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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTACT: Megan Silverstrim, Cumberland County
717.729.7019 - Cell

Cumberland County Launches Community Opiate Overdose Prevention Coalition

Cumberland County, Pennsylvania- Cumberland County is launching a new coalition focused on combating the current epidemic of heroin and prescription opiate drug abuse. The Community Opiate Overdose Prevention Coalition (COOP) consists of various government and community partners with background in criminal justice, emergency services, public health and human services. COOP will work cooperatively towards the following common goals:

- Reduce the number of drug related deaths and drug related crimes in the community
- Educate the community on the dangers of opiate use through tailored programming for target audiences
- Enrich the community with resources to prevent and treat addiction, and promote recovery
- Engage the community by raising awareness of the personal, social, economic and environmental impacts of this epidemic
- Diminish the supply of and the demand for heroin and prescription opiates

Heroin and prescription opiate abuse in Cumberland County has drastically increased in recent years. The Cumberland County Prison has seen the number of offenders requiring detox while incarcerated grow by 73% over two years. Drug overdose deaths have increased in Cumberland County from 2011- 2013, with heroin related overdoses having quadrupled. For more information on COOP go to <http://cumberlandcountycoop.blogspot.com> and join us in the fight against drug overdose on Twitter (@ccpa_net) using #FightODinCC.

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