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 Hampshire HOPE meeting to address Hep C & state opioid law

HADLEY --- Hampshire HOPE (Heroin and Opioid Prevention & Education), Hampshire County’s ​opioid abuse prevention coalition will hold a meeting July 13 to discuss steps underway locally to respond to the opioid epidemic. The session also will take up two important issues in the effort to curb opioid-related deaths: how the 2015 Massachusetts opioid bill is part of the solution to the epidemic and the increasing danger posed by Hepatitis C.

The meeting, to be held at the Hadley Farms Meeting House at 41 Russell St., in Hadley from 2 to 4 p.m. Thursday, July 13, is open to anyone interested.

Anthony Osinski of the Department of Public Health will discuss the rising rates of Hepatitis C and what the state and local communities can do to reverse that trend.  Injection drug use is the primary way people become infected with Hep C. Osinski will present data on state and local contraction rates for the virus.

Maryann Frangules, executive director of the Massachusetts Organization for Addiction Recovery, known as MOAR, will discuss specific initiatives and strategies to combat opioid deaths that are contained in the bill Gov. Charles Baker signed into law in March.

As always at Hampshire HOPE coalition meetings, there will be time to discuss ideas and opportunities for people to become involved in the efforts to fight the opioid epidemic.

Light refreshments will be served. People attending are asked to RSVP by calling 587-1219 or online at: [hampshirehope.org/events](http://hampshirehope.org/events), although people are welcome to attend even if they haven’t registered.

Hampshire HOPE is a multi-sector coalition working to curb the rise in opioid misuse, heroin use, addiction and overdose deaths through changes in policy, practice and systems across the county.

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