

Marcum and Wallace Hospital to Collaborate with Hospitals Statewide to Fight Opioid Epidemic

Mercy Health – Marcum and Wallace Hospital is joining forces with hospitals across the state to end opioid abuse in Kentucky. To help the state's hospitals in this battle, the Kentucky Hospital Association (KHA) is partnering with the Cabinet for Health and Family Services as part of the Kentucky Opioid Response Effort (KORE) to launch the Kentucky Statewide Opioid Stewardship (KY SOS) program. This initiative will provide a mechanism for hospitals to demonstrate their actions and commitments to their patients and communities to combat the state's opioid epidemic.

KY SOS will focus on reducing opioid overpre-

scribing and improving safe opioid use throughout the commonwealth. Additionally, this project will provide a voluntary certification opportunity for hospitals that demonstrates their progress. The hospitals that are joining this partnership will: work to improve patient safety in opioid stewardship, increase community outreach and education regarding pain management and safe opioid use, and participate in site visits with the KY SOS Advisory Team.

As a member of KY SOS, Marcum and Wallace Hospital will receive: resources and education on opioid stewardship, access to clinical advisors and subject matter experts who

can assist with improvement questions and provide recommendations, access to the Kentucky Quality Counts data system to track progress on applicable measures, and support and coordination from KHA.

"The National Institute on Drug Abuse ranks Kentucky among the top 10 states with the highest opioid-related overdose deaths, and Kentucky's hospitals are on the front line in the fight to help the state recover," noted Trena Stocker, Marcum and Wallace Hospital President. "We look forward to working with KHA and our colleagues throughout the commonwealth on this new initiative, which will bring outstanding resources to our community."



Pictured are representatives from the Marcum and Wallace Hospital Kentucky Statewide Opioid Stewardship (KY SOS) team to fight the opioid epidemic: Missy Snowden, RN, Emergency Room Manager; Lisa Patton, Pharmacy Manager; Deanne Seale, RN, Medical Unit and Endo Manager, Samantha Rogers, Irvine Primary Care Manager; Dana Abney, Lee and Powell County Primary Care Manager; and Kristen Blankenbecker, Pharmacist.



Estill driver Matt Kirby, at right

The best of the best from the Kentucky Transportation Cabinet (KYTC) competed in a two-day showdown of skills at the annual State Equipment Operators' Safety and Training Conference, otherwise known as the Statewide Equipment Rodeo, this past Tuesday and Wednesday, and Estill County's Matt Kirby, at left, finished in 3rd place. Hosted at the Kentucky Horse Park, twelve KYTC Department of Highways equipment operators will advance to represent Kentucky at the Southeastern Regional Equipment Operators' Safety and Training Conference held in Biloxi, Mississippi Sept. 17-19, 2019. The winning team is composed of the first and second place winner in each of the six competitive courses. State winners: Tractor Truck with Lowboy Trailer, 1st Place- Kevin Gay, Highway District 11; 2nd Place-Tim Davis, Highway District 7; and 3rd Place- Matt Kirby, Highway District 10.

Christmas in July - Saturday, July 13th

Santa will be visiting Meade's Do It Center from 10am until Noon. He will be greeting children from the roof at 10am and will be available inside the store for pictures until noon. Please bring your own camera, there will be no charge! We will also be running sales and specials throughout the duration of the event.



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