

2021 SCAC Awards Program

This application is for:

Barrett Lawrimore Memorial Regional Cooperation Award

Project Title

Operation Significant Impact

County/Counties

Lancaster County

Staff Contact

Eric Brown

Job Title

Captain

E-mail Address

ebrown@lacoso.net

Phone Number

(803) 313-2123

Mailing Address

PO Box 1809
Lancaster, SC, 29721


Please provide a summary of your entry (no more than 100 words) to be used in a handout for the awards competition and included in press releases/publications. You may either type the summary in the text box or upload it as an attachment below.

Operation Significant Impact (OSI) is a project of the Lancaster County Sheriff's Office (LCSO) that is designed to positively impact the county by reducing substance misuse, overdoses, and crime to make Lancaster County a safer and healthier community. Each of the grant programs within OSI work closely together and with other governmental entities in Lancaster as well as community organizations and businesses. The LEAD, First Responder, and BCJI grants work providing harm reduction to individuals experiencing substance use disorder, and working alongside members of our community to reduce crime and improve the environmental design of some of our neighborhoods.

Presentations may include more than one speaker; however, each speaker should be aware that the 10-minute time limit is strictly enforced. Please list the name, title, and e-mail address of each speaker:

Name	Title	Email
Eric Brown	Captain	ebrown@lacoso.net

To submit these attachments online, please upload Microsoft Word or PDF documents below.

 OperationSignificantImpact.BL2021.pdf

Please check boxes for attachments you will submit as part of your application

A concise Project Description to explain the purpose and significance of the entry (up to eight pages). Please follow the prescribed naming convention for your Project Description file.

Any additional materials needed to support your application (up to five pages).

Barrett Lawrimore Memorial Regional Cooperation Award applications must include letters of support from the chief administrative officers for each participating political subdivision.



Lancaster County
Sheriff's Office

Sheriff Barry S. Faile

April 28, 2021

South Carolina Association of Counties
PO Box 8207
Columbia, SC 29202-8207

Dear Awards Committee,

Enclosed you will find the Lancaster County Sheriff's Office submission on behalf of Lancaster County for the Barrett Lawrimore Regional Cooperation Awards. The project Operation Significant Impact is a joint effort of not only the Lancaster County Sheriff's Office, but also the City of Lancaster, along with many other organizations and entities in and around Lancaster. This project consists of three federal grants, LEAD (Law Enforcement Assisted Diversion) funded by the Bureau of Justice, First Responder/COAP funded by SAMHSA (Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration) and the BCJI (Byrne Criminal Justice Innovation) funded by the US Department of Justice. The Significant Impact Team of the Lancaster County Sheriff's Office works to reduce drug use and crime in Lancaster County by working to positively impact substance misuse, conflict and crime. The LCSO works within the community with individuals who are experiencing substance misuse and overdoses as well as working within a distinct section of our county that has a high crime and poverty rate to improve the quality of life for residents.

Please review the following information and we appreciate your consideration for this award and look forward to the presentations and the questions you may have.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Eric Brown".

Captain Eric Brown
Support Services Division
Lancaster County Sheriff's Office



P.O. Box 908 • Lancaster, South Carolina 29721
1520 Pageland Highway • Lancaster, South Carolina 29720
Phone: (803) 283-3388 • Fax: (877)-636-7980
Web address: www.lacoso.net

Benefit/Importance of Project

The Lancaster County Sheriff's Office (LCSO) has a group of three federal grants that make up the project Operation Significant Impact. The LEAD (Law Enforcement Assisted Diversion), the First Responder (COAP- Comprehensive Opioid Abuse Program) and the BCJI (Byrne Criminal Justice Innovation) grants work collaboratively, with other agencies and governments, to address crime and drug misuse in Lancaster County. The county applied for the first of these grants beginning in 2018 after seeing a 146% increase in overdose deaths from 2016-2017 and recognizing something needed to be done to combat the opioid use disorder in Lancaster County. In 2019, two other grants were written and funded to work to reduce significantly overdoses and crime in Lancaster County.

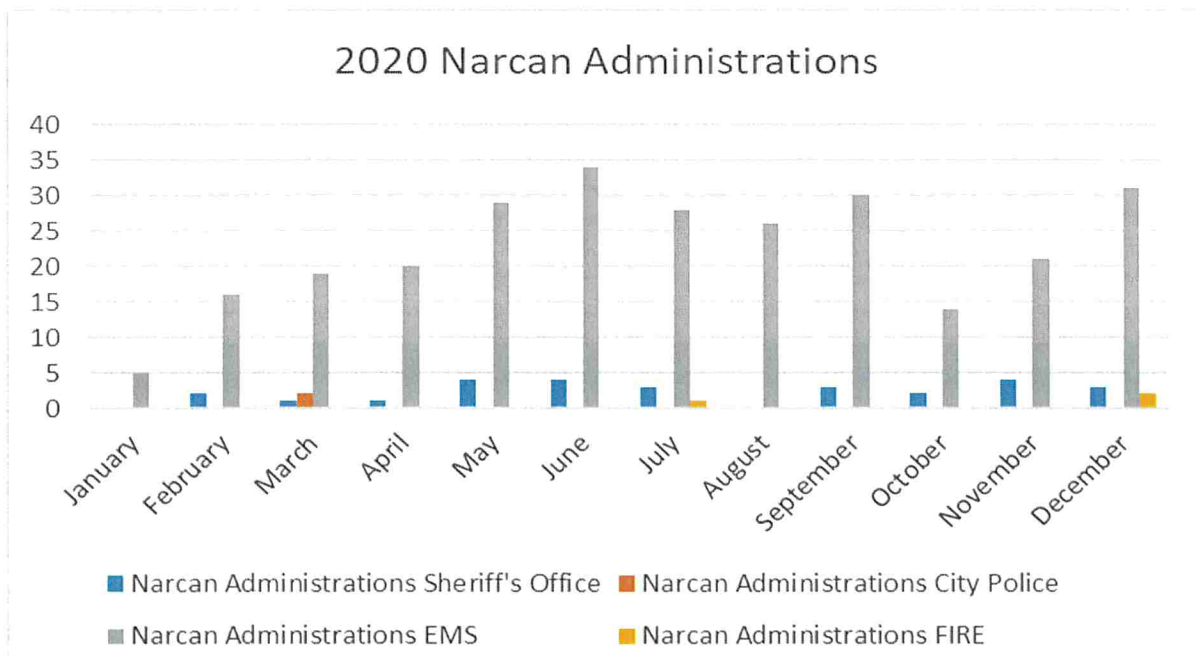
The point of drug misuse is that it affects almost everyone in the county. **There is not a race, gender, age or location that cannot identify personally or through someone they know, with drug misuse.** Sheriff Barry Faile has stated that we can no longer try to arrest our way out of the drug problem in Lancaster County. Drugs in turn influence crime and other areas in the county. By working with individuals with substance use disorder, and attempting to reduce associated crime, the entire county is impacted and can benefit from a healthier, safer county.

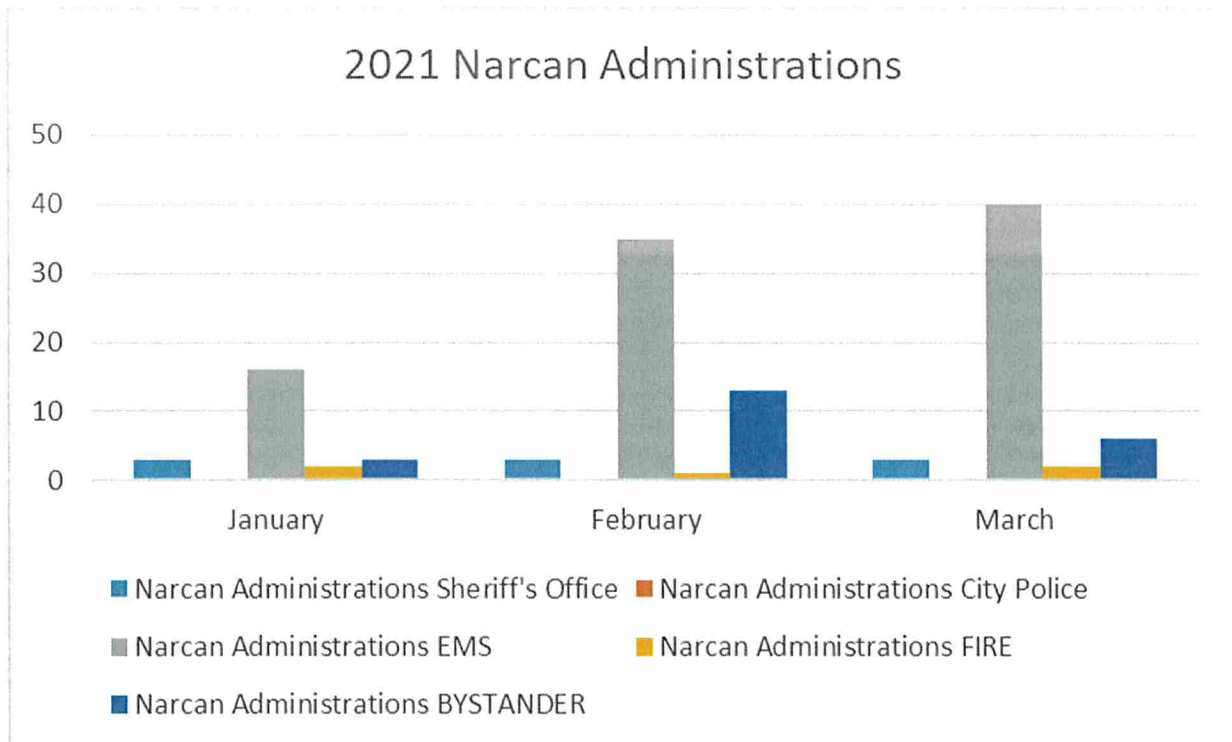
All team members associated with Operation Significant Impact work closely together, as well as with the partners outside the LCSO, supporting one another's programs to reduce substance misuse and crime in our Lancaster County. A brief explanation of each program in the Operation Significant Impact Project:

- The **LEAD** grant based on a national program that is a pre-arrest diversion program, where an officer has the right to divert the charges (pending victim approval if there is a victim) of a low-level criminal offense and place them in the LEAD program. At that point, the deputy assigned to the program makes sure the individual qualifies for the program and is interested. They are then assigned to a case manager, who uses a harm reduction methodology to work with the individual. As long as the case manager completes the LEAD assessment, the charges are not filed on the individual and the case manager continues to follow the individual and their path towards reducing harmful behavior.
- The **First Responder/COAP** grant is designed to reduce overdoses in Lancaster County by having a team of first responders visit (within three days) a person who has experienced an overdose. This team consists of law enforcement, a community paramedic and a case manager. These first responders assist the individual by assessing the person's medical condition, show that law enforcement serves as someone who is supportive to the individual's needs and the case manager completes an assessment. Once a person agrees to be in the program, our case managers using the same harm reduction methodology follow them. Another aspect of this grant is training for first responders (law enforcement, fire, and others) in the usage of NARCAN. NARCAN is a life-saving medication that reverses the effects of an opioid overdose. The Project Coordinator of the grant tracks all reported NARCAN administrations by first responders and bystanders at overdose scenes that are responded to by law enforcement or EMS.
- The **BCJI** grant works in and with the community to identify hot spots in the county, to reduce the crime and violence associated with drug use, and to increase community

safety for the residents. This will include but not limited to working to reduce blighted properties, hosting community forums, and increasing community-policing practicing. LCSO is the only law enforcement agency in the state of South Carolina to be awarded this federal grant.

While these projects are still active, there has been some success. Our First Responder advisory council meets monthly and contains members from various organizations around the county, such as the 6th Circuit Solicitor’s Office, our local alcohol and other drug abuse agency- Counseling Services of Lancaster, EMS, the Lancaster County Coroner’s Office, people in recovery, Lancaster County School District, City of Lancaster Police Department, Lancaster County Probate Office, Lancaster County Mental Health, as well as state-wide organizations of CDC Foundation, and Office of Rural Health. These meetings discuss the project and its progress as well as looks for gaps in services. A sub-group has formed from these meetings relating to the process of orders of detention and involve Probate Court, Counseling Services of Lancaster, Catawba Mental Health, and the Lancaster County Sheriff’s Office. NARCAN and NARCAN use training is provided to the Lancaster County Sheriff’s Office deputies and tracked through the First Responder Grant. NARCAN administrations (from reported overdoses) by City Police, City Fire, Sheriff’s Office and Bystanders are tracked and reported by the First Responder grant. One of the things we are noticing is that bystander administrations of NARCAN is rising due to our local community distributor, Counseling Services of Lancaster, getting more life-saving NARCAN into the homes of people who are subject to overdosing. Below are charts from 2020 and January-March 2021 showing NARCAN administrations.





The case managers through Counseling Services of Lancaster are currently serving over **75 individuals who have experienced an overdose**. They have gotten individuals into shelters, treatment facilities, assisted with getting identification cards, outpatient support groups, medically assisted treatment, etc.

The LEAD program also has had similar successes. They have an Operational Workgroup that meets bi-weekly and discusses cases with the team of people working with the LEAD program. LEAD currently has 25 individuals who are being served in the program. A cost savings analysis that was done shows that a drug case costs Lancaster County approximately \$5,197, a diversion of those charges and service through the LEAD program costs approximately \$1,480 per case; that is a **savings of \$3,717 per case**.

AVERAGE COST SAVINGS PER DRUG CASE USING DIVERSION PROGRAM OF OFFICE OF SHERIFF



“The LEAD program and Counseling Services helped me beat my addiction. It also gave me another shot at life. I’m so thankful for this program.”

-R.P., Client

For the BCJI program, the first year has been a planning year. Information is being plugged into the Risk Terrain Modeling software that will overlay buildings, businesses, abandoned buildings, religious buildings, and crime in certain areas of the county. This gives a picture of how environmental design can influence crime and crime rates. Through this information, the team can assess how the built environment

can change to improve the safety of the neighborhoods. In addition to research, the Operation Significant Impact team has been hosting **Community Outreach Fairs**. These events have had over twenty-five organizations/agencies in our County and given them an opportunity to reach community members to describe the services offered and available to the residents. We have had over 160 individuals attend the events to date. These events are scheduled once a month for the entire year. This past event coincided with the DEA Prescription Drug Take Back Day and at the event, held on a rainy Saturday; just over **73 pounds of unused or expired medications** was collected.

“Thank you for holding this event, it’s nice to find out what types of services are available here. I was able to get a lot of information.”

-Community Member

Project Effort/Difficulty

The Operation Significant Impact projects have been straightforward to implement in Lancaster County. Lancaster County collaborates very well in general within organizations, faith community, businesses, governments, and agencies. All three grants within the project have collaborating partners. Counseling Services of Lancaster works with all three grants, the City of Lancaster Police Department current works with the First Responder Grant, but in future years will also be with the BCJI grant, the Lancaster County School District is involved in all grants, as well as the 6th Circuit Solicitor’s Office. All of the administrative work is done by the Lancaster County Sheriff’s Office, with the exception of some of the evaluation pieces that are done by an outside evaluator. Each grant has a full-time Project Coordinator that is responsible for the administrative pieces of the grants. In addition, each grant also has one full-time LCSO deputy or investigator assigned to each grant. For the First Responder grant, information from EMS and the City of Lancaster Police Department is produced in some cases daily as overdoses occur. At least three times a week, the entire team goes into the community to visit individuals who have experienced an overdose. For BCJI, meetings occur with partners on a regular basis. LEAD and First Responder case managers (from Counseling Services) work with the individuals in the programs and share information with LCSO. Weekly, the case managers work with many agencies and organizations to obtain help and referrals for their clients.

One of the main challenges has been staffing. Law Enforcement staffing is frequently limited, and the City of Lancaster Police Department had a difficult time staffing the grant position in the beginning of the program, but did resolve that issue. As with all projects this past year, COVID-19 took a toll on the programs. Drug use was on the rise and with communities shut down; it was problematic to see clients. Many visits were conducted over the phone, or online, if the clients had those capabilities. If they did not, one of the collaborative ways we solved that issue was getting old phones through another agency, and activating the phones to allow clients to borrow phones to speak with their case managers, and counselors as needed.

Lancaster County Government has been supportive of the project. They have picked up parts of funding to allow the LCSO to use grant funds to enhance the LEAD program. With several county agencies taking part in some aspect of these programs, Lancaster County has encouraged and supported the programs and their efforts. Our County Administrator, Steve Willis, has sent information to the team on statistics, and opportunities that are available. All funding comes from the federal grants, with the above mention exception; the county does track all financial transactions and handles all financial

reporting on the federal grants. As stated before, frequently Lancaster County Council will vote to include in their budget funding that was previously part of a grant position making **Lancaster County financially responsible for the position.**

Lancaster County is a very collaborative area; with organizations, government, businesses, and faith communities working together in meaningful activities to create collaborative partnerships. The Operation Significant Impact team works with many different partners including, but not limited to the following organizations:

NAME	AREAS of SERVICE	PROGRAM
City of Lancaster	City Police Officer attends COAP runs 3 times per week, provide information regarding overdoses, attend meetings and events, assist with information relating to BCJI grant	LEAD Grant First Responder Grant BCJI Grant
Counseling Services of Lancaster	Providing Case Managers to work with clients, assist with media and marketing	LEAD Grant First Responder Grant BCJI Grant
Faith Community	Attend events, provide neighborhood watch information	BCJI Grant
HOPE in Lancaster	Provide Food Boxes to clients, we assist as volunteers	LEAD Grant First Responder Grant BCJI Grant
Keystone Substance Abuse Services	Contract to serve Lancaster County Residents in detox treatment	LEAD Grant
LACH (Lancaster Area Coalition for Homeless)	Work with homeless clients to obtain food and shelter, attend events, we assist as volunteers	LEAD Grant First Responder Grant BCJI Grant
Lancaster County Coroner's Office	Lead Overdose Fatality Review meetings, provide information on ODMAP (overdose mapping software) on all fatal overdoses	First Responder Grant
Lancaster County EMS	Participates in COAP runs after overdoses, participates in events	First Responder Grant
Lancaster County School District	Provide media and marketing assistance, evaluation and support	LEAD Grant First Responder Grant BCJI Grant
Various Lancaster County Businesses	Promote and participate in events, agree to allow charges to be diverted for individuals to be admitted to the LEAD program	LEAD Grant

Due to the fact that Lancaster is a collaborative community, little to no challenges are faced any time there is a chance for partnership. One of the issues has been staffing, especially during COVID-19 quarantine. Meetings were moved online, and that took some adjustment, but in some ways has made it simpler for some people to participate, and has allowed others from outside our county to join.

Overdoses, the opioid epidemic, and crime are unfortunately not issues that are going away. There are still more goals to achieve. LCSO would like to see the **overdose rate reduce**. Even if fatal overdoses would reduce, that would be very significant. For the area in which the BCJI Grant focuses, a **reduction in crime, and an improved environmental design** would be impactful. There is certainly more work that needs to and will take place in Lancaster County. A challenge has been doing a year-to-year comparative of numbers for drug misuse since the pandemic. As we move further into our research, we will need to look at counties with a similar make-up to see how we compare to their overdose numbers. We know that our numbers of both fatal and non-fatal overdoses were up in 2020 from 2019, but we will look towards doing a comparison with like counties.

Project Originality/Innovation

The mission statement of the LCSO is “to provide efficient, innovative and professional law enforcement services tailored to the needs of individual communities to improve their quality of life and keep them safe.” Innovation is one of the things that drives the LCSO to seek out projects and programs that enhance the services we provide. The LEAD grant is **the first and only LEAD program in the state of South Carolina**. Many areas around our state have contacted us and we have provided informational sessions, or meetings they have attended to find out about our programs. The First Responder Grant works with so many organizations and entities that the program has grown from what we imagined to **impacting policy change** with other organizations such as Probate Court and Counseling Services. While it might not be the only program of its kind in the state, we have served as an example for several other areas. We believe that because of Sheriff Barry Faile’s commitment to doing whatever it takes to affect positively the lives of our citizens, he inspires the officers who work for him to do the same, and that in turn makes each program special and successful.

These programs use a **harm reduction methodology** to work with clients. Harm reduction is the process of a worker working with a client to build trust and relationships to encourage them to reduce behaviors that are harmful to themselves and others. This methodology is a different approach to that of traditional law enforcement and alcohol and other drug abuse prevention/treatment methods. The members of our team work closely with the client to build trust and to determine and manage their needs. For example, does a client want a job? Then how do they get one, what items of proof of identification do they need, and how do they get it. Our team works with the client to make sure they have the needed documents, or if they do not, they help them get the documents. Our team members have knowledge of what types of work is available to our clients (individuals with and without a criminal history, and history of substance misuse) and will assist in getting the clients hired. Some of our clients have charges pending or issues with past legal problems, and our team works with those issues as well. All of this is done without pushing formal alcohol and other drug treatment, because studies have shown that success comes from the individual making the decision and seeing for their self that their life will be improved by reducing and/or eliminating their substance misuse. When that time comes, our team is there to help the client find an appropriate treatment plan and/or facility.

While Sheriff Faile leads the charge, our Significant Impact team members work cohesively together while implementing this project. We each recognize our strengths and weaknesses and make sure that we support one another with all aspects of the project. We listen to each other’s ideas and build upon them. We work daily with the mindset of making Lancaster County the best place it can be by combating substance misuse, and reducing crime while improving our communities. For law

enforcement, it is not always easy to approach these areas in ways other than arrest, but Sheriff Faile has stated that we cannot arrest our way out of these issues. We now approach these issues with the community and people first- to reach out and offer help and assistance instead of leading with punitive consequences. This has been a directive and commitment by the Sheriff, and he has stated the importance to the officers who work in the department. It is a mind and policy switch for many in law enforcement, but the results make the work worthwhile. When your leader leads, it is easy to follow.

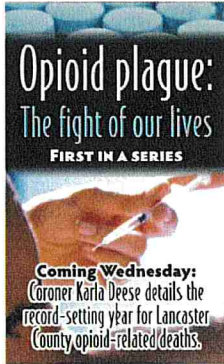
Lancaster County's biweekly newspaper

The Lancaster News

www.thelancasternews.com

JANUARY 11-12, 2020

75 CENTS



County gets \$2.2M for opioid battle

Federal grants — the only ones coming to S.C. — aimed at cutting overdoses 20%

Kayla Vaughn

kvaughn@thelancasternews.com

After its worst year for opioid-related deaths, Lancaster County has received \$2.2 million in federal grants that it will use to steer addicts into treatment and away from crime and the morgue.

Lancaster is the only S.C.

county to get this funding. It will add staff at the sheriff's office, EMS, Counseling Services and the Lancaster Police Department, creating a program to seek out addicts and push them toward the substance-abuse counseling and medical care they need.

"Our goal is to attack this thing from both ends," said

Lancaster County Sheriff Barry Faile. "We certainly want to be aggressive when it comes to enforcement, but we really want to solve the problem.

"When we lock people up for shoplifting and it's a repeat offender, they can go through the same process week after week. We want to address the problem and reduce crime by get-

ting them the help that they need."

As part of the new LEAD program, which stands for Law Enforcement Assisted Diversion, the sheriff's office has hired a project manager, a project coordinator and a field agent, and the police department is making plans to staff

See **OPIOIDS I** Page 10A

Page 10A | January 11-12, 2020 • www.thelancasternews.com • The Lancaster News

Opioids

>>FROM 1A

up for the effort. EMS is hiring a paramedic.

"The ultimate goal is to reduce overdoses in the county by at least 20 percent," Faile said.

The grant money will fund all of the county's new efforts this year, and then officials can reapply for the grants after that.

After a one-year dropoff in 2018, the county recorded its highest number of opioid-related deaths ever last year. At least 30 deaths are included in the official count, according to Coroner Karla Deese, and two end-of-year cases that are still being investigated might affect that total.

The LEAD program started in Seattle in 2011, as the first pre-booking diversion program of its kind in the nation. In the program, addicts go through treatment and counseling and are monitored by law enforcement.

Faile said about 95 percent of the jail population in Lancaster

County are there because of mental health or substance abuse issues. The only people eligible for the LEAD program are those with misdemeanor crimes. No violent offenders will qualify, he said.

LEAD won't work for everyone because the addict has to ask for or agree to get help, but there are already 11 in the program. Many of those 11 were social referrals, Faile said. The referrals were usually submitted to deputies by family members or friends of the addicts.

Sheriff's Capt. Eric Brown said Lancaster has a dire need for the program.

There was a 9 percent increase in the county's drug arrests in 2019. And the drugs seized are far more deadly than before.

Thirty percent of all heroin seizures last year actually involved a mixture of heroin and fentanyl, and 54 percent were pure fentanyl.

Fentanyl is a powerful synthetic opioid, similar to morphine but 50 to 100 times stronger. It is prescribed by doctors or made and used illegally.

Another worrisome factor is that suspects arrested in these cases are getting younger, Faile said. That is one reason for a partnership with the school district, allowing the sheriff's office to broadcast segments on LearnTV.

Brown said one question he gets about the new program is, "Why haven't you done this before?"

"If people ask where they need to go for help, we often didn't have an answer," Brown said. "It's easy to say Rebound is right down the road, but Rebound takes insurance patients and not everyone has insurance. We're not always plugged into that network.

"This allows that officer right there in that moment to say, let me get you some help and get a case manager here."

The grants also opened up a partnership with Keystone Substance Abuse Services in York County. Keystone provides immediate beds for some critical patients the sheriff's office encounters, Brown said.

Officers will not only have the opportunity to reach those they are arresting, but also

those who have overdosed.

"Part of the grant requires us to visit these folks who have overdosed within three days and try to get them into some form of treatment if they haven't already," Brown said.

Lancaster County EMS used a similar program during the first half of 2019 that seemed to make a dent in the number of opioid overdoses.

Lancaster County paramedics, along with the sheriff's office and a mental health professional, took to the streets to get people into treatment for addiction through a \$100,000 Community Outreach by Paramedic Education (COPE) grant last year, which ran out of funding in June.

The group spent about 10 hours each week going door to door in areas where Narcan was being administered frequently. Narcan is the brand name of naloxone, a drug that can block the effects of opioids, essentially reversing an overdose, and costs taxpayers about \$37 a dose. One of the grants allows for the purchase and replacement of Narcan for first responders.

"When we first started the COPE program, we saw the numbers go down," EMS Director Clay Catoe said. "We saw a big increase after it stopped. We're hoping we can turn those tables again and lower overdoses in the county."

The new LEAD program grants allowed EMS to hire a paramedic who will continue the work from the COPE program, but at 40 hours a week.

"That means more home visits and being more proactive," Catoe said.

Lancaster Police Department is moving forward with the steps it has to take to hire or promote an officer to work with the program as well.

"It's not uncommon for us to see the same person overdosing in a week," Police Chief Scott Grant said. "Our ability to impact this after it happens is limited to a few outcomes.

"To be able to get in front of it or even be able to go back to that person later on is promising. I hope that this will be greatly successful for Lancaster."

Follow Kayla Vaughn on Twitter @kaybvaughn or contact her at (803) 416-8416.

CN2 Video:

<https://www.cn2.com/as-drug-arrests-increase-in-lancaster-county-authorities-are-trying-to-help-addicts-beat-addiction/>

Sheriff's office using federal grant to connect with our communities

Want to know what is on the walls of the Lancaster County Sheriff's Office? What we are reminded of when we do our work? What we talk about in our interviews?

It's our mission statement: We exist to provide efficient, innovative, and professional law enforcement services tailored to the needs of individual communities to improve their quality of life and keep them safe.

We live this statement in many ways but especially through our newest innovative initiative – the Community Based Crime Reduction (CBCR) Program. Part of our Operation Significant Impact Team, this federal grant focuses on reducing crime within the communities selected and monitoring issues that arise in these communities.

One of the main ways we can have an impact is getting into our communities, by meeting and making connections with resi-

Guest column



Barry Faile has been Lancaster County's sheriff since 2009.

dents, and also by sharing resources we are aware of with the community.

Our Significant Impact Team has planned Community Outreach Fairs throughout our county. Our first event will be held 10 a.m.-1 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 27, at the old Piggly Wiggly parking lot on Great Falls Highway.

Other events in the next several months will be held at Kingdom Embassy of Lancaster, Blackmon Park, Wylie Street Park and Springdale Recreation Center. We thank the business owners, Lancaster County, the City of Lancast-

er, and the faith community who are all graciously allowing us to use their facilities to help serve you, our residents.

At these events, we will have various community resources and organizations there for you to meet and learn more about. In accordance with CDC guidelines, all people representing organizations will be wearing masks, and all attendees are encouraged to wear masks.

Come out and learn more about the work we do at the sheriff's office, meet other people in your community, and find out about some resources that are available to you. We will be highlighting our newly designed Community Response Team trailer that will be going to events and communities to assist our Operation Significant Impact Team's work.

Please join us and help us fulfill our mission of improving your quality of life and keeping you safe.

COAP Comprehensive Opioid Abuse Program First Responder Grant

We understand this is a difficult time and we want you to know that we are here to help. The Lancaster County Sheriff's Office is the recipient of a grant that provides a home visit after an overdose. This is done by a Community Response Team of law enforcement, a paramedic and a case manager to link you to the help and services you might need.

This team of first responders will visit you in a few days to assess how you are doing medically, and talk with you about ways we can help.



Q & A

What do you do when you visit someone after an overdose?

Our Community Response Team visits and provides a free health assessment. Answering some medical concerns you may have, we will discuss options and services that are available, as well as will begin to set goals the person would like to accomplish.

Do you just go out once? What if the person isn't home or doesn't want to talk then?

Our Community Response Team goes multiple times to be able to reach the person who might need assistance. Once a person decides to sign up for the program, he/she is followed by the case manager, and checked on by the rest of the members of the team.

ABOUT COAP

COAP (Comprehensive Opioid Abuse Program) monitors overdoses in our county, making visits to individuals after an overdose and providing needed supplies and trainings to first responders. Our Community Response Team (consisting of law enforcement, a community paramedic, and a case manager) visits individuals after an overdose and helps to bridge the individuals to services with other community organizations. These organizations then use harm-reduction methods to reduce the behaviors that led to the overdose.

COAP provides life-saving Naloxone to First Responders and training on how to administer Naloxone. It also provides training on how to avoid exposure to harmful drugs. Employees of the Sheriff's Office work with partners around the county help to ensure that our First Responders are prepared and ready to assist individuals who have experienced an overdose.

COAP is funded by SAMHSA (Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration). The Lancaster County Sheriff's Office administers the grant and works with other first responders and local community service providers. If there are questions about the program, please contact the Sheriff's Office.

THE PROCESS



After notification of an overdose within the county, the Community Response Team made up of law enforcement, a community paramedic, and a case manager try to make face to face contact with the person who overdosed within three days.




At the visit, the Community Response Team will discuss services that could possibly help the individual and hopefully sign the individual up for case management services. The paramedic will provide a medical evaluation and discuss with the person medical concerns he/she might have.



After signing up for services, a case manager will follow up with the person, checking in on how he/she is doing, making referrals on any goals that they have established, and assist him/her in getting services they may need. The community paramedic can follow up if needed.

LEAD BACKGROUND

In 2011, in an attempt to move away from the War on Drugs paradigm, LEAD- a new harm-reduction oriented process for responding to low-level offenses such as drug possession, sales, and prostitution - was developed and launched in Seattle, WA. LEAD was the result of an unprecedented collaboration between police, prosecutors, civil rights advocates, public defenders, political leaders, mental health and drug treatment providers, housing providers and other service agencies, and business and neighborhood leaders working together to find new ways to solve problems for individuals who frequently cycle in and out of the criminal justice system under the familiar approach that relies on arrest, prosecution, and incarceration. In 2019 Lancaster became the first county in South Carolina to implement the LEAD program.

 LEAD is an opportunity for the Sheriff's Office to help bridge people to services that are available in the community while decreasing their interactions in the criminal justice system. ”

Sheriff Barry Faile

This project was supported by Award No. 2018-AR-EX-K053 awarded by the Bureau of Justice Assistance, Department of Justice

Operation Significant Impact



LEAD

LAW ENFORCEMENT
ASSISTED DIVERSION

GENERAL INFORMATION

Community Partners:

- Lancaster County Sheriff's Office
- Counseling Services of Lancaster
- City of Lancaster Police Department
- Coalition for Healthy Youth
- Keystone Substance Abuse Services
- Rebound Behavioral Health
- Various Recovery Organizations and Programs

CONTACT US

Lancaster County Sheriff's Office
1520 Pageland Hwy Lancaster, SC 29720
803-283-3388
<https://www.lacoso.net>

Initiative of
Lancaster County
Sheriff's Office



ABOUT LEAD®

The LEAD (Law Enforcement Assisted Diversion) program reduces the number of adults in the criminal justice system by diverting low-level offenses (pre-arrest) and bridging them into services with other community organizations. These organizations then use harm-reduction methods to reduce the behaviors that led to their criminal offenses.

INELIGIBILITY

- Under age 18.
- Non-Lancaster County resident.
- History of violent crime in past 5 years.
- Appearance of exploitation of minor.
- Conviction of criminal sexual conduct of any kind, murder or attempted murder, arson, assault and battery high and aggravated nature, domestic violence high and aggravated nature.
- On probation, parole, or in drug court.
- Registered sex offender.

LEAD GOALS

Reorient government's response to safety, disorder, health-related and social problems.

Improve public safety and public health through researched-based, health-oriented harm-reduction techniques and interventions.

Reduce the number of people entering the criminal justice system for low level offenses.

Strengthen the relationship between law enforcement and the community.

Q & A

Does someone have to have an arrest diversion to be eligible for the program?

No- we do have "social contact" referrals that can participate. Community members, law enforcement or others can recognize that a person might commit a law violation due to poverty, mental health, or drug use issues and want to refer that person. The process is the same after the referral.

Can anyone make someone participate in the program?

Participation is voluntary. The program works best when the person is committed to working with his/her case manager.

What if someone commits a crime while in LEAD? Will those charges be diverted?

Being in LEAD does not mean that all charges will be dropped. The person is still responsible for their actions.

THE PROCESS

1

The deputy determines eligibility and assesses the individual's understanding of the program, willingness to fully participate in the program, and openness to assistance. The individual completes an initial intake form for participation in the program which includes a release of information so the case may be discussed with others working with the LEAD program. The deputy will contact the case manager for the LEAD program and will then do a hand off to the case manager for next steps.

2

The case manager determines if there are any immediate needs that should be addressed. The individual must complete a comprehensive assessment with the case manager within two weeks to fulfill the requirements for diversion. This will help determine his/her needs and goals of the program.

3

The case manager and other LEAD staff will monitor the individual's goals. The case manager will meet with the individual in person, and by phone at times and locations convenient to them. The individual's progress will be discussed with our community partners to help the individual reach his/her goals.





April 28, 2021

South Carolina Association of Counties
PO Box 8207
Columbia, SC 29202-8207

Dear Awards Committee,

This letter is to support Lancaster County's submission for the Barrett Lawrimore Award for the Operation Significant Impact project. As County Administrator, I am pleased to give my support to the Lancaster County Sheriff's Office for the work that they do with Operation Significant Impact. The three federal grants that make up this project work seamlessly to impact Lancaster County in a positive way. The represent not only our Sheriff's Office, but our entire County, as they do the work that they do. I have personally asked them to make presentations at our Rotary Club to share the projects with others in our community. They are always well received and able to answer any questions that arise.

I am pleased that our County is able to receive the help of federal grants, but understand that the support must come from within the County to make the project successful. These programs and project have the backing of our County Council and staff. I highly recommend Operation Significant Impact for the Barrett Lawrimore Award and thank the committee for their consideration in this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Steve Willis".

Steve Willis
County Administrator, Lancaster County



216 S. CATAWBA STREET P.O. BOX 1149 LANCASTER, S.C. 29721-1149 (803) 283-CITY

April 28, 2021

South Carolina Association of Counties
PO Box 8207
Columbia, SC 29202-8207

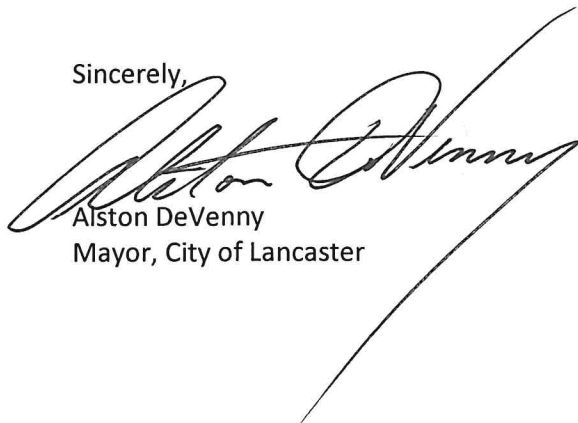
Dear Awards Committee,

This letter is to support Lancaster County's submission for the Barrett Lawrimore Award for the Operation Significant Impact project. As Mayor, I am pleased to say the City of Lancaster is a partner in the Lancaster County Sheriff's Office First Responder grant. The City of Lancaster Police Department provides an officer who participates by doing visits with the other team members to individuals who have experienced an overdose in our county. Our municipalities have worked together to allow this officer to cross jurisdictions and ride along with the team into the county, and not just respond to the visits within the city.

Our officer shares information from overdoses within the City of Lancaster to the Lancaster County Sheriff's Office to make sure that every person who overdoses in Lancaster County can be visited and offered services through this project. We view this as imperative to combat the drug problem that has impacted our entire community.

We appreciate the efforts the Lancaster County Sheriff's Office has taken to work towards making Lancaster County a safe and healthy county and are honored to be a partner in these efforts, and look forward to any continued work we do together for the betterment of the entirety of Lancaster County.

Sincerely,



Alston DeVenny
Mayor, City of Lancaster

Adolescent Services
Alcohol & Drug Safety Action Program
Employee Assistance Program
Intensive Outpatient Program
Medication Assisted Treatment
Offender Based Intervention
Peer Support Services
Prevention/Education

Counseling Services of Lancaster



April 28, 2021

South Carolina Association of Counties
PO Box 8207
Columbia, SC 29202-8207

Dear Awards Committee,

This letter is to support Lancaster County's submission for the Barrett Lawrimore Award for the Operation Significant Impact project. We work closely with the Lancaster County Sheriff's Office on this project by providing case managers that work with the individuals who the programs' serve. Our case managers use a harm reduction methodology to reduce the high risk behaviors and harmful consequences associated with substance use disorders. For those where an abstinence-only approach is not a feasible or immediate goal addiction treatment is not pushed, but relationships are built to work on the needs of the individual. This allows the individual to recognize their needs and that there are people that want to help. This sense of community allows the individual to then work on the issues that prevent them from lessening their substance misuse. The goal is to eventually remove all barriers and to stop substance use.

Our Lancaster County Sheriff's Office works well in these programs to provide caring individuals to work with us. We recognize that there is a change in mindset for not only law enforcement, but for alcohol and other drug agencies to use harm reduction. We applaud the Lancaster County Sheriff's Office to take this initiative to serve the residents of Lancaster County in this way.

We are proud of the work that the Lancaster County Sheriff's Office does and are honored to work with them in these efforts.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Donna Herchek".

Donna Herchek
Executive Director