



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES  
DIVISION OF SOCIAL SERVICES

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DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL SERVICES  
AND COUNTY OPERATIONS

June 28, 2017

DEAR COUNTY DIRECTORS OF SOCIAL SERVICES

SUBJECT: NORTH CAROLINA'S OPIOID ACTION PLAN

Over the past few months there has been considerable cross-division collaboration at NC DHHS to develop strategies to combat the opioid crisis. Yesterday, during the first of a two-day Opioid Misuse and Overdose Prevention Summit, North Carolina's Opioid Action Plan was launched. It outlines the key actions we believe will have the greatest impact on reducing opioid addiction and overdose death. The intent of the Plan is to identify specific, tangible, achievable steps that will have the greatest impact on reducing the burden of death from the opioid epidemic and the partners in North Carolina that are engaging in this work. Our goal is to change the trajectory of opioid deaths and reduce opioid overdose deaths by 20% by 2021. This living document marks a coordinated strategy to turn the tide on our state's opioid crisis—a crisis that has claimed the lives of more than 12,000 individuals in North Carolina since 1999.

The impact of opioid addiction is seen across the populations we serve. The work to end the opioid crisis is our collective responsibility. Whether it's Social Services seeing a large increase in the number of foster children it serves, health and mental health providers who must work to provide folks suffering from substance use disorders with the best level of care, the Community Action Agencies providing critical case management and support services to those affected by their own or a loved one's addiction – we must all work together to solve this complex problem.

While North Carolina's Opioid Action Plan was launched at the Summit, this is just the start! We must all work together to truly turn the tide on the opioid crisis. We have a lot of work to do to make a difference in the lives of our businesses, neighbors, families, hospitals, and communities that are impacted by this epidemic.

Find more information on North Carolina's Opioid Action Plan click [here](https://www.ncdhhs.gov/opioids) or cut and paste this link into your browser: <https://www.ncdhhs.gov/opioids>. This website offers a wealth of information about the opioid problem including an overview of the opioid crisis, the Opioid Action Plan, and referral information.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Wayne E. Black".

Wayne E. Black

Attachment: N.C. Opioid Action Plan

DIR-04-2017

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