



# JOHN R. KASICH

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## Communication Department

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**KASICH BRINGS NEW HELP TO PRESCRIPTION DRUG ABUSE FIGHT**  
***New Funds for Portsmouth Treatment Center; Former Attorney General Betty Montgomery Will Lead Multi-Agency Task Force***

PORTSMOUTH – Today Gov. John R. Kasich announced a range of new resources to help Scioto County and Ohio better fight the prescription drug abuse epidemic, including new funds for a Portsmouth drug treatment center, new access to advanced treatment methods and a new multi-agency coordinating effort that will be led by former Attorney General Betty Montgomery.

Since 2007, unintentional drug overdoses have been the leading cause of accidental death in Ohio, and Scioto County has been ground zero. Last year 9.7 million doses of prescription painkillers were dispensed in Scioto County—123 doses for every man, woman and child in the county.

Kasich announced the new resources in Portsmouth after a meeting with local drug treatment officials and legislators, together with Montgomery and Ohio Department of Alcohol and Drug Addiction Services Director Orman Hall.

Details of today's announcement include:

- \$100,000 in state funds for a new treatment center at the Counseling Center, a private, non-profit drug treatment center in Portsmouth. \$300,000 in additional federal funds is being sought;
- A new prescription drug addiction task force chaired by Montgomery to work with state agencies, Attorney General Mike DeWine, the Supreme Court of Ohio, local law enforcement leaders, and other states;
- An Executive Order signed by Kasich allowing the state's local treatment partners to use new medications approved by the federal government to assist with opiate addiction therapies.

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