



April 5, 2011

## Ohio Pain Pill Summit: Groundwork Laid For Drug War

**VIDEO:** [http://www.wsaz.com/news/headlines/Ohio\\_Pain\\_Pill\\_Summit\\_-\\_Groundwork\\_Laid\\_For\\_Drug\\_War\\_119279909.html?ref=909](http://www.wsaz.com/news/headlines/Ohio_Pain_Pill_Summit_-_Groundwork_Laid_For_Drug_War_119279909.html?ref=909)

COLUMBUS, Ohio (WSAZ) -- In Ohio's all-out war on pain pill abuse -- with Portsmouth as ground zero -- Gov. John Kasich put his money where his mouth is Tuesday. We hear so much about the crime and punishment side of the battle. But WSAZ.com has the latest on the fight for more treatment, and it's also about jobs. Kasich is following up on a pain-pill battle pledge he recently made in Portsmouth.

On Tuesday in Columbus, the drug treatment and jobs side of that war became specific at a summit on Ohio's opiate epidemic. From recovering addicts to rehab experts, minor and major players from around the state gathered to plan strategies. They also heard the governor announce \$36 million in new money -- now at the ready to fund treatment, rehabilitation and job readiness programs for pill addicts. And while opiate-based addictions are the priority, they're not the only targets. We're told the treatment and job program also will be for people with serious mental illness, for people leaving prison and for veterans. Opiate addiction, however, is the priority. Kasich also announced the creation of new opiate task forces in 23 Ohio counties -- all modeled after the pilot task force in Scioto County. That's where they will figure out how best to spend all that money. We'll follow the task force progress closely. Kasich says the treatment end of Ohio's pill war will get additional support from his faith-based and community initiatives program.

###