



ALLEGHENY COUNTY

ALWAYS INSPIRING

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

August 2, 2017

Contact: Melissa Wade
Health Department
412-578-8312 (office)
melissa.wade@alleghenycounty.us

Elaine Plunkett
Human Services
412-350-6897
Elaine.Plunkett@AlleghenyCounty.us

Mark Bertolet
Human Services
412-350-3439
Mark.Bertolet@AlleghenyCounty.us

Hacker, Cherna Statement on Interim Report on Opioid Crisis

PITTSBURGH – Dr. Karen Hacker, Director of the Health Department, and Marc Cherna, Director of Human Services, issued the following joint statement in response to the release of the interim report from the Commission on Combating Drug Addiction and the Opioid Crisis:

“Here in Allegheny County, we have recognized the gravity of the opioid epidemic having lost over 600 persons from opioid overdoses in the last year alone. This is a public health crisis. We were encouraged by the release of the interim report today and agree with a number of its recommendations; among them – increasing access to treatment, strong support for expanding medication assisted treatment, providing improved access to naloxone, prescriber education, data sharing, and enforcement of the Mental Health Parity and Addiction Equity Act.

“These recommendations are ideas that we have been working on locally with limited resources. National action and resources aimed at the local level would be appreciated, and useful in our community.

“We applaud the efforts of the Commission and look forward to seeing the final report.”

###

Karen Hacker, MD, MPH, Director
Allegheny County Health Department – Public Information Office
542 Fourth Avenue | Pittsburgh, PA 15219
Phone: 412-687-ACHD (2243) | Fax: 412-578-8325
www.achd.net

Marc Cherna, Director
Department of Human Services – Office of Community Relations
101 Human Services Building | One Smithfield Street | Pittsburgh, PA 15222
www.alleghenycounty.us

Follow us: [allegheny alerts](#) | [facebook](#) | [google+](#) | [instagram](#) | [linkedin](#) | [pinterest](#) | [twitter](#) | [youtube](#)