



KELLER J. BLACKBURN
Athens County Prosecuting Attorney

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

January 4, 2016

From: Keller J. Blackburn, Athens County Prosecuting Attorney

Phone #: 740-592-3208

**PROSECUTOR BLACKBURN DECLARES
COMMUNITY TREATMENT DAY A SUCCESS**

ATHENS, Ohio – On Saturday, January 2, Keller Blackburn, Athens County Prosecutor hosted a Community Treatment and Resource Awareness Event. The primary focus of the event was to provide individuals throughout our region who suffer from heroin and opiate addiction the opportunity to a fresh start and receive treatment options.

Alongside the Athens County Prosecutor's Office, five additional representatives were available to assist individuals with treatment options. Area representatives included Athens County Health Recovery Services (HRS), New Vision (Medical Stabilization Program), Perry Behavioral Health Choices / Stanton Villa – Evolution (Residential Treatment Program), Celebrate Recovery, and A.C.T.S (Alcohol Chemical Treatment Series).

More than 30 individuals took advantage of the Treatment Day resources, and realized the importance of the life changing opportunity. Existing for approximately three months, the Vivitrol initiative offered through Community Justice Division is designed to address the needs of those who are dealing with addiction, which is the leading cause of felonious activity Statewide. Vivitrol is a prescription injectable that blocks opioid receptors in the brain and takes away pleasurable feelings associated with heroin or opiate use.

A recent Centers for Disease Control and Prevention report found that Ohio had the second most drug overdose deaths in the nation in 2014 - the majority of which from heroin- and opiate-related overdoses.

“With the help of our treatment providers and the Vivitrol program, individuals suffering from addiction have a fresh start to look forward to in 2016, said Prosecutor Blackburn. "I was pleased by the turn out from Saturday's event. My staff and I want to help, and I encourage anyone suffering from addiction - or with family members suffering from addiction – who were unable attend the event to contact my office and set up an appointment. One shot of Vivitrol is all it takes to regain clarity and give you a Fresh Start”.

For more information about the programs offered contact the Athens County Prosecutor's Office at 1 South Court Street, Athens, OH, 740-592-3208 or visit www.athenscountyprosecutor.org