

***MEDIA ADVISORY* Whitman
Hanson WILL Coalition to Host
Meeting on Opioid Abuse
Prevention**



Whitman Police Department
Scott D. Benton, Chief of Police
20 Essex St
Whitman, MA 02382

For Immediate Release

Monday, Nov. 13, 2017

Contact: John Guilfoil

Phone: 617-993-0003

Email: john@jgpr.net

MEDIA ADVISORY

**Whitman Hanson WILL Coalition
to Host Meeting on Opioid
Abuse Prevention**



WHITMAN – Police Chief Scott D. Benton announces that Whitman Hanson WILL is hosting an upcoming forum for community members on the ongoing opioid epidemic, and all are welcome.

WHEN:

Tuesday, Dec. 5 at 6 p.m.

WHERE:

Hanson Public Library, [132 Maquan St.](#)

WHAT:

The meeting will include representatives from the Whitman and Hanson police and fire departments, Whitman–Hanson school system, local community outreach programs and the Plymouth County District Attorney’s office. It will be an opportunity for residents of the towns to have a conversation with officials and talk about what efforts are being done to treat and prevent opioid addiction.

“The goal is to get everybody together to get the word out

there about the coalition and the resources that are available to residents,” Police Chief Scott D. Benton said. “The opioid epidemic has left no community untouched, and we encourage community members who have been affected by this disease to attend.”

Overdose deaths in Massachusetts have increased from 560 in 2010 to an estimated 2,107 in 2016, according to the state Department of Public Health. In recent months, officials have warned of increased usage of fentanyl and carfentanyl in the region and the dangers posed by using the powerful opioids that are significantly stronger than heroin.

For more information about the meeting, contact Amanda Sandoval at asandoval@hptc.org. Sandoval is the Assistant Director of Preventative Services for the High Point Treatment Center.

About Whitman Hanson WILL:

Whitman Hanson WILL is part of a regional coalition, the Brockton Area Opioid Abuse Prevention Collaborative, which works to promote advocacy and reduce the stigma associated with substance use disorders. Their mission is to provide opioid abuse and overdose prevention resources to the community through education, awareness and support.

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**Newburyport Mayor Donna
Holaday Joins 27 Mass. Mayors**

in Push to Change Federal Drug Policy



City of Newburyport
Donna Holaday, Mayor
60 Pleasant St.
Newburyport, MA 01950
For Immediate Release

Thursday, Nov. 2, 2017

Contact: John Guilfoil
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Newburyport Mayor Donna Holaday Joins 27 Massachusetts Mayors in Push to Change Federal Drug Policy

Letter Requests Restoration of DEA Enforcement Authority to Pursue Unlawful Prescription Drug Distribution

NEWBURYPORT – Mayor Donna D. Holaday announces that she has joined with 27 mayors from across Massachusetts to push for a federal law change to allow the Drug Enforcement Agency to pursue inappropriate wholesale prescription drug distribution,

which fuels the opioid addiction epidemic that has afflicted cities throughout the Commonwealth and across the country.

“Every community in our Commonwealth has been impacted by this opioid epidemic, and Newburyport is not exempt,” Mayor Holaday said. “It is unconscionable given the knowledge we have about opioids and addiction that Congress would strip the DEA of enforcement of the wholesale distribution of these meds to pop up pain clinics.

“For the past several years, we and members of our communities have attended the funerals of friends, and the funerals of the children of friends, with sickening regularity,” the mayors wrote. “What we need and demand on the federal level is a Congress that will prioritize our families over the drug industry, a DEA with the enforcement authority and tools it needs to crack down on illegal corporate drug activity; and a drug czar committed to helping us in our fight instead of supporting industry profit at the expense of our children.”

The letter, addressed to President Donald J. Trump and members of Congress, urges that:

- The next nominee for the nation’s drug czar be free of financial or other connections to the prescription drug distribution industry, and be of unassailable professional and personal character; and
- That Congress repeal and replace the April 2016 law, passed through a parliamentary procedure without debate, that stripped the DEA of critical enforcement authority; the new law must give the DEA the authority to protect the interests of the public and simply cannot be bought and paid for by the legal drug distribution industry.

According to data provided by the White House, since 2000 over 300,000 Americans have died from overdoses involving opioids. Drug overdoses are now the leading cause of injury death in the United States more than traffic crashes and gun-related

deaths combined. In 2015, there were 33,091 overdose deaths involving of opioids.

The nation loses 175 people every day to overdose.

The list of signatories includes:

Mayor Richard Cohen, Agawam
Mayor Michael P. Cahill, Beverly
Mayor Joseph C. Sullivan, Braintree
Mayor Bill Carpenter, Brockton
Mayor E. Denise Simmons, Cambridge
City Manager Thomas G. Ambrosino, Chelsea
Mayor Carlo DeMaria, Everett
Mayor Jasiel F. Correia II, Fall River
Mayor Stephen L. DiNatale, Fitchburg
Mayor Sefatia Romeo Theken, Gloucester
Mayor William F. Martin, Greenfield
Mayor James F. Fiorentini, Haverhill
Mayor Dan Rivera, Lawrence
Mayor Gary Christenson, Malden
Mayor Arthur Vigeant, Marlborough
Mayor Stephanie Muccini Burke, Medford
Mayor Robert J. Dolan, Melrose
Mayor Jon Mitchell, New Bedford
Mayor Donna D. Holaday, Newburyport
Mayor Setti Warren, Newton
Mayor Richard J. Alcombright, North Adams
Mayor Ted Bettencourt, Peabody
Mayor Linda M. Tyer, Pittsfield
Mayor Brian M. Arrigo, Revere
Mayor Domenic J. Sarno, Springfield
Mayor Thomas C. Hoye, Jr., Taunton
Mayor William Reichelt, West Springfield
Mayor Scott D. Galvin, Woburn

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P.A.A.R.I. Leaders Travel to Washington D.C. for White House Event on the Nationwide Opioid Crisis



P.A.A.R.I.
John Rosenthal, Co-founder & Chairman
186 Main Street
Gloucester, MA 01930

For Immediate Release

Thursday, Oct. 26, 2017

Media Contact: John Guilfoil

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P.A.A.R.I. Leaders Travel to Washington D.C. for White House Event on the Nationwide Opioid Crisis

GLOUCESTER – John Rosenthal, Co-founder and Chairman of the Police Assisted Addiction and Recovery Initiative (P.A.A.R.I.) is pleased to announce that P.A.A.R.I. leaders will attend a White House event Thursday afternoon on the nationwide opioid

crisis. Chief Frederick Ryan (Arlington, Massachusetts Police Department), Chief Matthew Vanyo (Olmsted Township, Ohio Police Department) and Allie Hunter McDade, P.A.A.R.I. Executive Director will join the President and First Lady, cabinet members, members of congress, heads of government agencies, and leaders from around the country to represent for what may be a historic moment in the administration's response to the nationwide opioid epidemic.

"The opioid epidemic is the most urgent public health and public safety issue we face today, as a country and as law enforcement, killing more than 175 Americans every single day," Hunter McDade said. "Together, we have put 10,000 4mg doses of life-saving nasal naloxone into the hands of first responders and helped over 12,000 people into treatment. These programs make our communities safer, prevent overdose deaths, build community trust of their police, and save law enforcement and taxpayer funds."

In August P.A.A.R.I.'s law enforcement members urged the federal government to declare a Public Health Emergency. Declaring a public health emergency is not only a symbolic recognition of the severity and urgency of this crisis, but also will mobilize the highest levels of the government to take immediate and effective action to deploy the resources required to save lives.

"We are hopeful that a declaration of a public health emergency also includes plans for the federal government to stock and deploy massive quantities of 4mg nasal naloxone and make effective treatments for opioid addiction, such as medication-assisted treatment, more available and affordable," Hunter McDade said.

Recognizing that traditional criminal justice approaches to addiction have not been effective and that the nation cannot arrest its way out of the opioid epidemic, P.A.A.R.I. is leading a nationwide movement led by law enforcement that

recognizes addiction is a chronic disease that needs long-term treatment, not arrest and jail. So far, 321 police departments from across the county have joined P.A.A.R.I. and created pre-arrest programs that create immediate and stigma-free entry points to treatment and recovery programs.

Chief Ryan, Chief Vanyo, and Hunter McDade are steadfast in their dedication to supporting people with substance use disorders and amplifying the unified voice of law enforcement in a nonpartisan effort to save lives in light of the mounting opioid epidemic.

P.A.A.R.I.'s law enforcement partners are on the front lines of the opioid epidemic, doing everything they can to grapple with this mounting crisis. The organization is honored that P.A.A.R.I. representatives were invited to have a seat at the table to share our experiences and educate the administration and lawmakers about the success of P.A.A.R.I.'s approach to saving lives.

"We look forward to attending this afternoon's event and learning more about how the President will honor his pledge to fight this epidemic and give people struggling with addiction access to the help they need," Hunter McDade said

About P.A.A.R.I.:

The Police Assisted Addiction & Recovery Initiative (P.A.A.R.I.) is a 501c3 nonprofit with a mission to help law enforcement agencies establish pre-arrest programs that create immediate and stigma-free entry points to treatment and recovery programs. P.A.A.R.I. works across sectors to provide training, coaching, and support; program models, policies and procedures, and templates; seed grants; connections to over 300 vetted treatment centers; a network of like-minded law enforcement agencies; a unified voice with media and legislators; and capacity building through AmeriCorps. P.A.A.R.I. is free to join and open to any law enforcement

agency that believes in treatment over arrest and views addiction as a disease not a crime. Since June 2015, P.A.A.R.I. has launched more than 320 law enforcement programs in 31 states, distributed 10,000 4mg doses of life-saving nasal naloxone, and helped over 12,000 people into treatment.

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***MEDIA ADVISORY* Whitman Hanson WILL to Host Naloxine Sim Event**



Whitman Police Department
Scott D. Benton, Chief of Police
20 Essex St
Whitman, MA 02382

For Immediate Release

Wednesday, Oct. 25, 2017

Contact: John Guilfoil
Phone: 617-993-0003
Email: john@jgpr.net

Whitman Hanson WILL to Provide Free Narcan Training

WHITMAN – Chief Scott D. Benton reports that the Whitman Hanson WILL organization, in conjunction with South Shore Hospital and Duval’s Pharmacy, is hosting a Naloxone Sim Lab event to teach those suffering from substance use disorders, their families, and loved ones how to administer potentially lifesaving Narcan in the event of an overdose.

WHITMAN HANSON WILL PRESENTS:

NALOXONE SIM LAB

Saturday November 4, 2017 | 10AM – 1PM

Naloxone or “Narcan” is an opioid antagonist that reverses the effects of an opioid overdose. This Naloxone Sim Lab, provided by South Shore Hospital, creates a mock overdose situation to help individuals understand how to use this medication in a crisis situation.



Duval's Pharmacy
571 Washington Street
Whitman, MA 02382

If you have any questions please contact Arenda Sandoval at:
asandoval@ptc.org | 508-742-4405

www.whitmanhansonwill.org

WHEN:

Saturday, Nov. 4, 2017 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

WHERE:

Duval’s Pharmacy
571 Washington St., Whitman

WHAT:

Naloxone or Narcan is an opioid antagonist that can reverse the effects of a heroin or other opioid overdose and save a life. The Naloxone Sim Lab create a mock overdose situation to help people understand what an addicted person goes through and also how to use “Narcan” in a crisis situation.

“We encourage all citizens to come by and take advantage of this opportunity to become better educated on the opioid epidemic that has gripped our country,” Chief Benton said.

About Whitman Hanson WILL

Whitman Hanson WILL is part of a regional collaborative, the Brockton Area Opioid Abuse Prevention Collaborative. Whitman

Hanson WILL is made up of volunteers across twelve sectors in addition to promoting advocacy and working effortlessly to reduce the stigma associated with substance use disorders.



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