



STATE OF MICHIGAN
EXECUTIVE OFFICE
LANSING


RICK SNYDER
GOVERNOR

BRIAN CALLEY
LT. GOVERNOR

EXECUTIVE DIRECTIVE
No. 2017-2

DATE: August 15, 2017

TO: The Department of Licensing and Regulatory Affairs; the Department of State Police

FROM: Governor Rick Snyder 

RE: Council on Opioid & Prescription Drug Enforcement

In my 2015 State of the State address, I called for a comprehensive plan to address prescription drug and opioid abuse across Michigan. In June of 2015, I formed the bipartisan Michigan Prescription Drug and Opioid Task Force to examine the recent trends, evaluate strategic options, and develop a statewide action plan. The Task Force released its findings in a formal report on October 26, 2015. In the report, the Task Force recommended the creation of a permanent Prescription Drug and Opioid Abuse Commission. This recommendation was effectuated with the establishment of the Michigan Prescription Drug and Opioid Abuse Commission, created on June 23, 2016, by Executive Order 2016-15.

The Task Force also recommended the development and maintenance of relationships among local, state and federal agencies. The aim of this directive is to address the need for cooperation and coordination between agencies at all levels of government charged with enforcing the laws and regulations.

Section 1 of Article V of the Michigan Constitution of 1963 vests the executive power in the Governor. Section 8 of Article V of the Michigan Constitution places each principal department under the supervision of the Governor. Pursuant to these provisions of the Michigan Constitution, I direct the following:

The Lieutenant Governor, the Director of the Department of Licensing and Regulatory Affairs (LARA), and the Director of the Department of State Police (MSP) are directed to immediately establish a Council on Opioid & Prescription Drug Enforcement (COPE). The council shall consist, at a minimum, of the Lieutenant Governor, a representative designated by LARA, and a representative designated by

MSP. The Lieutenant Governor shall be the Chairperson of COPE. If the Lieutenant Governor is not able to attend a meeting of COPE, the Lieutenant Governor may designate another person to attend in his place, who will act as the Chairperson.

This directive is not binding on the Department of Attorney General. But to promote the goal of coordinating the enforcement of laws and regulations across all levels of government, the Department of Attorney General is encouraged to voluntarily designate a representative to serve on COPE.

The Lieutenant Governor, in coordination with the Director of LARA and the Director of MSP, shall additionally reach out to the United States Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA), the Prosecuting Attorneys Association of Michigan (PAAM), and other relevant agencies or entities involved in the enforcement of laws and regulations related to opioids, to invite these agencies and entities to voluntarily designate representatives to serve on COPE.

COPE shall be staffed and assisted by personnel from within the Executive Office.

COPE shall meet at least once per month, at the call of the Lieutenant Governor, to discuss trends, targets, methods, major cases, and other relevant information to coordinate the most efficient and productive enforcement response for addressing prescription drug and opioid abuse across Michigan. To the extent practicable, the Council shall do each of the following:

- Coordinate concurrent investigations;
- Strategically cooperate to prevent one agency or entity from impairing an investigation of another agency or entity;
- Share information when possible and appropriate; and
- Identify shared priorities.

COPE shall, to the extent practicable and appropriate, share information and ideas with the Michigan Prescription Drug and Opioid Abuse Commission.

Members of COPE shall serve without compensation but may receive reimbursement for necessary travel and expenses according to relevant state laws, rules, and procedures.