



OVERDOSE PREVENTION PROJECT AWARDED MAJOR FEDERAL GRANT

Lexington now has funds for additional weapons to use in the war on opioid abuse thanks to a \$2 million federal grant. The US Dept. for Health & Human Services, through its' Substance Abuse & Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA), recently announced the award for the *First Responders & Community Partners Overdose Prevention Project*.

In 2017, there were 187 fatal overdoses in Fayette County. The goal of the project is to strengthen Lexington's overdose prevention networks, by expanding infrastructure & availability to resources. The grant, to be funded over the next 4 years, will largely be used for:

- Naloxone kits to be distributed through Health Department
- Supplying deputies at the Sheriff's Office with naloxone kits
- Hiring an Overdose Prevention Program Manager
- Outreach efforts to promote the "Good Samaritan Law."

We congratulate and applaud Amy Baker, our Substance Abuse Intervention Program Coordinator, for leading the development of the grant proposal, and for serving as our liaison with local first responders and public safety officials.



Commissioner Ford joins Mayor Jim Gray, Health Commissioner Kraig Humbaugh, Sheriff Kathy Witt and several Councilmembers at the grant announcement on September 25th.

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Chris Ford, *Commissioner*
Department of Social Services



OCTOBER IS
**domestic violence
 awareness month**

Thursday, October 18 is Wear Purple Day!

Purple is the color that has been nationally designated to visually represent domestic violence awareness and support for victims. So put on purple, take a picture, and add it to your social media account using the hashtag #LexStopDV.

UPDATED RESOURCE HANDBOOK NOW AVAILABLE

The Domestic Violence Prevention Board has published an updated resource for survivors of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual violence, and stalking. The new *Survivor’s Handbook*, available in print and online, provides the most current information on legal protections and community resources in Fayette County. If you or someone you care about is a survivor of abuse, there are many people and services in our community to support you.



This resource is currently available in English and will soon be available in Spanish, and can be found at: [A Survivor’s Handbook: A Guide Through Fayette County Courts](https://www.lexingtonky.gov/dvpb), or at <https://www.lexingtonky.gov/dvpb>.

EXPANDED ADVOCACY FOR UNDERSERVED MINORITY VICTIMS

In June 2018, the Department of Social Services hired two new staff members, Dani Rodgers and Buddha Adhikari, to work with the Domestic Violence Prevention Program as resource liaisons. These newly created positions, made possible through a Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) grant from the Kentucky Justice and Public Safety Cabinet, will work to increase access of victim services for underserved populations in Fayette County. Also, the initiative will work to implement Green Dot, the internationally recognized bystander prevention program that has proven to be effective in significantly reducing the likelihood of dating and domestic violence, sexual violence, and stalking. Please join us in welcoming Dani & Buddha!

Domestic Violence Prevention Program

859.258.3803

Stephanie Theakston
Program Coordinator

Dani Rodgers
Program Specialist

Buddha Adhikari
Program Specialist





The PQI Committee invites all DSS staff members to celebrate the upcoming fall season on October 26th. Come by to visit with colleagues and enjoy some treats, in recognition of our programs and services.



INTRODUCING NEW STAFF AND STUDENT INTERNS AT PARTNERS FOR YOUTH

We're excited to welcome Melinda Weathers and Trace Williams to the Partners for Youth staff. Melinda and Trace will serve as Community Partner Coordinators in the Cardinal Valley and Gainesway areas.



Melinda Weathers



Trace Williams



Univ. of Kentucky interns Sarah Pigg & Jasmine Mitchell

OPIOIDS MISUSE RESOURCE & NEEDS ASSESSMENT

The Substance Abuse Intervention Program, in consultation with the University of Kentucky College of Medicine, recently published the *Opioid Misuse Resource and Needs Assessment for Fayette County*.

[Download the 2018 Opioid Needs Assessment](#)



The assessment was designed to:

- characterize impacts on health and behavioral health providers, first responders, and other services
- identify the strengths of the service delivery system in response to the opioid epidemic
- identify unmet needs or barriers to accessing available resources for individuals who misuse opioids.



Domestic Violence Prevention Board will host a Candidates Forum to be held at the Central Library's Farish Theater, with invited candidates for contested judicial and state legislative offices in Fayette County.

This is an opportunity to meet the candidates and hear their ideas on creating safe communities, specifically when it comes to domestic violence, dating violence, sexual violence, stalking, and human trafficking. The forum will be moderated by Jack Pattie of WVLK-590 AM. This event is free and open to the public.

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