

CITY OF PEABODY

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OFFICE OF THE MAYOR EDWARD A. BETTENCOURT, JR.

Peabody Outreach Team Mobilized

The Peabody Fire Department in conjunction with the Healthy Peabody Collaborative and Healthy Streets has initiated an outreach program to address the region's growing opiate crisis.

"The City of Peabody joins communities throughout the region and across America who are coming together to fight the opiate crisis," said Mayor Edward A. Bettencourt, Jr. "The victims of this scourge are our friends, neighbors, coworkers, and family members and we must do everything we can to help them."

The Peabody Outreach Team mobilized on July 11th with the goal of preventing overdoses and helping those struggling with addiction to access services and treatment. Outreach teams are made up of at least one firefighter and one clinician who is trained in overdose prevention and treatment options.

"I am extremely proud of the men and women of the Peabody Fire Department who are part of the Peabody Outreach Team," said Fire Chief Steve Pasdon. "Firefighters are already on the front lines of the opiate crisis responding to overdose calls and administering lifesaving Naloxone. They recognize the severity of this crisis better than most and so they are stepping up to help their community."

The Outreach Team will initiate 'door knocks' at locations known to Healthy Peabody Collaborative to house individuals and families dealing with addiction issues including previous overdose. Outreach team members will be able to respond to overdoses in progress and offer treatment options to addicts and their families.

"The Healthy Peabody Collaborative plays a vital role on the Peabody Outreach Team," said Police Chief Tom Griffin. "The Peabody Police Department is proud to share information and lend expertise to this most worthwhile public health initiative."

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