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Media Advisory

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Frederick County Chamber of Commerce, Frederick County Health Department, and Frederick County Sheriff's Office to Host Opioid Addiction Summit

Through a collaborative effort to continue to break the stigma and find solutions on the current Opioid crisis, the Frederick County Sheriff's Office, Frederick County Chamber of Commerce, and the Frederick County Health Department will be hosting *Frederick Stands Together: Conquering the Crisis* on March 28th, 2019. This community event will be held from 4 p.m. to 8 p.m. at the Frederick Fairgrounds in the Null Building, located at 797 E. Patrick Street.

The goal of the event is to implement an integrated, community-wide effort to bring education, health care, law enforcement, and the Frederick community together to work toward combatting this crisis. Attendees of this event can expect a wide variety of informational resources, representatives from important community groups and organizations, support resources, health resources, and more. There will be a wide variety of speakers throughout the evening with topics such as why addiction is so difficult, the neuroscience of addiction, a mother's perspective, a first-hand testimony of addiction and personal recovery, and more. The Frederick County Health Department will also be providing Narcan training throughout the evening.

"We recognize that this crisis impacts every life, including the lives of our members," said Rick Weldon, President and CEO of the Frederick County Chamber of Commerce. "We're happy to work with the Sheriff's Office and the Health Department to raise awareness and highlight solutions."

"Our community has suffered tragic loss and pain due to the opioid crisis. It is the duty of public health to bring cutting edge research and knowledge to our community to fight this epidemic. We, along with our community partners, are working to translate this research into practice via accessible prevention and treatment resources for our residents," said Dr. Barbara Brookmyer, Health Officer with the Frederick County Health Department. "This is a great opportunity for community members to learn about the complex science of addiction and become involved in implementing community based solutions to reduce stigma and support persons experiencing drug and alcohol addiction."

"The purpose of this event is to get the public to realize the magnitude of the heroin and opioid addiction problem, focusing on what is necessary to turn the tide on this public health crisis. We want families to realize this is not only an individual addiction problem but a problem that does affect other families throughout the entire community, and to know there are local treatment,

recovery, and support resources available to help defeat addiction,” said Frederick County Sheriff Chuck Jenkins. “They are not struggling alone.”

Frederick Stands Together: Conquering the Crisis is free and open to the public. If interested in being a participating vendor at this event, please contact Nan Sheridan-Mann of the Frederick County Chamber of Commerce at 301-662-4164 ext. 212, or at nmann@frederickchamber.org.

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