

From: Richards, Alyson [Alyson.Richards@state.vt.us]
Sent: Thursday, July 23, 2015 12:12 PM
To: Chen, Harry; Cimaglio, Barbara; Allen, Susan
Subject: FW: HHS Secretary Burwell Letter to Governors Regarding Upcoming 50-State Convening on Opioids
Attachments: HHS Secretary Burwell Letter to Governors re 50-State Convening on Opioids 072215.pdf

Hi all,

Here is the follow-up letter from HHS on this year's 50 State Convening on Opioids, which they started as an annual event last year – as you well know through your participation!

I'm cc-ing Sue Allen who can help usher this forward as Friday is my last day in the Governor's Office.

Thank you, all!

Best,
Aly

From: Mason, James (HHS/IEA) [mailto:james.mason@hhs.gov]
Sent: Wednesday, July 22, 2015 7:37 PM
To: HHS IEA (OS/IEA)
Cc: Dioguardi, Paul (HHS/IEA); Barson, Emily (HHS/IEA)
Subject: HHS Secretary Burwell Letter to Governors Regarding Upcoming 50-State Convening on Opioids

Dear Colleague:

Today, Health and Human Services (HHS) Secretary Burwell sent a letter to your Governor inviting your state's participation in a second national meeting to address the epidemic of opioid overdoses and deaths, scheduled for September 17-18, 2015 in Washington. The personally addressed signed hard copy has been mailed to your Governor, but the invitation language is attached.

As with last year's summit, the Secretary is asking your Governor to designate the state officials for the state team. HHS will be able to pay the travel expenses for three team members, and the state has the option of sending up to two additional team members at state expense. You may find more details about the 50-state convening at <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/50-state-convening-to-prevent-opioid-overdose-and-addiction-tickets-17445671473>.

If you have any logistical questions about the meeting, please contact 50StateConvening@mathematica-mpr.com. For other questions, please feel free to follow up with Jim Mason on my staff at james.mason@hhs.gov or at (202) 401-5639.

We appreciate your help in sharing this letter with the appropriate staff in your Governor's office and look forward to your state's participation in this important meeting.

Paul Dioguardi
Director of Intergovernmental and External Affairs

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services



THE SECRETARY OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20201

JUL 22 2015

Dear Governor:

We share a deep concern that we continue to lose too many members of our communities to opioid drug overdoses. The United States is in the midst of a prescription opioid and heroin epidemic, driven in part by the increased—and often inappropriate—prescribing of opioid pain relievers. In 2013, overdoses from prescription opioid pain relievers claimed more than 16,200 lives, with more than 145,000 people dying from these overdoses in the last decade. Heroin deaths have also been climbing sharply, nearly quadrupling between 2002 and 2013. The resulting health, social, and economic consequences for communities across the country are enormous.

We also know that this issue knows no boundaries and we must work together, at the federal, state, and local level to address this crisis. States play a central role in prevention, treatment and recovery. That is why I have joined with the National Governors Association (NGA), Association of State and Territorial Health Officials (ASTHO) and the National Association of State Alcohol and Drug Abuse Directors (NASADAD), and we are pleased to invite your state to participate in a second national meeting on this topic. The meeting, **“Advancing Policy and Practice: A 50-State Convening to Prevent Opioid Overdose and Addiction”** will take place **September 17-18, 2015, in Washington, DC.**

Last summer, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) invited all 50 states and the District of Columbia to an intensive two-day working meeting to develop action plans on prescriber-focused interventions to address opioid-related overdoses and deaths. In April, I sent a letter giving you an update on our work and further plans to move forward on this critical issue, including plans to host another convening of all 50 states and D.C. again this year. Many of you have answered my letter with your plans, best practices and lessons learned. Our agenda for this year’s convening will be informed by your responses.

I invite you to assemble a three-person delegation of state officials to participate in this meeting on behalf of your state. Though the federal government is critical to addressing the problem, states are key actors in addressing many facets of this public health crisis. Your state team will join colleagues from across the country to share experiences implementing proven strategies and best practices for preventing opioid use disorders and overdoses. The participants will also

engage with leadership and experts from HHS and our partner organizations to help inform both federal and state actions moving forward.

Actions to address opioid abuse and addiction must target a range of actors, including prescribers, high-risk patients, and those engaged in heroin use. While last year's meeting focused exclusively on prescriber-targeted interventions, this year we will also include a focus on both naloxone and medication-assisted treatment (MAT).

HHS will support your delegation's participation in this meeting by providing for the travel, lodging, and per diem for your state's three team members. We encourage participation from the Governors' staff as well as other state officials who are involved in activities associated with controlled substance prescribing, naloxone, and MAT, such as the state prescription drug monitoring program, state medical licensing board, state substance abuse agency, and/or state health department. You are welcome to include up to two additional members in your state delegation, though additional team members will be responsible for travel costs associated with their participation. For further meeting information, please contact 50StateConvening@mathematica-mpr.com.

Designated participants, including local attendees, should complete their meeting registration online by **August 17, 2015**: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/50-state-working-meeting-to-prevent-opioid-related-overdoses-tickets-17445671473>. Registrants will receive a follow up correspondence from our logistics contractor, Mathematica Policy Research, with guidance on travel arrangements. Participants with additional logistical requirements may contact 50StateConvening@mathematica-mpr.com for assistance.

We look forward to partnering with you to address this important public health issue.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Sylvia M. Burwell". The script is fluid and cursive, with the first letters of the first and last names being capitalized and prominent.

Sylvia M. Burwell