



COUNTY OF ERIE

OFFICE OF COUNTY EXECUTIVE

Kathy Dahlkemper
COUNTY EXECUTIVE

MEDIA RELEASE

Contact: Kristin Bowers
kbowers@eriecountypa.gov
814-451-7440

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
January 9, 2017

County Executive Details Opioid Task Force Report

Erie, PA – Erie County Executive Kathy Dahlkemper on Monday detailed the final report from the National Association of Counties-National League of Cities Opioid Epidemic Task Force.

Dahlkemper was appointed to the 24-member national task force in March 2016. The joint task force created the final report as a set of guidelines for local governments across the nation to use in fighting the opioid epidemic.

“It was truly an honor to be a part of the task force, to join in the discourse and establish a foundation for all communities to use in fighting this scourge,” Dahlkemper said. “It was imperative that the work be done through counties and cities, since we know that it is officials and organizations at the local level that are encountering this epidemic first-hand every day.”

Dahlkemper outlined strategies that Erie County has already taken in fighting the opioid crisis, including establishing Warm Handoffs at local hospitals; expanding the use of naloxone by law enforcement officials; and sponsoring Med Return Units, for the safe disposal of prescription drugs, at 12 sites around Erie County. Dahlkemper also emphasized that Erie County government would continue to be a leader in fighting the epidemic, including by promoting prevention and treatment, as well as working to decrease the stigma of addiction.

Also at the news conference, Erie County Coroner Lyell Cook detailed evidence of the opioid epidemic’s spread. Drug-related deaths investigated by his office have significantly increased in recent years, he said, and have crossed all boundaries – gender, race, age and location.

Erie County District Attorney Jack Daneri also addressed the ways in which the epidemic has affected his office, as well as his office’s efforts to increase naloxone access for first responders.

To read the NACo-NLC Opioid Epidemic Task Force report, visit <http://opioidaction.org/report/>.

###