Moultrie Health Department

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For Immediate Release

Agencies Hold Drug Take-Back Day

SULLIVAN, IL, March 6, 2019 – Several Moultrie County agencies are banding together to co-sponsor a one-day prescription medication take back event on Saturday, April 27, from 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. in the parking lot of the Moultrie County Health Department.

The Moultrie County Health Department has opened the event in accordance with the DEA National Prescription Take Back Day through the Moultrie County Sheriff's Office and the Sullivan Police Department. Other sponsors include the Moultrie County Counseling Center and New Vision, Inc. of HSHS Good Shepherd Hospital in Shelbyville.

The day is designed for individuals to be able to drop off unwanted, unused or expired prescription drugs at the event. Participants may drive under the portico at the health department where they can drop off their medications with the sponsoring agencies. There is no cost to participants. Law enforcement officials will deliver the drugs to the DEA for incineration, thus preventing the medications from falling into the wrong hands.

 "According to the DEA, during the last take back day, over 900,000 pounds of unused or expired prescriptions were collected nationwide by participating law enforcement agencies," said Moultrie County Sheriff Chris Simms. "It is a safe and efficient way to dispose of medication that could potentially end up in the wrong hands. Studies show that many times this abuse started with drugs obtained from family or friends, often from a home medicine cabinet."

Out with the old! The FDA says that expired medications are also dangerous. Less effective and risky to use, expired medicines can change in chemical composition or break down in strength. Certain expired medications are at risk for bacterial growth and sub-potent antibiotics can fail to treat infections, leading to more serious illnesses and antibiotic resistance. Once the expiration date has passed there is no guarantee that the medicine will be safe and effective. If your medicine has expired, do not use it.

"Medications are also the leading cause of child poisoning," Moultrie County Health Department Director Angela Hogan said. "Most poisonings occur when a curious child gets into medications during an unsupervised moment. We want to help families avoid this kind of tragedy by giving people an opportunity to dispose of their pharmaceuticals in a proper and safe way."

For more information on the Moultrie County Health Department's events and services, please visit www.moultriehealth.org and follow us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/moultriecountyhealth .

For more information about the National Prescription Take Back Day, please visit takebackday.dea.gov/.