County of Montgomery

Emergency Medical Overdose Surveillance System

DOJ Grant: 2018-AR-BX-K065 9/30/2018

## Project Abstract

The County of Montgomery was awarded a Department of Justice Grant in 2018 to fund this project.

Montgomery County, Pennsylvania experienced a 40% rise in death rates due to opioid overdoses from 2015 – 2017.  While the opioid addiction and overdose epidemic has affected all of Pennsylvania (PA), it has been particularly devastating in Liberty HIDTA region, which includes Montgomery County. According to the Montgomery County Department of Public Safety, in 2017, there were more than 736 confirmed cases of opioid overdoses in Montgomery County and 245 were fatal. Most agencies involved in the response work from disparate data sources limiting a true picture of the problem at hand.

The Department of Public Safety (DPS) realizes that a robust, data-sharing and monitoring platform is missing from current strategies.  The County of Montgomery proposes to convene
a multi-disciplinary action group (MDAG), supporting the Regional Overdose Task Force, to develop a cloud-based, interdisciplinary data-sharing platform known as the Emergency Medical Overdose Surveillance System (EMODSS), and to engage community partners in the fight by establishing a community stakeholder working group. The Department of Public Safety Intelligence Center will seek to significantly improve the Department's use of intelligence technology, both as an investigative tool and a data-hosting source. The DPS will enter into data-sharing agreements with other County offices as well as external data-sharing partners in order to gain access to more in-depth drug-related incident data.

EMODSS will store public safety and public health information and qualitative data about drug use patterns of non-fatal and fatal overdose victims. The staff funded under this grant will work with all stakeholders to outline specific data sets that DPS will be able to obtain. Data will be used to identify prevention, education, intervention and enforcement strategies that can be implemented throughout the life of the grant and beyond. A complete analysis of the available data will allow the County to identify communities and individuals at greatest risk for drug misuse, abuse and overdose. This will help the County's Opioid Response Task Force to brainstorm, plan and implement data-driven responses.