

**12-R-172
RESOLUTION**

Sponsored by

**THE HONORABLE ELIZABETH "LIZ" DOODY GORMAN
AND PRESIDENT TONI PRECKWINKLE, WILLIAM M. BEAVERS, JERRY BUTLER,
EARLEAN COLLINS, JOHN P. DALEY, JOHN A. FRITCHEY, BRIDGET GAINER,
JESUS G. GARCIA, GREGG GOSLIN, JOAN PATRICIA MURPHY, EDWIN REYES,
TIMOTHY O. SCHNEIDER, PETER N. SILVESTRI, DEBORAH SIMS, ROBERT B. STEELE,
LARRY SUFFREDIN AND JEFFREY R. TOBOLSKI, COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**

**A RESOLUTION BRINGING AWARENESS TO THE GROWING HEROIN PROBLEM
IN THE GREATER CHICAGOLAND AREA**

WHEREAS, heroin is an illegal and highly addictive drug that is both the most abused and the most rapidly acting of the opiates; and

WHEREAS, heroin is typically sold as a white or brownish powder or as the black sticky substance known as "black tar heroin"; and

WHEREAS, although purer heroin is becoming more common, most heroin is "cut" with other drugs or with substances such as sugar, starch, and powdered milk, as well as strychnine or other poisons; and

WHEREAS, because heroin users do not know the actual strength of the drug or its true contents, they are at risk of overdose and death; and

WHEREAS, heroin also poses special problems because of transmission of human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) and other diseases that can occur from sharing needles or other injection equipment, and because of the medical and social consequences of abuse, including fetal effects, crime, violence, and disruptions to the family, workplace, and educational environments; and

WHEREAS, many of our area high school students are falling victim to this highly addictive drug because Heroin is much less expensive and more easily accessible than prescription drugs; and

WHEREAS, according to "Heroin Use in Illinois: A Ten-Year Multiple Indicator Analysis, 1998 to 2008", conducted by Roosevelt University and the Illinois Consortium on Drug Policy, the Chicago metropolitan area ranked among the worst nationally for heroin-related problems, including ranking first in the number of individuals admitted to the emergency room for heroin abuse and first in the percentage of arrestees testing positive for heroin; and

WHEREAS, the study also found the increase in suburban heroin abuse has resulted from increased heroin use among teens, including a 27% increase in suburban Cook County and a 46% increase in the collar counties; in 2008, over 100 individuals in the Chicago Metropolitan Area under the age of 35 died from heroin overdose; and

WHEREAS, the only way to quell the growth in use of this and other illegal drugs and put an end to the mass devastation caused by it is to first bring awareness of this growing problem to the public.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Cook County Board of Commissioners recognizes the urgency of dealing with the Heroin use problem in the Chicago Metropolitan area and encourages local schools and local officials to participate in common sense solutions and support for life-saving efforts to combat heroin use among our youth. We further encourage community members to become more aware of the growing heroin use problem and the tragedy left in its wake, by learning to recognize the signs of use and participating in local educational programs; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the text of this Resolution be spread across the journal of proceedings of this Honorable Body and that a copy hereof be presented to school districts, townships and municipalities throughout Cook County with a request they adopt this or a similar Resolution.

Approved and adopted this 17th day of April 2012.

TONI PRECKWINKLE, President
Cook County Board of Commissioners

Attest: DAVID ORR, County Clerk