



Educators, state officials gather to talk about heroin epidemic

Wednesday, April 30, 2014

By Alan Johnson

“Dear Heroin,” the handwritten letter in Marin Riggs’ school-girl scrawl began. “It was like love at first sight.”

But the Pickerington girl’s relationship with heroin quickly soured. “I lied to my family, my friends, and more importantly I lied to myself. I would steal and cheat for you. I would risk my freedom and my life for you.”

Eventually, the 20-year old said goodbye to heroin — in her diary.

“I won this battle and I will never have to suffer again,” she wrote, signing it, “Your worst enemy.”

But she did not say goodbye for good. Marin’s addiction turned into a parent’s worst nightmare on Jan. 28, 2012, when she died from an overdose at the Upper Arlington apartment where her family had moved, hoping to get a fresh start.

A video about Marin was shown yesterday as educators from around Ohio were recruited by state officials to fight a heroin epidemic that “threatens the essence of who we are,” Gov. John Kasich said.

“Make a decision, cause a controversy, so what. If you make a difference in the life of a child you will be remembered forever,” Kasich said at the Alliance for High Quality Education Heroin Summit at Worthington Kilbourne High School.

Article continued here:

<http://www.dispatch.com/content/stories/local/2014/04/29/heroin-summit.html>



Kasich: Concerned teachers key to overcoming heroin problem

Wednesday, April 30, 2014

By Jessie Balmert

Concerned teachers, educated parents and organized residents will tackle heroin addiction and deaths better than any jail or treatment center, state officials told a group of educators Tuesday at the Alliance for High Quality Education’s summit.

“We’re not going to win the war, but we’re going to win many battles,” Gov. John Kasich told teachers at the “Protecting Ohio’s Families: Start Talking!” summit.

In 2012, 680 Ohioans died of heroin overdoses — the highest number since at least 2000, according to the Ohio Department of Health’s most recent figures. Five deaths were from Ross County. The deaths are not isolated to urban, suburban or rural areas.

“No one can bury their head in the sand and say, ‘Not us.’ You and I know it’s everywhere,” said Richard Ross, Ohio’s superintendent of public instruction.

Article continued here:

<http://www.chillicothe Gazette.com/article/20140429/NEWS01/304290020/Kasich-Concerned-teachers-key-overcoming-heroin-problem>



Hooked on Heroin: Gov. Kasich, Ohio AG Stress Schools’ Role Fighting Heroin

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Associated Press

WORTHINGTON, Ohio (AP) -- Ohio's governor and attorney general are stressing the role schools and educators can play in fighting the state's epidemic of heroin abuse.

Gov. John Kasich calls the drug problem a poison threatening the essence of the culture. Attorney General Mike DeWine says the state cannot solve the problem by law enforcement action alone.

Kasich and DeWine promoted the state's "Start Talking" anti-drug addiction program Tuesday during a visit to Worthington-Kilbourne High School in suburban Columbus.

The program emphasizes the importance of parents, teachers and others talking to children about staying off drugs as a way of lessening the chances that they will become addicted.

Article continued here: http://www.myfox28columbus.com/shared/news/features/top-stories/stories/wsyx_hooked-heroin-gov-kasich-ohio-ag-stress-schools-role-fighting-heroin-30951.shtml

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