Jan 10, 2020

Contact Kylie Mason

Phone 850-245-0150

OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL STATE OF FLORIDA

Florida Attorney General's Office News Release

1st SWTFOA Meeting of 2020 Focuses on Advanced Law Enforcement Tactics and Tools



TALLAHASSEE, Fla.—Attorney General Ashley Moody, Chair of the Statewide Task Force on Opioid Abuse, today convened the team's first meeting of the new year. The meeting focused on advanced law enforcement tactics and tools to improve drug interdiction efforts and combat the opioid crisis claiming 15 lives a day in Florida. The group also heard from the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration about enhancing the way local, state and federal law enforcement agencies work in tandem to stop the deadly influx of fentanyl into Florida.

Attorney General Ashley Moody said, "Law enforcement officers are on the front lines of the fight to end the deadly opioid crisis, and we need to make sure Florida is equipped with the latest tools and tactics to stay a step ahead of criminals trafficking fentanyl into our state. Today's meeting was extremely informative to that end and I am excited to see how Florida can adopt and advance some of these innovative strategies to stop opioid abuse and save lives."

Today's meeting at the Seminole County Sheriff's Office marked the fourth meeting of the Statewide Task Force on Opioid Abuse since it's inception. Task Force Members heard from a DEA cybercrimes expert about drug trafficking on the dark web and how Florida can strengthen its cyber border to reduce the influx of fentanyl.

Task Force members also listened to a presentation about effectively prosecuting opioid overdose death cases, sober home enforcement, postal drug interdiction strategies, problem-solving courts and more. Today's meeting is the forth meeting of SWTFOA. The inaugural

meeting of the Task Force in Tallahassee in October can be seen by clicking here. In November, at the second meeting of the Task Force held in Pasco County, Attorney General Moody announced a 10 percent decrease in opioid-related deaths in Florida. The meeting is available for viewing by clicking here. Attorney General Moody convened the Task Force in Miami for the final meeting of 2019 in December. To watch the meeting focused on the recovery process and innovative programs to sustain long-term recovery, click here.

The Task Force is charged with developing a statewide strategy to identify best practices to combat the opioid epidemic through education, law enforcement efforts, treatment, prevention and recovery. The Task Force will then present its findings to Governor Ron DeSantis, Senate President Bill Galvano and House Speaker Jose Oliva.

Governor DeSantis issued an executive order earlier this year creating the Task Force and naming Attorney General Moody chair.

To view the executive order, click here.

Attorney General Moody launched a new statewide resource ahead of the first meeting of the Task Force to help Floridians join in the fight to end the opioid crisis. DoseofRealityFL.com is a one-stop shop of information about opioid addiction and resources for businesses, caregivers, educators, medical professionals, parents, seniors, service members, students, veterans and others.

To visit the site, click here.