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Page 1 of 1

**AG STEVE MARSHALL PARTNERS WITH NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF ATTORNEYS GENERAL FOR LAW ENFORCEMENT TRAINING IN OVERDOSE DEATH INVESTIGATION AND PROSECUTION IN ALABAMA**

(MONTGOMERY) – Attorney General Steve Marshall partnered with the National Attorneys General Training and Research Institute (NAGTRI) to provide specialized training for law enforcement and prosecutors in Alabama on how to best handle cases involving deaths caused by overdoses of heroin and fentanyl. Approximately 100 representatives of state prosecutors’ offices and law enforcement agencies attended a seminar today at the Attorney General’s Office in Montgomery.

In Alabama and elsewhere, deaths from drug overdoses have reached crisis proportions, with reports showing that a majority of these are due to use of opioids and heroin. In 2016, such overdoses claimed the lives of about 750 victims in Alabama.

“Drug abuse is more dangerous than ever, with certain opioids such as fentanyl being fatal in very small amounts but being sold indiscriminately by dealers,” said Attorney General Marshall. “This can be tantamount to murder, with victims having no way of knowing they were taking something so powerful and deadly. It is important that we recognize this as something more than a tragic accident, and that these death scenes be evaluated with possible homicide in mind. Those involved in the sale of these opioids are profiting without care or regard for the lives destroyed by their lethal wares, and they should be held to account. The training provided today teaches how to build a strong investigation and successful prosecution of such cases.”

The Alabama training session included presentations about changing the mindset at overdose death scenes and promoting cooperation among agencies to hold accountable those who dispense, manufacture or supply drugs that kill; gaining a better understanding of tactics and components of an overdose death investigation and related legal issues; how to gather and coordinate the sharing of intelligence acquired in such investigations; and about the role of medical examiners in overdose death investigations.

NAGTRI is the training and research branch of the National Association of Attorneys General. Its mission is to provide high-quality, responsive, innovative training to state and territory attorney general offices.

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