



Gov. Kasich Speaks Out Against Ohio Heroin Epidemic

Monday, June 30, 2014

By Chris Vanocur

COLUMBUS -- Monday, in highly personal and religious terms, Governor John Kasich spoke out against Ohio's heroin crisis.

Appearing before the state's top opiate experts, Kasich said the time to save lives is now.

The governor told the Ohio Judicial Symposium on Opiate Addiction, "Look, this is what I believe. If you don't want to believe it, that's up to you. We are all made in the image of God and we were all created for a purpose."

For many in the room, Kasich believes that purpose is to save lives and to keep Ohio kids away from heroin.

As he put it, "What could be better than that? Tell me what could be a better job than being in the position to save lives?"

Article continued here: <http://www.abc6onyourside.com/news/features/top-stories/stories/gov-kasich-speaks-out-against-ohio-heroin-epidemic-32873.shtml#.U7MAFE1OXcs>

THE BLADE
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State officials seek ways to solve heroin addiction

Tuesday, July 1, 2014

By Jim Provance

COLUMBUS — Lucas County Common Pleas Judge Stacy Cook knows the public wants judges to be tough on crime, but on Monday she was among roughly 850 people looking for ways to address a revolving door of drug-addicted offenders beyond prison.

"That truly is what we're trying to balance here," the administrative judge said during a break of the first Ohio Judicial Symposium on Opiate Addiction. "We want to keep our communities safe. We want to follow through with the punishment and restrictions that are due for the offenses but also try to look at what the problem is."

Gov. John Kasich, Attorney General Mike DeWine, and Ohio Supreme Court Chief Justice Maureen O'Connor joined judges, law enforcement, state and local officials, and mental health advocates from 83 counties to brainstorm on how to deal with Ohio's heroin problem.

"When 40 percent of your prison population are people who go into prison for less than a year ... I don't think at the end of the day that they're coming out better than when they went in," Mr. Kasich said.

Article continued here: <http://www.toledoblade.com/Medical/2014/07/01/State-officials-look-for-ways-to-solve-heroin-addiction.html>



Fewer drugs confiscated a good sign, safety director says

Tuesday, July 1, 2014

By Alan Johnson

It's hard to be optimistic about Ohio's opiate crisis, but state Public Safety Director John Born sees progress because the amount of drugs and cash seized are way down this year.

Drug seizures in the first five months dropped in almost every category except marijuana, where the amount taken from traffickers jumped 66 percent, and opiate pills, which were up 2 percent. However, heroin seizures were down 75 percent, powder cocaine was down 69 percent and methamphetamines were down 91 percent, according to patrol statistics.

The fact that the amount of cash seized this year, about \$3.5 million, is \$2 million less than this time last year is further evidence that drug trafficking has declined, he said. Born, former State Highway Patrol superintendent and a 26-year law-enforcement veteran, said the drops don't mean the drug war has been won but are positive because fewer life-robbing drugs are flowing into Ohio.

"The good news is we are having success, and if these numbers hold up for the rest of 2014, many are predicting that overdose deaths will be down for the year. Ohio law enforcement is doing our part," Born said yesterday at the Ohio Judicial Symposium on Opiate Addiction at the Hyatt Regency.

Article continued here:

<http://www.dispatch.com/content/stories/local/2014/06/30/opiate-addiction.html>

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