

# With opioid overdose deaths breaking records, legislature responds with possible solutions

## Capitol Focus



State Rep. Brandon Reed

A report released this week shows that Kentucky's fatal drug overdose rate has gone up 15% in the last year. It is a national and statewide problem, with Kentucky's rate mirroring the nationwide overdose numbers. According to the Centers for Disease Control, in 2021 there were an estimated 107,622 overdose deaths across the nation, which is about a 15% increase from 2020. These heart-breaking results show an epidemic plaguing our biggest cities and smallest towns. From Perry County to Estill to Jefferson we are seeing some of the highest numbers of drug overdose deaths in history. It has become almost impossible to find someone who has not been affected by this epidemic in some way.

We have made strides in increasing the availability of resources and work in our communities to address this problem, but even as we update laws and provide resources, those who deal with this powerful poison continue to reinvent the ways they can spread addiction. We must continue to work on this issue.

On an episode of Kentucky Educational Television's Kentucky Tonight last week, the executive director of the Kentucky Office of Drug Control Policy (ODCP) explained there has been a dramatic increase in the use of methamphetamine (meth). Those creating and selling the drugs have increased their use of meth because of how cheap it is to make, and many times they will cut it with fentanyl. Often, those buying opioids on the street have no clue the drug has been cut with fentanyl, and out of the 2,250 overdose deaths in 2021, fentanyl was identified in 1,639 of them. Methamphetamine was identified in 1,075 of the drug overdose deaths. It is clear there is a strong correlation between the increase of both fentanyl and meth, and health and law officials are worried about the increase of the two on the streets.

In the report released by the OCDP, another main reason was given for this concerning trend. Over two short years, deaths have gone from 1,316 in 2019 to 2,250 in 2021, and right in the middle of that was the start of the COVID-19 pandemic.

The COVID-19 pandemic exacerbated already rising drug use across the state. People were isolated from their support systems, and their anxiety about the economy and health increased dramatically, creating a harmful environment for those already struggling with addiction and recovery.

In the last couple of years, we have passed legislation to address the rise of drug use and overdose deaths in Kentucky. This past session, we passed HB 215, also known as Dalton's Law. Dalton's Law enhances the penalty for importing carfentanyl, fentanyl, or fentanyl derivatives to a Class C Felony. The measure increases time served for both the importing and the aggravated trafficking of fentanyl and related substances from a minimum of 50 percent served to a minimum of 85 percent. It is important we hold those accountable who are bringing this deadly drug into our state, not the users. We also passed SB 56, also known as the Opioid Antagonist legislation. This measure defines "opioid antagonist" as naloxone or any United States Food and Drug Administration-approved opioid antagonist designed to reverse the effects of an opioid overdose. The measure ensures that as other antagonists come to the market, they will be able to be used to reverse an overdose.

We also passed two key pieces of legislation to address this crisis during the 2021 Regular Session and we are beginning to see these policies implemented by the executive branch. HB 7 establishes a Kentucky Recovery Ready Community Certification Program for cities and counties. The purpose of the certification program is to provide a quality measure of a city or county's recovery programs to assure the availability of high-quality recovery programs for those working to overcome substance use disorder, as well as to ensure resources are used effectively throughout the state. We learned this week that Volunteers of America will be working to administer this program and I am hopeful to see it up and working soon. Another measure we passed was SB 51, which increases immediate access to life-saving treatment. The measure eliminates the need for prior authorization before treatment with methadone, buprenorphine, or naltrexone can be used to treat a substance abuse. SB 51 also requires insurers to annually report

the number and type of providers that have prescribed medication for addiction treatment to insured individuals in order to provide a better idea of how this treatment is used.

Additional resources will also come as our Commonwealth receives its portion of the Opioid Settlement. Early estimates put Kentucky's portion of the \$26 billion settlement at \$483 million. The state's portion will be split evenly between local governments and the state. Under the terms of legislation we approved in 2021, an advisory board will help determine how best to invest the state's portion to build awareness and help prevent and treat addiction.

We will continue our work to increase access to prevention and treatment services. In the meantime, if you or anyone you know is seeking help please visit [findhelpnow.ky.gov](http://findhelpnow.ky.gov) or call 1-833-8KY-HELP. The hotline can provide information on a variety of services and help identify the best next step to recovery.

As always, I hope you will feel free to contact me with any questions or issues. I can be reached here at home anytime or through the toll-free message line in Frankfort at 1-800-372-7181. Please feel free to email me at [Brandon.Reed@LRC.KY.GOV](mailto:Brandon.Reed@LRC.KY.GOV). If you would like more information about any of these committees or legislative actions, you can visit the Legislative Research Commission website at [legislature.ky.gov](http://legislature.ky.gov).

## Col. Moore presented with Quilt of Honor



Photo submitted

Col. Bill Moore, member of the National Executive Committee of the American Legion, was presented a Quilt of Honor at the recent Convention in Louisville. Beside him is Pat Bryant, Past Dept. President of the A.L.A. and Christie Goodhue with Quilts of Honor. The event was held Friday, June 17 at the Crown Plaza Louisville.

## WKU announces Honors Lists

Western Kentucky University has released the honors lists for the spring 2022 semester. Full-time undergraduate students with a semester grade-point average of 3.4 to 3.79 are named to the Dean's List. Students with a GPA of 3.8 to 4.0 are named to the President's List.

Greensburg students on the President's List include: Jessica A. Clark, Riley E. Woodruff, Shawn A. Korns, Hallie B. Griffiths, Shelby Howell, Matthew Givens, Cierra N. Whitley, Sean R. Alamo.

on the Dean's List include: John D. Milby, Sarah G. Hancock, Matthew Stearman, William K. Keith, Austin T. Hunt, Alexander L. Wright.

### BID NOTICE

The Green County Board of Education will be accepting sealed proposals for commercial food service equipment repair contracts. Bid specifications for all services and surplus items listed above can be picked-up at Green County Board of Education Central Office at 402 E. Hodgenville Avenue, Greensburg, KY 42743 and must be returned by July 7, 2022 at 1:00 pm central. All bids will be publicly opened at 1:05 pm central on July 7, 2022 in the Green County Board of Education Conference Room.

### Sealed Bids

The Green County Board of Education will be accepting sealed proposals for a guaranteed energy savings project. Project specifications can be picked-up at Green County Board of Education Central Office at 402 E. Hodgenville Avenue, Greensburg, KY 42743 and must be returned by June 30, 2022 at 1:00 pm central. All proposals will be publicly opened at 1:05 pm central on June 30, 2022 in the Green County Board of Education Conference Room.

## BUDGET HEARING REGARDING PROPOSED USE OF MUNICIPAL ROAD AID AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE (LGEA) FUNDS.

A public hearing will be held by the City of Greensburg at City Hall on June 30<sup>th</sup>, 2022 at 3 p.m. CT for the purpose of obtaining public comments regarding the possible uses of the Municipal Road Aid (MA) and Local Government Economic Assistance (LGEA) Funds. All interested persons in Greensburg are invited to the hearing to submit verbal or written comments on possible uses of the CRA and LGEA Funds. Any person(s) who cannot submit written comments, should call the City of Greensburg at 270-932-4298 by 9 a.m. CDT June 30<sup>th</sup>, 2022.



### CITY OF GREENSBURG BUDGET ORDINANCE # 2022.0617

AN ORDINANCE ADOPTING THE CITY OF GREENSBURG'S ANNUAL BUDGET FOR THE FISCAL YEAR JULY 1, 2022 THROUGH JUNE 30, 2023.

WHEREAS, an annual budget proposal and message has been prepared and delivered to the legislative body, and WHEREAS, the legislative body has reviewed such budget proposal and made necessary modifications, NOW, THEREFORE BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY OF GREENSBURG, SECTION ONE: that the annual budget for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2022 and ending June 30, 2023 is hereby adopted as follows:

	GENERAL FUND	MUNICIPAL AID	LGEA	WATER & SEWER
RESOURCES AVAILABLE:				
Fund balance at June 30, 2022	\$ 683,408	\$ 117,544	\$ 35,614	\$ 163,129
Revenues:				
American Rescue Plan Funding	\$ 268,303			
Franchise fees	\$ 160,000			
ABC Licenses and Regulation Fees	\$ 46,100			
Insurance Premium tax	\$ 300,000			
Interest	\$ 1,965			
Intergovernmental	\$ 36,100	\$ 40,692	\$ 7,768	
Licenses and permits	\$ 58,000			
Occupational / Net Profit Taxes	\$ 735,000			
Other	\$ 110,979			
Property & Vehicle Taxes	\$ 259,000			
Rent	\$ 15,000			
Transfers In	\$ 36,000			
Prior year American Rescue Plan Funding	\$ 268,303			
E-911	\$ 367,000			
Loan Proceeds				\$ 257,000
Charges for services-Water				\$ 883,784
Charges for services-Sewer				\$ 448,470
Total revenues	\$ 2,661,750	\$ 40,692	\$ 7,768	\$ 1,589,254
APPROPRIATIONS:				
American Rescue Plan Funding	\$ 536,606			
City Maintenance	\$ 420,604			
Community Center	\$ 35,284			
General government	\$ 561,337			
Paddle Trail	\$ 33,933			
Public safety-fire	\$ 74,697			
Public safety-police	\$ 617,623			
911 Expenses	\$ 374,694			
Retirement of Indebtedness- Sewer				\$ 189,572
Retirement of Indebtedness- Water				\$ 226,920
Sewer operations				\$ 418,610
Water operations				\$ 733,334
Transfers Out		\$ 32,000	\$ 4,000	
Total appropriations	\$ 2,654,778	\$ 32,000	\$ 4,000	\$ 1,568,436
Excess of revenues				
Over / under appropriations	\$ 6,972	\$ 8,692	\$ 3,768	\$ 20,818
Fund balance at June 30, 2023	\$ 690,380	\$ 126,236	\$ 39,382	\$ 183,947

SECTION TWO: That this budget becomes effective upon its final reading and adoption, June 17, 2022.

John Michael Shuffett

John Michael Shuffett  
Mayor

Kimberly Darnell

Kimberly Darnell  
City Clerk / Treasurer

## NEED HELP WITH YOUR RETIREMENT PLAN?

If you have questions about your pension, 401(k) or profit sharing plan, call the Mid-America Pension Rights Project at (866) 735-7737 to get free legal advice. Funded by the U.S. Administration on Aging, MAPRP staff provides free legal assistance to anyone with a question about their retirement plan.

CALL US TODAY 1.866.735.7737