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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Tuesday, February 13, 2024

WAUKESHA COUNTY HEROIN TASK FORCE MAKING STRIDES IN THE FIGHT AGAINST SUBSTANCE USE DISORDER IN 2023

(Waukesha, WI) – The Waukesha County Heroin Task Force (HTF) is proud to announce significant progress in its ongoing battle against substance use disorder, fostering collective impact and hope throughout the community in 2023. These efforts are highlighted by a substantial decrease in overdose deaths. According to recent data, drug overdose deaths in Waukesha County decreased by more than 19% from 2021 to 2022.

"We owe our progress to the dedication and collaboration of our community partners," HTF Co-Chair, and Executive Director of Elevate, Mary Simon said. "Together, we are working tirelessly to make Waukesha County a healthier place to live and work. These achievements underscore our shared commitment to addressing substance use disorder and fostering a supportive environment for all."

Throughout the year, the HTF engaged with more than 235 community partners, holding four community partner meetings to address critical issues surrounding substance use disorder. These gatherings facilitated discussions on current research regarding pregnant women impacted by opioid use disorder, insights on drug trends from the Waukesha County Drug Task Force, and conversations on addiction stigma and its reduction in Waukesha County.

Key Accomplishments in 2023:

- Engaged in discussions with law enforcement leaders about person-first language and effective stigma reduction strategies.
- Created a Community Resource Guide to provide a one stop shop for people to find resources in Waukesha County.
- Collaborated with Waukesha County leadership to support the implementation of medications for opioid use disorder (MOUD) in the county jail.
- Provided data literacy training for community partners so they can better understand and act on local and national data trends.
- Began work to address the need for stable housing for people with substance use disorder.

To learn more or sign up for the email list, visit www.wchtf.org.

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About Waukesha County Heroin Task Force (HTF):

The Waukesha County Heroin Task Force is a collaborative effort bringing together community partners to address substance use disorder through education, advocacy, and support. The HTF works towards creating a compassionate and understanding community, breaking the cycle of addiction, and supporting those on the path to recovery.

For more information about Waukesha County Department of Health & Human Services:

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