



## Those with addictions need options for treatment

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Kudos to Warren County Commonwealth's Attorney Chris Cohron for acknowledging the pressing need to make legitimate treatment programs more readily available for those suffering from addictions.

"Anytime you have an individual that's in the midst of an addiction that enters the criminal justice system, the sooner you can intervene with a proper treatment plan, the less likely they are to re-offend and continue to commit crimes against the people of the commonwealth," Cohron explained in Sunday's Daily News.

"We need more legitimate treatment and treatment centers," he added. "Unfortunately, there's not a set regulatory system and we see too many fly-by-night, so-called treatment centers."

I believe this is one instance where governmental oversight is both necessary and appropriate. The expertise needed to effectively help those suffering from a debilitating addiction is out there, but like everything else in life – individually or collectively – you tend to "get what you pay for."

In the absence of any formal system for certifying qualified treatment providers, an entire industry populated by charlatans and snake oil purveyors will continue to turn the misfortunes of others into their own personal profit centers.

It's time we faced facts. Substance abuse is not an individual problem; it is a societal crisis. Moreover, most who desperately need access to treatment simply do not have the resources to pay for it.

Many Kentuckians still seem to be in denial regarding the substance abuse epidemic ravaging our state. Worse, many still cling to the uninformed and completely unrealistic notion that substance abuse is a choice rather than a disease.

Everyone afflicted with this horrible malady deserves access to affordable mental and physical health care services. It shouldn't matter if he or she lives in a gated community or under an overpass.

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