

## DRUG ABUSE

# Heroin is top topic

## Congressional candidate hosts forum

By **Lonnie Huhman**  
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ADRIAN — During a community conversation about drug abuse, Tecumseh resident Leslie Otter posed two big questions: “Why are people wanting to be so high?” Otter asked at a public forum Monday at the Adrian District Library. “What is happening to the

American public?”

State Rep. Gretchen Driskell, D-Saline, hosted a community conversation about prescription drug and opiate abuse alongside three expert panelists. She’s held similar forums in Jackson and Washtenaw counties.

Driskell is challenging U.S. Rep. Tim Walberg, R-Tipton, for the 7th Congressional District seat in

2016.

Otter said she believes this is an emergency and public health issue with too much emphasis placed on law enforcement and not enough on the root causes. She said she had heard earlier in the day a statistic from 2014 stating in the United States more people

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**From left, state Rep. Gretchen Driskell; Leigh Jameson-Heise, Lenawee County Substance Abuse Prevention Coalition coordinator; Michigan State Police Detective Sgt. Keith Pillar; and Aaron Milano of Hope over Heroin lead a panel on prescription drug and opiate abuse.**

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