



National Lieutenant Governors Association

RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF EVIDENCE BASED MEDICAL TREATMENT FOR OPIOID USE DISORDER

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- 3 **WHEREAS**, opioid overdose continues to be a major public health problem in the United States,
4 contributing significantly to accidental deaths among those who use or misuse illicit and
5 prescription opioids [1]; and
- 6 **WHEREAS**, in the 2014 National Survey on Drug Use and Health (NSDUH), 435,000 respondents
7 ages 12 or older reported current use of heroin [2]; and
- 8 **WHEREAS**, opioids – prescription and illicit – are the main driver of drug overdose deaths. Opioids
9 were involved in 42,249 deaths in 2016, and opioid overdose deaths were five times higher in 2016
10 than 1999 [3]; and
- 11 **WHEREAS**, the Council of Economic Advisers estimates that in 2015, the economic cost of the opioid
12 crisis was \$504.0 billion, or 2.8 percent of the GDP that year [4]; and
- 13 **WHEREAS**, nearly 80 percent of individuals with an opioid use disorder do not receive treatment
14 [5]; and
- 15 **WHEREAS**, medication-assisted treatment (MAT) is an effective response to opioid use disorder.
16 MAT is the use of medication, in combination with behavioral therapies, to provide a whole-patient
17 approach to the treatment of substance use disorders [6]; and
- 18 **WHEREAS**, individuals receiving MAT often demonstrate dramatic improvement in addiction-
19 related behaviors and psychosocial functioning [7].
- 20 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** the National Lieutenant Governors Association (NLGA)
21 supports policies and programs that assist communities and their health care providers in the
22 prevention, early detection and treatment of opioid use and addiction.
- 23 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the NLGA supports standardized screening and assessment tools
24 and protocols to ensure appropriate treatment placement at the proper level of care; and
- 25 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the NLGA supports policies which, per the federal Comprehension
26 Addiction and Recovery Act, necessitate that substance abuse treatment providers inform
27 individuals with substance use disorders of the risks and benefits of all forms of FDA-approved MAT
28 and provide such services either directly or by referral.



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- [1] Overdose Prevention Toolkit, Substance Abuse & Mental Health Services Administration, <https://www.samhsa.gov/capt/tools-learning-resources/opioid-overdose-prevention-toolkit>
- [2] Medication Assisted Treatment of Opioid Use Disorder Pocket Guide, Substance Abuse & Mental Health Services Administration, SMA 16-4892PG, <https://store.samhsa.gov/product/Medication-Assisted-Treatment-of-Opioid-Use-Disorder-Pocket-Guide/SMA16-4892PG>
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, <https://www.cdc.gov/drugoverdose/data/statedeaths.html>
- [3] Council of Economic Advisors, November 2017, <https://www.whitehouse.gov/sites/whitehouse.gov/files/images/The%20Underestimated%20Cost%20of%20the%20Opioid%20Crisis.pdf>
- [4] Medication Assisted Treatment of Opioid Use Disorder Pocket Guide, Substance Abuse & Mental Health Services Administration, SMA 16-4892PG, <https://store.samhsa.gov/product/Medication-Assisted-Treatment-of-Opioid-Use-Disorder-Pocket-Guide/SMA16-4892PG>
- [5] Medication Assisted Treatment of Opioid Use Disorder Pocket Guide, Substance Abuse & Mental Health Services Administration, SMA 16-4892PG, <https://store.samhsa.gov/product/Medication-Assisted-Treatment-of-Opioid-Use-Disorder-Pocket-Guide/SMA16-4892PG>
- [6] Medication Assisted Treatment of Opioid Use Disorder Pocket Guide, Substance Abuse & Mental Health Services Administration, SMA 16-4892PG, <https://store.samhsa.gov/product/Medication-Assisted-Treatment-of-Opioid-Use-Disorder-Pocket-Guide/SMA16-4892PG>

ADOPTED, this day, the 16th of March, 2018.

Sponsors: Lt. Governor Spencer Cox (R – Utah), Lt. Governor Suzanne Crouch (R – Indiana), Lt. Governor Bethany Hall-Long (D – Delaware), Lt. Governor Rebecca Kleefisch (R – Wisconsin), Lt. Governor Matt Michels (R – South Dakota); Lt. Governor David Zuckerman (P-D – Vermont)