan State Police (MSP) has partnered with the Police Assisted Addiction and Recovery Initiative (PAARI) to assist individuals who wish to find treatment for dependency and addiction to heroin and prescription opioids. The Police Assisted Addiction and Recovery Initiative (PAARI) is a nonprofit organization whose mission is to support police departments with implementing similar programs that foster a dialogue around the unique opportunity for law enforcement to take direct action against the disease of drug addiction in their communities. The MSP has implemented the nationally renowned Angel Program, aimed at bringing law enforcement, community volunteers and individuals seeking assistance together to reduce dependency with heroin and prescription opioids in Michigan.

People can walk into a MSP post during regular business hours and ask for assistance through the Angel Program without the fear of arrest or investigation. If an individual is accepted into the Angel Program, the individual will be guided through a professional substance abuse assessment and intake process to ensure proper treatment placement. An "Angel" volunteer, who is a member of the local community, will be present to support the individual during the process and to provide transportation to the identified treatment facility.

The MSP now has the Angel Program available at all 30 of its posts in Michigan. The MSP posts are open 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Friday for individuals looking for assistance through the Angel Program. To learn more about the Angel Program please visit http://www.michigan.gov/msp/0,4643,7-123-72297_34040_77095-394452--,00.html.