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PRESS RELEASE

**Two Counselors Overdose and Die at
West Brandywine Halfway House**

Chester County District Attorney Tom Hogan and the West Brandywine Police Department announced that two counselors at an addiction facility in West Brandywine, Chester County died as a result of opioid overdoses at the group home.

District Attorney Hogan stated, "If anybody is wondering how bad the opioid epidemic has become, this case is a frightening example. The staff members in charge of supervising recovering addicts succumbed to their own addiction and died of opioid overdoses. Opioids are a monster that is slowly consuming our population."

Emergency responders were called to Freedom Ridge Recovery Lodge ("Freedom Recovery"), 139 Freedom Valley Circle, West Brandywine Township, Chester County on Sunday, May 22 at approximately 2:15 P.M. Freedom Recovery is located in a quiet residential area in West Brandywine. The facility is a private residence that is used as a group home or halfway house for individuals struggling with addiction. Two people worked and lived at the home as on-site counselors. Six men resided at the halfway house as part of their recovery. The counselors' duties included establishing daily activities for the residents and keeping appropriate medications for the residents under lock-and-key.

On Sunday, the residents found the counselors in two separate bedrooms, both unresponsive. The residents attempted to revive one of the counselors by

using a nasal injection of naloxone, but were unsuccessful. The residents then called the police and emergency personnel.

Both counselors were pronounced dead at the scene. In the bedrooms of both counselors, the police located used needles and heroin baggies near their bodies. The baggies were stamped with a “Superman” logo and “Danger/Skull & Crossbones” logo. See attached photos. Preliminary toxicology tests for each of the deceased were positive for heroin and fentanyl.

Vince Brown, Director of the Chester County Department of Drug and Alcohol, stated, “These deaths are tragic examples of the impact that the heroin and opioid epidemic continues to have on our communities. Nobody is immune. But it is important to know that help is available and that recovery, from any addiction, is possible and happens every day.”

District Attorney Hogan added, “Anybody who sees baggies in the area with the Superman or Danger logo must be warned to stay away from those drugs. They appear to be heroin laced with fentanyl and are likely to kill anybody who uses them. We will not even let law enforcement handle them without special precautions because of the extreme danger of death or injury.”

This case is being investigated by the Chester County Detectives and West Brandywine Police Department. Anyone with additional information should contact Chester County Detective Ben Martin at 610-344-6866.

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Approved for release:

Thomas P. Hogan