

Esto Perpetua Briefing
ISP Conference Room 1 / GoToMeeting
Friday, April 1, 2022

Attendees:

Colonel Wills
Lt. Colonel Kelley
Sgt. Jess Stennett / D1, DEA Taskforce
Communications Director Lynn Hightower
Louis Hougaard
Senator Abby Lee
Speaker of the House Scott Bedke
Brian Thomas / Shoshone-Paiute Tribes, Duck Valley

GoToMeeting:

Luke Malek / Committee Chair
Dana Kirkham / Former Mayor of Ammon, Idaho

Sgt. Stennett -- D1, DEA Taskforce

Sgt. Stennett gave an overview of the drug issues in North Idaho.

Discussed a fentanyl education project

- Phase 1 – Opioid Epidemic
 - 1991 – fentanyl was being prescribed to cancer patients
 - 1999 – fentanyl was being prescribed to non-cancer patients
- Phase 2
 - 2010 – rapid increase of overdose deaths due to fentanyl
 - 2002-2013 – increase in overdoses
- Phase 3
 - 2013 – increased deaths in the US
 - 2021 – over 100,000 overdose deaths in US

Fentanyl has become the #1 cause of death in the US

Fentanyl is 50-100 times more potent than morphine

Carfentahl is more powerful, 1,000 times stronger than fentanyl

Ingesting fentanyl

- Chasing the dragon – smoking fentanyl off foil, burning on the foil

Southwest Border seizures have increased, fentanyl is being seized in pounds.

- Border prices range from .35¢ to \$1 per pill
- North Idaho prices range from \$7 to \$10 per pill
- Montana prices range from \$40 to \$80 per pill
- Treasure Valley prices range from \$10-\$15 per pill

Fentanyl is showing up in all drugs and is highly addictive and potent.
Mexi-blue pills are made to look like oxy pills
Xanax and oxy contain fentanyl and methamphetamine

We are starting to see fentanyl in a powder form, the exposure is very dangerous.
We are starting to see pressed meth pills disguised as Adderall

People are finding drugs through social media. The culture has become more accepting of drugs and violence. Emojis are being used to ask for drugs through social media. They are also purchasing drugs through social media.

For more information, view Smokescreen Idaho on YouTube -
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=v5uCleUXEYI>

Drug use has been normalized
The THC in marijuana has increased. Anything under 90% THC is not sellable.
We cannot arrest our way out of this crisis. We need to build strong partnerships with other law enforcement agencies. We must focus on education, enforcement, partnerships, and work together to stop this crisis.

Louis Hougaard – Policy Advisor, Office of the Governor
The objective of these meetings will be to solicit input from law enforcement agencies, hear from the public, and figure out how to establish partnerships.
Governor Little’s perspective, he would like the community feeling like they have been heard by law enforcement. He wants the public to come listen and voice their concerns.

Today’s meeting purpose is to get a base knowledge to prepare for the next meetings.

HIDTA – High Intensity Drug Trafficking Areas
Rehab programs for young people are helping with the crisis
Overdose Detection Mapping – ODMapping, this helps law enforcement agencies know where overdoses are happening, it shows the hot spot areas.

Colonel Wills – Idaho State Police
ISP is focused on these areas and is training is a priority. ISP is focused on working with law enforcement agencies and educators.

Luke Malek – Committee Chair
Listening is the best approach. Listen and learn what they want and what they expect.

Brian Thomas – Shoshone-Paiute Tribe, Duck Valley
The biggest area for opioid prescriptions is the Reno VA and the Nevada Reservation Hospital. Health care providers are causing an emergency crisis.
2021 to present, there have been 8 suicides on the reservation.
The purpose of these meetings should be to share how drugs affect each community

Esto Perpetua Meeting
Coeur D Alene Library
4/4/22

Committee

Jim Hammond, Coeur D Alene Mayor
Abby Lee, Senator
Kedrick Wills, Director ISP
Dana Kirkham, Former mayor of Ammon Idaho (by video link)
Luke Malek, Committee Chair
Governor Brad Little
Scott Bedke, Speaker of the House of Representatives
Brian Thomas, Chair Shoshone-Puyute Tribe

Opening Remarks – Governor Little

This is the first of four meetings to be held across Idaho, designed to help stop the fentanyl from harming more Idahoans. We need a two-prong approach, continued enforcement, and increased education. Money has been allocated to support the work of this committee.

What we learned from sending ISP Troopers to work with law enforcement agencies at the border with Mexico, was that Idaho is a main route for drugs being trafficked in the Northwest.

Additional crisis and rehabilitation centers were created last year and additional money from the pharma settlement is being directed to continue funding these centers across Idaho.

Chairman Malek – Introductions;

The members of the committee are here to listen and learn from the people working in this field and hopefully find solutions that can be applied.

Chief White – Coeur D Alene PD – Arresting is only part of the solution. Law enforcement agencies can only sprint for so long. To be successful, he needs more officers to help with enforcement and education.

Chief Dennis Sanchez, Spirit Lake PD – Grateful Gov. Little is making battling dangerous drugs a priority. He also needs additional staff to be effective. Drug cases are complicated investigations that cross multiple jurisdictions and take huge amounts of man hours to complete. Officers are at a greater risk of exposure to drugs like fentanyl and evidence and evidence storage has to be adjusted. Drug overdose calls also continue to rise. Also, more calls for behavioral health incidents.

Brett Nelson, Kootenai County Sheriff's Office – Fentanyl deaths in Kootenai County have tripled in 2021. Officers are using Narcan to assist overdose victims on a weekly

basis. Additionally, the jail has limited space and staff to serve people who are using drugs. The proximity to the state line with Washington creates additional enforcement challenges.

Jason Mueller – Post Falls PD – Partnerships with other agencies are helpful. We all know someone with a drug addiction. Administering Narcan gives people another chance to get the help they need. Staffing shortages are an issue, but coalitions can be helpful, and problems can be solved by working together. More community involvement is a critical element. These are their children, husbands, wives, and parents that need help, and these communities can help if given the tools. Drug cartels are in every city in Idaho.

Mark Hague, ASAC Area Special Agent in Charge, DEA Spokane WA, - the DEA has deemed fentanyl a Public Health Emergency. Their agency has resources available on-line for parents and other demographics. Washington is supplying drugs in Northern Idaho. The High Intensity Drugs Area task force is helping, and drug seizures continue to go up. In 2021, 21 million fentanyl doses were seized. Violent crime comes with increased drug activity. We need to be having conversations everywhere to help people understand the dangers these drugs create. Social media and e-commerce sites are adding to the problem.

Captain Kempf – working hard on education. They're speaking to any group that will have them, 2-3 per week. ISP created an educational campaign that includes radio ads, on-line ads, and billboards in Northern Idaho.

Keith from Misdemeanor Probation and Parole – the number of people and length of time people are on misdemeanor parole has increased significantly and will continue for the next few years. More is being asked with limited funding. Access to drug testing is a problem.

Keirin Donahue, Canyon County Sheriff – We are losing this battle. We need to have direct conversations about fentanyl and let people know the dangers. Parents don't know what they don't know. We need to eliminate the supply. The enemy is the cartel in Mexico. Honored to be part of this panel.

Citizen comment – Family Practice physician and addiction recovery treatment - access to treatment is a problem in some areas of the state and people must travel great distances for testing and treatment. Working with Probation and Parole to help provide services to the people who need them. Telehealth is helpful in addiction treatment. Many patients have secondary addictions. Nearly all have mental health issues of some type.

Citizen comment – Gabe Lamb, recovering addict. Played a song about the challenges of addiction on his guitar. Difficult to find and get the treatment he needs without taking time away from work and family. Health and Welfare isn't always helpful. It takes courage to be honest. To get clean you have to come clean.

Citizen comment – Dillion Roy – list of concerns about unethical practices with some law enforcement officers.

Citizen comment – District Director Pan Handle Health District – more staff being dedicated to help this problem. They are ready and willing to help and partnering to provide treatment and other services. They have some grant money available to help with these programs and hoping to expand the services they can provide.

Citizen comment – Dr Ruth Malek – thank you for funding this project. We need to treat the root of the problem and many times drug addiction can be tied to childhood trauma. ACE scores show the gravity of the problems later in life for these kids. It takes two years for the body to reset after using meth. Treatment programs need to address that. Earlier intervention in childhood trauma would help reduce the issues later in life.

Esto Perpetua Meeting
Weiser Idaho
April 27, 2022

Members of the Committee

Brian Thomas	Luke Malek
Scott Bedke	Governor Little
Colonel Wills	Abby Lee
Jim Hammond	Dana Kirkham

Representatives from local media were also there.

Governor Little opened the meeting and explained the committee was seeking input and information from the public about what the committee could do. He asked how we could get to the beginning of the supply chain for the illegal drugs. He felt it was important to get the needed tools. There is no indication this is coming from anywhere other than the southern border. It is a problem in communities across Idaho.

Luke Malek – Fentanyl is a vast problem that threatens our state. This is the Citizens Action Group Phase of the project. The committee needs to know how this is impacting you and your communities. It is the first of two phases. The second phase is the law enforcement phase.

Sheriff Donahue – Canyon County

Glad to be here today. Law Enforcement is seeing an increase in calls related to fentanyl. Field testing is a problem. K-9's are at risk of being exposed to fentanyl. Officers are also at risk. Recently four Canyon County Officers were exposed to airborne particles and required medical treatment. It is very dangerous for law enforcement officers. The source is the southern border. Law Enforcement can't arrest our way out of this problem. Seizures are way up. Recently one person was arrested with over 800 pills. The low cost is driving the demand up. Idaho needs to be involved with Congress. Sheriff Donahue is also concerned about how we get the message to kids. People don't understand the dangers. This is not an immigration issue.

Dana Kirkham asked – What type of advertising strategy do we need?

Sheriff Donahue - it needs to be graphic and to the point.

Sheriff Creech – Payette County

The impact is occurring here. People in his community have died. Staffing is an issue for his agency. There is a shortage of applicants for open positions in his office. Officer safety is a challenge. He needs good solutions for his people and community. The drug dispensaries across the border in Oregon are a problem for his agency.

Senator Lee spoke of how other crimes are up due to the difference in laws in place in Oregon. People who come into Idaho are unaware.

Dana Kirkham said she had recently done ride alongs with ISP and commented on how polite the officers she rode with had been and thanked them for their service. She also was surprised at how vulnerable officers were when they were walking up to vehicles. She asked if additional testing would benefit communities or law enforcement.

Sheriff Thomas – Washington County

Sheriff Thomas said he believes we have a border problem. A problem with drugs crossing the border from Mexico, and a problem with the less restrictive law across the border in Oregon. He believes he will continue having challenges in his community until the laws are changed. Three people in his community in the last week had overdosed. One person died from the drugs. He felt we needed to educate the public about fentanyl and that his office found fentanyl in all other illegal drugs seized. It is very frustrating for his agency to deal with the differences in laws in Oregon and the problems it creates. He believed the stronger laws in Idaho were a deterrent that kept some dealers out of our state.

Senator Lee spoke of how Idaho's laws were keeping some dealers out of the state, but wondered what we could do better?

Lt Cron – Weiser Police

Lt Cron explained that being a border state with Oregon was challenging. Small agencies like his have limited budgets to deal with the problems, drugs coming in from Oregon were creating. People in his community are dying from drug overdoses.

Chief Marshall – Payette Police

Chief Marshall stated that the decriminalization in Oregon has made it a safe place for drug cartels to set up business. Educating the public is an important part of the solution. Staffing is an issue for his agency. He has seen overdoses and overdose deaths in his community. He needs the ability to test for fentanyl in the field to keep his personnel and the public safe. Officers need to be able to carry the tools necessary to protect themselves.

Lt Skokland – Nampa PD

The root of the problem is public safety. His agency has used Narcan 20 times in the last year. Pills are dangerous and can look like legitimate drugs. We need to be able to disrupt the distribution process to have an impact. The low cost of drugs makes them more accessible to many people. His agency needs more people and time to proactively work on drug investigations.

Dana Kirkham asked about the demographic of people. Lt Skokland said it is a very broad range of people who are involved.

Kevin Hudgens – Oregon Idaho HIDTA Task Force

Hudgens explained that fentanyl is a public health issue. Law enforcement and other agencies including health districts need to work together and communicate about the

challenges and trends they are facing. Currently Idaho doesn't have a standard system to track overdoses and overdose deaths. OD Tracker is a mapping tool that could be implemented statewide at a low or zero cost and be used on any smart phone. It provides real time data for law enforcement and public health officials. Kevin also provided an education bulletin developed by HIDTA to the committee.

Chief Schei -Pocatello Police Chief

Chief Schei explained his department works with HIDTA in Bannock County. Agencies need to align their mission as the number of cases continue to rise. In his city, fentanyl is mixed with all illegal drugs including marijuana. He said there needs to be a course of action that includes education, equipment, and building relationships. He's been working with ISU, school resource officers, and CASA in his area to help educate people. He restated how important getting OD Tracker out statewide was to address the issue.

Senator Lee asked what resources does HIDTA need? Kevin explained that HIDTA had federal resources, however, providing resources to local agencies like OD Tracker would be beneficial for everyone.

Governor Little said Idaho needs HIDTA to help as sentencing laws are reviewed and implemented to deal with fentanyl.

Rep Bedke asked if Oregon was cooperating? Kevin explained that many law enforcement agencies in Oregon are also frustrated by the situation and lack of available resources.

Senator Lee asked how many agencies were using OD Tracker. Chief Schei and Kevin estimated less than five and not all are law enforcement agencies.

Governor Little discussed his recent visit to Bonneville County. He explained he met with the sheriff who had data about his county. Governor Little wondered how we compiled and accessed data and make it scalable for agencies statewide.

Luke Malek asked if penalties are making an impact or if they should be strengthened. There was limited discussion, but many felt it should be looked at.

Chief Huff – Fruitland Police

Chief Huff explained that his employees are the front line against this, as many of the drugs in his community were coming in from Oregon. Seizures are up and he worries about his employees and the people in his community. He said he believed that rehabilitation needs to be a part of this conversation. Because of the high levels of purity in many drugs, drug induced psychosis is increasing. It's additional challenges including safety issues for law enforcement specifically in jails and health providers. It is difficult to address these added issues in small departments with limited staff.

Senator Blair

Senator Blair explained this is a hard topic to talk about. It has impacted him and his family personally. Three boys in his community have died due to drug overdoses. His son knew all of them. He hoped to see conversations about tougher sentences for dealers and believed they should be charged with murder. He explained that there are gaps between agencies that allow drug dealers to get away with their crimes and creates safe zones. Agencies need to communicate and work together to address criminals coming in from other states, including Washington.

Sheriff Donahue explained that EMS, fire departments, and coroners need to work together and provide updated information about overdoses and overdose deaths to other agencies. Sheriff Donahue believed sentencing laws need to be amended to deal specifically with fentanyl and suggested moving fentanyl cases to the US Attorneys for guidelines. Sheriff Donahue made that statement that many people believe it's just marijuana, however; it's not just marijuana when it's laced with fentanyl. He also said Kevin was doing a great job with HIDTA.

Mike Duke – Payette County Prosecutor

Mr. Duke believed testing was needed to help charge people who were found with fentanyl. Waiting for results to come back makes it challenging to charge and arrest people, especially people from out of state. He also explained that current laws in Oregon keep law enforcement agencies in Oregon from helping Idaho law enforcement agencies with drug arrests and investigations. He pointed out there is currently no defined trafficking amount to charge people with. He also said that when people are arrested and charged, they have time to get clean and sober in jail and can make more informed decisions about their future.

Governor Little stated that we need to figure out how to change our processes and increase lab capacity and equipment to address these challenges.

Dept of Corrections Representative –

40% of their customers are illegal drug users. It's like playing Russian roulette. Overdoses are occurring in transitional housing because there is a lack of education in communities about the dangers of these drugs. People don't understand this isn't the same dope it was five years ago. Treatment needs to be included. He believes we are more likely to be successful if we address the reasons people use drugs instead of targeting a specific drug.

Kendal Nygge (sp?) Meridian Police

She believes prevention, education, and enforcement are the best ways to address the problem. Her agency is experiencing staffing issues like many other law enforcement agencies in Idaho. She said they find fentanyl in nearly every drug case they investigate. She also said her agency needs better testing to keep people safe. They are working with West Ada School District and developing a process for dealing with an overdose at school that will include deploying Narcan. She agreed that OD

Tracker and HIDTA are valuable tools to help better understand how this is impacting our communities.

Claudia Cortney- Southwest District Health

She was grateful for the opportunity to be here. She explained the health department was a tool that could be used and a community resource for education and training. She suggested communities look into asking for Opioid settlement funds to help provide missing resources.

Luke Malek thanked everyone for coming.

The meeting adjourned at 3 pm.

Esto Perpetua Meeting
Pocatello City Hall
5/9/22

Committee

Colonel Wills	Chairman Luke Malek
Senator Bedke	Dana Kirkham
Mayor Jim Hammond	Governor Little
Chief Brian Thomas	Payute Chief
Senator Abby Lee	(by phone)

Governor Little welcomed the members of law enforcement and the public who were attending. He talked about the success law enforcement had during this year's legislative session and his hopes to continue adding to the tools available to law enforcement to address the fentanyl problem. He pointed out the new building in D6 and additional forensic labs funded this session. Governor Little explained he was here to listen for the recommendations and learn from the public. Part of the learning included sending ISP Troopers to the border to learn from other states and more troopers are going next month.

Luke Malek thanked Governor Little for having the courage to look this problem in the eye and work to address it. He also expressed his thanks to the law enforcement representatives who were in attendance for their work each day. He explained this was the first part of a two-part project to address the fentanyl problem in Idaho. The second phase would include a report to the committee of recommendations from the meetings. Today is the third of four meetings with the fourth on Wednesday in Twin Falls. Chairman Malek said he felt the name of the project was fitting since fentanyl was threatening the very core of who we are in our state.

Senator Bedke expressed his belief that it would take our best efforts to solve this problem and that all the easy solutions have already been tried. We need new ways to address this problem.

Chief Thomas described the problem fentanyl was creating on the reservations and that it was coming into their community from outside. He said the overdoses and deaths were hurting their entire community.

DEA Spec Agent Riley introduced himself to the group and explained his history in the community. Agent Riley grew up in Pocatello and was a Pocky HS and ISU grad. He told the group that since January 6, overdose deaths in Pocatello were tied to fentanyl. He explained he worked with local agencies throughout SE Idaho to help charge cases under federal codes that could include longer sentences. He explained that additional resources were needed, including more autopsies. Many of the victims who overdose, and die are recovering addicts who recently relapsed. The drugs aren't the same as the ones they had previously used.

Chief Thomas asked Agent Riley who he could contact to get help with drug problems on the reservation. Agent Riley explained the FBI and DEA work together to help the communities on reservations in Idaho.

Bill Guyverson – Chubbuck Police chief –

Thanked Governor Little for doing this work to address fentanyl. He explained that his agency treated all illegal drugs they seize as possibly containing fentanyl. He also explained that the number of times and doses of Narcan being used has gone up. They used to administer one dose to revive a person. Now they are often having to use three. He also explained that as the drug arrests and overdoses have increased in his city, violent crimes have also risen. He also commended the people for the work they're doing to help address illegal drugs in communities across SE Idaho.

Lt Jason Clark – Bannock County Sheriff / Ryan Anthony K-9 handler Bannock County Deputy Anthony explained that fentanyl has changed the way they operate in their agency. Fentanyl is often mixed with other drugs and creates dangerous situations for K-9's and detention officers. He also said that more often they are arresting drug dealers who are also carrying Narcan, suggesting they obviously understand the risks and take steps to protect themselves. He explained that in Pocatello, fentanyl is being pressed into pills that look like regular Tylenol. He said it was frustrating to not have statutes to charge the dealers with that are appropriate for the dangers of the drugs. Deputy Anthony explained the challenge that exists to train K-9's to detect fentanyl was due in part to the lack of consistency in the molecular make-up of the drugs. There is no standard. K-9's often detect other illegal drugs that are mixed with fentanyl.

Lt Clark explained that many people who are arrested hide fentanyl and other drugs on/in their body and bring it into the jail where it creates a hazard for jailers and other people in jail. The use of Narcan in their jail has increased by 1000% since 2020. It created a challenge for deputies who need to protect themselves while ensuring the arrestee receives the appropriate care. If additional medical treatment is required, it takes personnel out of the jail and costs the county money.

Senator Bedke asked if agencies were having a difficult time getting enough Narcan. Deputy Anthony said they had an adequate supply.

Chief Turman Rexburg Police –

Chief Turman asked the group to raise their hand if they had been impacted by a suicide. Many people raised their hands. Then he asked if they knew anyone who had overdosed or died due to fentanyl. A smaller number of people raised their hands. He went on to explain that several years ago, suicide was identified as an epidemic but unfortunately not enough had been done to help stop the deaths due to suicide. He said that unless more is done, the same thing will happen with fentanyl. He talked about the added expense fentanyl was creating for his agency due to supplies, training, and storage that was required. Testing is a problem for his agency and results take time to return.

Power County Sheriff – Josh Campbell

Fentanyl is a problem in his community. There have been multiple overdoses and deaths. Recently a 15-year-old and a 50-year-old woman died that impacted him personally. Kids are talking about Dirty 30 pills, but judges and parents aren't always aware of the dangers. He has been partnering with other agencies and using task forces to try and identify and arrest people who are bringing and dealing drugs in his community. He wants to stamp this out as soon as he can. He has implemented mandatory overtime shifts for deputies to work on drug cases. He explained that his limited budget and number of personnel creates a challenge and many times he only has one deputy per shift in his county. The great work getting done is a testament to the courage and integrity of the people doing the work. He also explained medical costs in the jail continue to rise due to fentanyl arrests.

Bannock County Coroner Tory Danner

Danner explained that these deaths were difficult to investigate. It required different process. He also explained that the threshold for fentanyl to cause death varies greatly from one person to the next. It can be fatal at three for some people and thirteen for others. His office is performing autopsies on all drug deaths in his county. It takes time and money. His office is working to help other coroner's offices be proactive and identify drug overdose deaths. He said his office is dealing with an average of one overdose a day.

Chief Prosecutor JaNiece Price – Bannock County

She introduced herself and explained she had worked extensively with HIDTA and local drug courts. She explained her concerns about the statutes not adequately addressing the fentanyl issue. She said people tend to use more fentanyl and more often. Even judges need help understanding the difference. Education is a problem. There aren't second chances with fentanyl. There needs to be mandatory minimums with fentanyl arrests and stronger penalties.

Colonel Wills asked if she felt drug courts were effective.

Price explained her experience with drug courts are that they do give people a great opportunity to find the tools they need to address addiction and other challenges. Addiction is not a one-time thing, and the totality of the circumstances must be considered.

Senator Lee asked what resources do communities need? Price explained there are never enough resources to meet the needs of people and getting the opportunities to the people that need them is always challenging.

Governor Little notes that 2.5 million has been put aside to pilot interdiction for first time drug users.

Senators Bedke asked about the backlog at the lab and how it impacts the prosecutor's office. Price said there is always room for improvement, but fully staffed the lab gets results back in 30 days.

Chief Roger Schei with Pocatello Police said every problem is a leadership problem. His agency has seized over 10,000 fentanyl pills this year. 4/10 have lethal doses of drugs in them. He is working to help educate his community including schools, university, and outreach groups. Additional training is needed for teachers, law enforcement officers, and judges. Additional equipment is also needed. His department uses grant money to purchase Narcan. Probation and parole need to test their customers for fentanyl. Currently they don't have the ability. OD Tracker will help get information on drug overdoses to communities in real time. Violence in their community has increased including two officers being shot the previous week. Crisis centers need additional resources to help law enforcement agencies help people. Stronger laws and more community partnerships are needed to address fentanyl in communities like his.

Citizen Comment - Shelby Harris – media

Has Idaho looked at providing fentanyl test strips to people or creating safe spaces to use drugs?

Governor Little explained it would require a law change because currently fentanyl test strips are considered drug paraphernalia and are illegal in Idaho. However, the discussion is currently taking place within the Idaho legislature.

Citizen Comment - Sandy from Power County explained her family's story with addiction and the challenges getting help for people in rural communities. Her granddaughter has been trying to get mental health help for six months. Sandy wonders why we aren't talking about why people start using drugs to begin with. Her daughter was an addict for 25 years and now her granddaughter is using drugs and threatening suicide.

Governor Little explained additional money has been provided for mental health and regional crisis centers designed to help youth are being stood up across Idaho.

Citizen Comment - Chief O'hern -Pocatello Fire

His agency has a unique perspective on overdoses and overdose deaths. They used to be an anomaly, now they are occurring every day, 3-4 per day. It is devastating for families in his community and for first responders dealing with it every day. Their patients are frequently young people.

Citizen Comment - Jared Marchand – Bannock County CASA Program Director

His agency has seen a 12% increase already this year with kids who are experiencing trauma due to drug use. Last year 260 kids. This year already 376 to date. Kids know about Dirty 30. It's being talked about and brought into some homes. Their agency and the kids who need help keep climbing. Drug treatment is challenging for his agency and for people in treatment.

Citizen Comment - Star Reardon, Pastor

She explained she was excited we were working on this problem. Many people who come into her shelter are addicts who also experience mental health issues. Fentanyl and other illegal drugs are impacting our kids, families, wives, and husbands. It's a heart issue. People need resources and many fall through the cracks in the system.

Citizen Comment Lucinda Codney (sp?) –

She recently lost her 27-year-old son to a drug overdose. She felt that him having to regularly check in with his parole officer kept him clear for a while, but when COVID closed probation/parole offices, her son started using again. She is currently raising her son's young child. She was very upset and felt Governor Little did not do enough to protect her son and other people who lost their jobs due to vaccine requirements during the pandemic.

Citizen Comment – Alayne Bean, Bonneville County Prosecutor's Office –

Her office is working to help simple possession offenders avoid prison time and routinely helps get multiple riders for people. She felt she needed new legislation to address the people dealing dangerous drugs that were appropriate for the situation.

Citizen Comment - Cherlynn Edwards

She lost her 21-year-old nephew to a drug overdose in Houston TX. She has worked in the health care field and knows that nearly every addict also has a mental health issue that needs treatment. The tools and resources needed to help these people aren't always available.

Meeting ended at 3 pm.

Esto Perpetua Meeting
Twin Falls
May 11, 2022

Col Wills
Chair Luke Malek
Dana Kirkman
Senator Abby Lee (phone)

Speaker Bedke
Chief Brian Thomas
Governor Little
Mayor Hammond (phone)

Governor Little gave opening remarks. This is last of four public outreach meetings to talk about solutions to the number of fentanyl deaths in our state. He said we need to do the right thing for Idaho and the things that reflect our values. He explained he feels a sense of urgency due to the increasing number of deaths in Idaho. He pointed out that during the last legislative session additional funds had been allocated to build a new building in Idaho Falls and a new forensic lab in Meridian which would help address capacity issues. He also pointed out 13 new ISP troopers were funded during the last session. He explained that big investments were also made in the Idaho Dept of Corrections.

Governor Little told the groups about a program in Coeur d'Alene design to help first time offenders, and 2.5 million dollars had been set aside to create more programs like that one. He said the state had also started funding more crisis centers across the state to help first responders and health care professionals deal with addiction during the first 24 hours and get people stabilized. Recovery centers received additional funding and more will be allocated in the future from the Opioid settlement funds. Governor Little also talked about youth crisis centers being built across Idaho specifically designed to address the needs of youth mental health and addiction.

The Esto Perpetua program was designed to address the flow of fentanyl into Idaho and find ways to stop deaths.

Chairman Malek explained this was the first in a two-part program to address fentanyl in communities in Idaho. The committee was there to listen and learn from the attendees and would prepare a report of their findings for the law enforcement committee which will meet later.

Twin Falls County Prosecutor Grant Loeb

He began by explaining that in the late 90's as meth became a larger problem in his community, the crime rate also increased, including violent crime. The same is happening with fentanyl. The problem is the surge of fentanyl is much more deadly than anything we have previously dealt with. Drug overdoses are the number one killer of people in the US ages 18-45, and much is due to fentanyl. His wife works with the Governor's Drug Policy Office and has been working to help educate people about the dangers of fentanyl.

Loebs also said that the high the user gets from other illegal drugs that are laced with fentanyl is so much better, that it makes deadly fentanyl laced drugs much more popular with users. He pointed out that like many other places, his office doesn't have the manpower to deal with these cases. He explained his job was to protect people and the saddest part for him are the addicts who go through the system and because probation and parole test for other drugs, they use fentanyl instead because it's not tested for. They use and many die. Testing could be implemented tomorrow if probation and parole had funding. We could add fentanyl to the list of drugs they test for. However, counties pay the costs for most misdemeanor probation/parole programs.

Loebs pointed out that treatment was a long haul and required funding and resources. He also said adding fentanyl to the list of mandatory sentencing would have an impact on the people who are dealing the drug.

Bedke asked is there is an accurate test for fentanyl.

Loebs said there are accurate tests, but the testing can be expensive.

Bedke asked what is stopping us from adding fentanyl to the mandatory sentencing rules.

Loebs responded that we need to figure out how to measure the drugs to be able to separate the users from the dealers. Because drug dealers are not great scientists, the levels of fentanyl vary significantly and make it difficult to quantify.

Lt Raush - ISP

Raush explained as a Drug Recognition Expert he is trained to know fentanyl testing is different than other drug tests. Fentanyl testing requires multiple tests to determine if it's present and then a second test to determine what level is present. Testing can take months. He said fentanyl is mixed with most of the illegal drugs he sees, and many users have no idea they're getting fentanyl with their drugs.

Twin Falls PD Representative

The impact fentanyl has had in Twin has been significant. Their department has carried Narcan since 2016 and have used it 33 times in the last three years. Based on deaths reported by the coroner – in Twin Falls City there were 22 OD deaths in 2019. Five were due to fentanyl. In 2020, it was 19 and 8. In 2021 18/11. Both the number of overdose deaths and deaths due to fentanyl are growing. He also talked about how his agency is using Narcan multiple times on the same people. His town is still suffering the impact of meth and opioid use and now fentanyl.

Sgt Hendrickson, Twin Falls County So

In 2019, his department seized 250 fentanyl pills. In 2021, they seized 7000. People taking as many as 15 per day because it's very addictive. It is also harder to get clean from fentanyl than other drugs. Many users develop tolerances and have to use more to get the same high.

Dana Kirkman asked what community resources are available to address addiction.

Hendrickson said that checking in regularly with probation helps. There are also some drug rehab programs available in his area.

Captain Scott Bishop – Twin Falls So

He told the group that officers from his agency were working on a search warrant right now. The officers working on the warrant had found fentanyl in the house where children were present. He explained that some people are getting arrested on purpose to deal fentanyl in the jails. Body scanners, like the ones in airports would help find the drugs being brought into the jail illegally but are expensive to buy. Having scanners would help keep prisoners and people working in the jail safe from fentanyl. Access to treatment is challenging for him in his local community. He also talked about finding ways to keep kids busy might help keep them from trying drugs like these.

Kirkham asked if the Dare Program was in place in his area.

Captain Bishop explained school resource officers talk about many subjects with kids in the schools they visit. They also attend school and community activities.

Chief Thomas said he felt school resource officers were a great idea to help address drugs. He believes having conversations in school with kids about things like anxiety and drugs might help kids and schools address many issues, including challenges they may have at home. Protecting children is an important priority.

Bedke asked how many people in Twin Fall County were using illegal drugs.

A representative from the Twin Falls Prosecutor's Office said there was no specific data. She could talk about the numbers of cases she sees each day and it varies from 5-11 most days.

Chief Dan Hall- Jerome Police Dept

His agency has seized 86 pills in the last three months. There have also been four overdoses and two deaths in the last month in his community. It is challenging for his agency because there are no standards of measurements. Imagine 3-5 grains of salt being a lethal dose of fentanyl. The drugs are eroding his community. It's very terrifying and he is concerned about the safety of his employees and his community. He is understaffed and underfunded to address the challenges fentanyl is creating. Drug courts and veterans' courts have been somewhat successful in his community. He depends on relationships and partnerships with other agencies to be successful, but they need more resources. The mental health system in his community is strained.

Lance Stevenson – Minidoka County Prosecutor's Office

Stevenson told a story of a young man who overdosed and arrested. His family pleaded for him to keep the man in jail, but other family members bonded him out. He overdosed and was arrested again, and his grandmother emailed the prosecutor and

begged for him to be kept in jail. But he bonded out. On the third overdose, he was not able to be revived and died. Stevenson said he still thinks about that case and hates the outcome. He wondered what they should have done. He knows the missing piece that might have saved the man was available treatment. He felt we were going to keep missing the boat until we get all the pieces. Without treatment, the cycle is going to continue. He went on to say the rider program is not equipped to deal with fentanyl. We need to get treatment options to the locals. His department tests people on probation for fentanyl now, but its expensive and time consuming. He talked about mandatory sentencing and having the option to charge dealers with murder if appropriate.

Governor Little talked about the additional funding provided to corrections for pilot programs and felt it would be a good fit for what the prosecutor was describing.

Minidoka County Sheriff's Deputy

He said this problem started in the 80's. This drug kills officers and the public. He believes we've conditioned people to believe we'll save their lives, and we will. We need to thin the herd and do interdiction. We need to start to manage and save lives. The pills are confusing and killing people. We need to get this off our streets before it gets to courts and jails. His agency works with a task force that mainly works fentanyl cases because there are so many.

Jared Thompson – Cassia County Sheriff's Office

They partner with Minidoka jail and task force to help address the issue. The Dare program is a great idea, but he has 17 schools in his county and one school resource officer. He is also seeing people being arrested to deal drugs in the jail.

Public testimony

Citizen Comment, Jack Johnson – Twin Falls County Commissioner

He thanked the men and women in law enforcement for the work they do every day. Because of his experience in law enforcement, he can look at the issue from both spectrums. These drugs are indiscriminately killing men, women, and kids in his community. Many of the drugs come into his community on US 93. The open borders add to the problem. Funding is an issue for his county. There aren't enough funds for all the things they need. A treatment center is needed to help people in jail and who are being released.

He also invited everyone to come out for the Support Law Enforcement Day on July 8, in his town.

Citizen Comment, Douglas Scott – recovering addict

Mr. Scott explained he had been clean for 18 years but was discouraged and sad about what's going on right now. He believes interdiction is the key. He has experienced fentanyl overdose deaths in his family. He believes there should be a law that allows

prosecutors to charge dealers with manslaughter. He said these dealers were holding a gun to people's heads that they didn't even know was there.

Citizen Comment, Isiah Sharp – Media

He asked the committee how the turnout has been for the meetings and what was the reaction?

Governor Little answered this was one of the largest meetings. He also said that there were some differences due to the locations, borders were big topics in Coeur d'Alene and Weiser, but there were some similar issues in all meetings.

Sharp asked based on the challenges we're facing, if trying to stop the drugs from coming into Idaho was the best route to take.

Governor Little answered that we have to do everything we can.

Citizen Comment said he was the – "FBI's most unwanted man"

He agreed that this was about Idaho kids and families. He said his family has experienced issues because of law enforcement. He has talked to many other agencies and hasn't gotten the help he needs so he came here today to ask for help to get a lawyer to help him. He needs the lawyer to help him get the chip removed from his head that was put in by the Idaho Dept of Corrections while he was in jail. He's tired getting his own lawyer, but when he calls from his phone he gets blocked because of the chip in his head.

Chairman Malek offered to help him get to a crisis center. He refused and after a few more minutes was walked out of the meeting.

Citizen Comment, Tamara Ashley – Social worker for the state and for the Shoshone Tribe.

She grew up in Fruitland. She asked the committee what they were doing to help the people on the front lines, including the health care workers. They need resources to deal with the children and families being impacted by addiction and deaths. She explained that they need a holistic program that addresses all the pieces of recovery. She hoped agencies would work together and with the tribes to help because we are all facing similar challenges. She talked about the additional strain being placed on foster care in her community due to overdose deaths.

The meeting ended at 1130.