



NELSON W. WOLFF
JUDGE
COUNTY OF BEXAR
TEXAS



RON NIRENBERG
MAYOR
CITY OF SAN ANTONIO
TEXAS

July 24, 2017

Thank you for participating in the Joint Opioid Task Force. We invite you to join us at the inaugural meeting of the Joint Opioid Task Force at 9:30 am on August 8, 2017 at the Robert B. Greene Pavilion at 903 West Martin Street.

Our community currently leads the state in infant opioid withdrawal and has the third highest per capita rate of overdose deaths in Texas. Any meaningful solution to this growing public health crisis will require collaboration between public health experts, medical and pharmaceutical professionals, first responders, policymakers, public school districts, and social services agencies.

The alarming trends surrounding the misuse and abuse of opioids require immediate action. Bexar County, the City of San Antonio, and University Health System decided last month to convene a Joint Opioid Task Force to be co-chaired by Metro Health Director Dr. Colleen Bridger and UHS Chief Medical Officer Dr. Bryan Alsip.


The general objective of the Joint Opioid Task Force is to decrease opioid overdose deaths in Bexar County. To that end, the Joint Opioid Task Force will specifically:

1. Increase the use of Naloxone and other overdose reversal drugs by first responders
2. Increase the use of the Physician Drug Monitoring Drug Program by medical professionals
3. Increase provider training on evidence-based prescribing and dispensing of opioid related pharmaceutical products
4. Provide community education on: a) safe disposal of prescribed opioids; b) the effect of heroin and other opioids, especially on adolescents; and c) treatment options.

The Joint Opioid Task Force will conduct public bimonthly meetings and report its final findings and recommendations to the Bexar County Commissioners Court, San Antonio City Council, and University Health System Board of Managers on or before September 30, 2018.

We look forward to working with you to curtail the use and abuse of dangerous opioids in our community.

Sincerely,


Nelson W. Wolff


Ron Nirenberg