

Systems Changes to Improve Opioid Prescribing

Karen Kelly

President/CEO

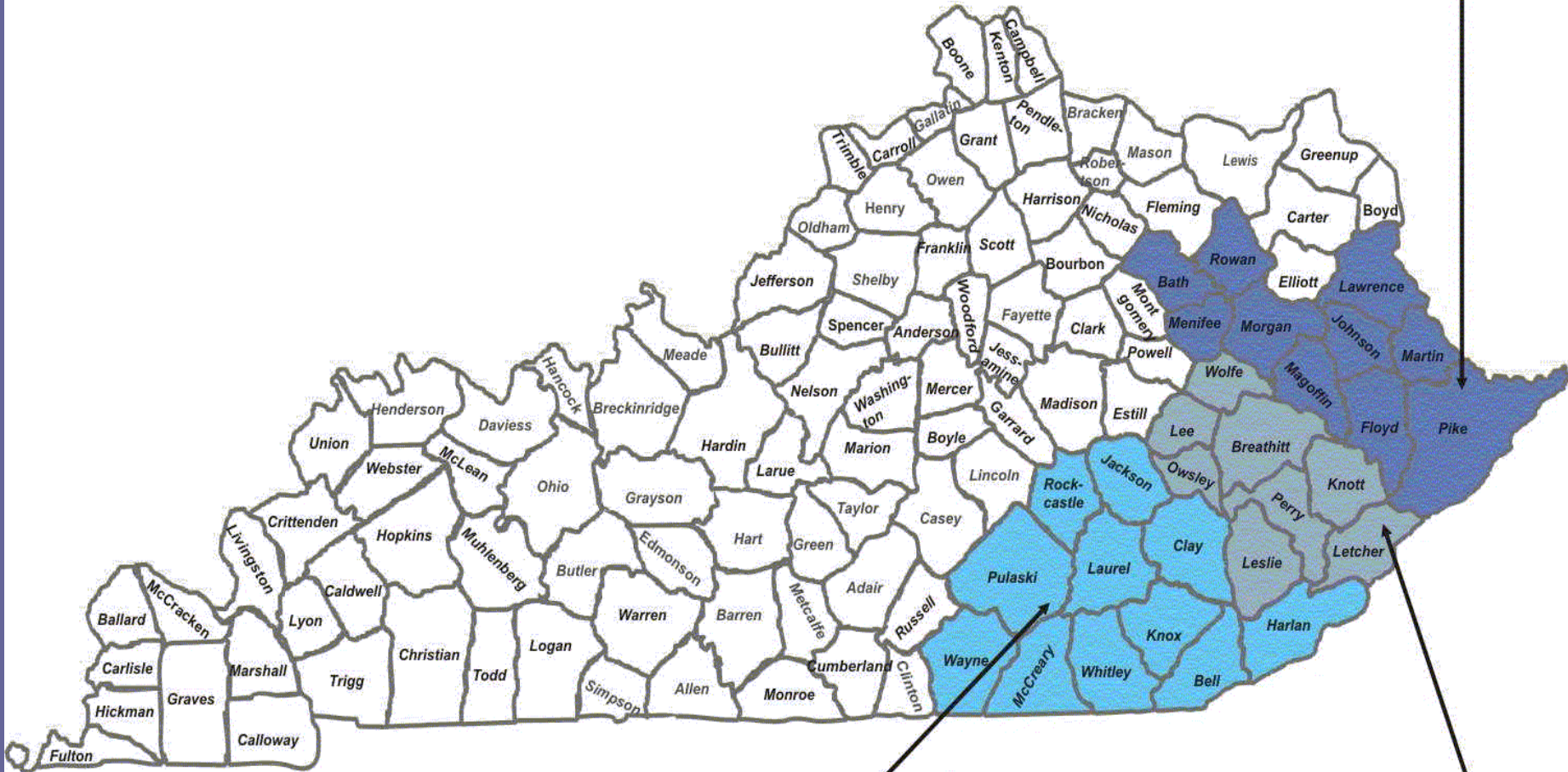
Operation UNITE (Unlawful Narcotics
Investigations, Treatment and Education)

The Problem

- Overdose rates in several Eastern KY Counties are nearly double the national rate (39.8% per 100,000 – Big Sandy Region).
- Bell County – more overdoses than any county in Kentucky.
- In December 2009, Dr. Dennis Sandlin rejected prescription pain pills to a patient and the patient allegedly murdered him (case pending).
- Five pharmacy robberies in the past 4 weeks.
- Florida pill pipeline has had a tremendous impact upon Eastern Kentucky.

UNITE Area Breakdown

Big Sandy
Narcotics Task Force



Cumberland
Narcotics Task Force

Kentucky River
Narcotics Task Force

Tackling the Problem

- Law enforcement – rural area, public corruption issues
- Treatment – hotline which receives 1,200 calls per month (just from Eastern Kentucky)
 - Vouchers for residential treatment & support for after care
 - Drug and alcohol counselors in schools
 - Drug Courts
- Education
 - Community Coalitions – Accidental Dealer & Methamphetamine Campaign
 - Youth Activities (First Tee Program/Science of Addiction, Shoot Hoops Not Drugs)
 - UNITE Service Corps
 - Medical Advisory Council
 - In response to Dr. Dennis Sandlin's death
 - Encourage KASPER use, educate physicians
 - Pikeville College School of Osteopathic Medicine

Results

- More than 2,300 individuals have been afforded the opportunity for treatment
- Every county is now served by a Drug Court program
- KIP data shows student drug use in our region is declining when it's growing across the rest of the state
- Awareness and readiness has increased in most all UNITE Counties
- Over 11,000 volunteers have been engaged in resolving this issue

Lessons Learned

- There is a real need to share information between the medical community and law enforcement (wouldn't you want to know if your patients were selling prescription pain pills)
- Unknown diversion by physician's staff
- Fear is a factor for health care professionals in our region
- We can never have enough partnerships
- Practitioner education regarding addiction is a necessity
- Pill mills/cash only clinics must be addressed

Next Steps

Short term goals:

- Continue recruitment of Medical Advisory Council members
- Fall symposium
- Practitioner education
 - Targeting community based medical societies
 - Partnership with KMA and others
 - “Kit” development/lunch sponsorships
 - Encouragement/education about KASPER