



September 18, 2015

Dear Wadsworth Community Member,

We are writing this letter to address the heroin/opiate epidemic that has confronted not only our community, but a large portion of our state as well. Over the last month, we have taken part in a number of meetings (some within our city, others within our county) to learn about the impact this epidemic has had on many families and how we as a community can respond in a positive, proactive way. We have listened to professionals from the State of Ohio Attorney General's Office, Medina County Job and Family Services, Medina County Drug Abuse Commission and the Lorain County Alcohol & Drug Abuse Services. We have shared with some of these professionals our current education programs and law enforcement/emergency medical response strategies and we have listened as they provided us advice on how we can further enhance the programming and strategies we currently have in place.

A clear take away from the meetings we attended is that the first step in addressing the issue is to raise awareness within our community. As a result, we will be partnering together to provide regular updates to our community. Our updates will be brief, but informative. Our updates will start with an overview of what we already do in the area of programming and policy. While we recognize that there are ways we can enhance our current practices, we also believe it is important for you to know what is already being done. We will also focus on warning signs of heroin/opiate use, stories of families that have a loved one addicted, ways families can respond if they suspect a loved one is using and local/regional resources to help families in need. Our updates can be found on www.wadsworthcity.com, Wadsworth Police, Utilities and WCTV Facebook Pages, www.wadsworth.k12.oh.us, [Wadsworth City School District Facebook Page](#), the Post Newspaper and through e-mail distribution by the Wadsworth City School District (if you would like to be added to the distribution list, please e-mail shall@wadsworthschools.org).

The heroin/opiate epidemic is a difficult and complex issue but we believe that working together as a community gives us our best chance at success. This is not a problem that one or two organizations can address on their own, our community will need to work closely with each other and be open to the advice of professionals. Our promise to you is that the City of Wadsworth and the Wadsworth City School District will work together to provide you information on this topic and, where possible, we will devote resources to put programs in place and policy into practice that help address the epidemic. We ask that you work with us because together there is no obstacle we can't overcome. If you have any questions or suggestions, please contact us (information below).

Sincerely,

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