



MIKE DEWINE

★ OHIO ATTORNEY GENERAL ★

2015 Distinguished Law Enforcement Training Award



Chief Cel Rivera
Officer Michael Gidich
Lorain Police Department

Chief Cel Rivera and Officer Michael Gidich, in an effort to stem the tide of opiate-related overdose deaths in their community, succeeded in an early program to equip officers with naloxone, a drug that blocks the effects of opioids on the brain.

In 2013, Chief Rivera began conducting research and discovered that a police department in Massachusetts had trained officers to administer naloxone to overdose victims. Chief Rivera met with Lorain County Coroner Dr. William Evans and contacted the Board of Pharmacy to see about obtaining naloxone for his officers to carry. After hitting a snag, Chief Rivera contacted state Sen. Gayle Manning and together they succeeded in gaining permission to equip officers with the nasal form of the drug. Soon, Senate Bill 57 was signed into law allowing first responders to start carrying naloxone.

With the implementation of the program, a policy and training were needed. Chief Rivera worked on the policy and asked Dr. Evans and Officer Gidich, who is also a paramedic, to work on a training presentation and video. Within two weeks, the training materials were ready for distribution throughout the county.

Since then, Chief Rivera and Officer Gidich have been assisting other departments with their programs. From October 2013 until May 2015 in Lorain, 54 overdose deaths were averted through the delivery of naloxone by police officers.