

Grant allows detective to fight pharmaceutical misuse

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MANSFIELD -- City police Detective Darrin Remaley handled fraud investigations for 10 years.

His new role will find him following a different kind of paper trail.

Remaley, 42, is the pharmaceutical investigator for the METRICH Enforcement Unit. A \$27,000 grant from the National Association of Drug Diversion Investigators is paying for the new position.

"We sought funding to increase our investigative capacity, not only for pharmaceutical diversion at the abuse level but also for health care professionals," METRICH Commander Lt. Dino Sgambellone said. "Those can be lengthy investigations requiring significant resources."

"We've seen the abuse of pharmaceuticals rise exponentially over the last several years, especially narcotic pharmaceuticals. It allows us to devote a full-time investigator, which is required given the scope of the problem."

Dawn Brown handled most of METRICH's pharmaceutical cases, but she couldn't devote all her energy to it.

Remaley joined the department in 1991. After nearly a decade in the detective bureau, he spent the last few months on patrol because of department layoffs.

"It was nice to go back for a short time," Remaley said. "It was a change, a refresher in patrol."

Still, Remaley welcomes the chance to return to a desk job.

"I'm looking forward to the challenge of this job; it interests me," he said. "Prescription drugs are a big problem."

Remaley said he has heard about the extent of the problem through his wife, a nurse.

"Darrin brings extensive investigative experience to the unit," Sgambellone said. "He has shown the ability to successfully investigate complex cases."

The grant will fund the position at least through the end of the year.

"I would hope we would retain the position beyond the scope of the grant," Sgambellone said. "Darrin is budgeted, anyway. It's just a matter of where the chief (Phil Messer) feels we need to use our resources."

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