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Sent: Monday, September 19, 2016 10:05 AM
To: USDOJ-Office of Public Affairs (SMO) (JMD)
Subject: FW: White House to Host Embargoed Press Call on Prescription Opioid and Heroin Epidemic Awareness Week
Attachments: Presidential+Proclamation.pdf

THE WHITE HOUSE
Office of the Press Secretary

FOR PLANNING PURPOSES ONLY
September 19, 2016

White House to Host Embargoed Press Call on Prescription Opioid and Heroin Epidemic Awareness Week

WASHINGTON, DC – Today, September 19, at 12:30 PM EDT, Attorney General Loretta Lynch, Secretary of Agriculture Tom Vilsack, and Director of National Drug Control Policy Michael Botticelli will join parents who have lost children to overdose on an embargoed, on-the-record press call to discuss Prescription Opioid and Heroin Epidemic Awareness Week. Prior to the call, parents from across the country are meeting at the White House with Secretary Vilsack and Director Botticelli to share their experiences and efforts to address the opioid epidemic.

President Obama proclaimed September 18-24, 2016, as Prescription Opioid and Heroin Epidemic Awareness Week (see enclosed proclamation). This week, Attorney General Loretta Lynch and other Justice Department officials – as well as U.S. Attorney’s Offices and Bureau of Prison facilities across the country – will participate in over 250 different events highlighting the importance of prevention, enforcement, and treatment. The Department of Agriculture will host state forums on the epidemic in Connecticut and Colorado. Secretary of Veterans Affairs Robert McDonald will lead a forum in Washington, DC, on treatment and support for veterans with opioid use disorder.

Following the call details is a partial listing of Prescription Opioid and Heroin Epidemic Awareness Week activities. Additional activities and actions will be announced throughout the next week.

WHO: Attorney General Loretta Lynch, Department of Justice
Secretary Tom Vilsack, Department of Agriculture
Director Michael Botticelli, Office of National Drug Control Policy
Lou Duran, New Mexico parent
Don Flattery, Virginia parent

WHEN: TODAY, Monday, September 19, 2016 at 12:30PM ET

WHAT: On-the-record press conference call, embargoed until 2:00 PM.

RSVP: Members of the media who wish to join this call should dial (800) 230-1092 and ask for the “White House Call.” No passcode is necessary.

Partial Listing of Prescription Opioid and Heroin Epidemic Awareness Week Activities:

Monday, September 19, 2016:

National Drug Control Policy Director Michael Botticelli and Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack will host a roundtable conversation in the White House with parents from across the country whose family members have been affected by the prescription opioid and heroin epidemic. Press inquiries should be directed to Mediainquiry@ondcp.eop.gov.

Deputy Attorney General Sally Yates will visit a Bureau of Prisons (BOP) Community Treatment Services program in Washington, DC. The Community Treatment Program is the final stage of BOP’s Residential Drug Abuse Program, as the individuals completing their sentences transition through Residential Reentry Centers. This visit will highlight BOP’s efforts to provide treatment to individuals with substance use disorders. Press inquiries should be directed to the Office of Public Affairs at press@usdoj.gov.

Acting Bureau of Prisons Director Thomas Kane will meet participants in a Residential Drug Abuse Program at the Federal Correctional Institution in Cumberland, MD. Press inquiries should be directed to the DOJ Press office at press@doj.gov.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture’s Farm Service Agency and Rural Development offices in key affected states will be hosting forums to bring together government officials, medical professionals, law enforcement, and other stakeholders to raise awareness of the issue, forge partnerships, identify possible solutions and highlight the need for more treatment resources in rural communities. The first two will be held September 19 in Tolland, Connecticut, and September 20 in Brighton, Colorado. Press inquiries should be directed to press@oc.usda.gov.

Tuesday, September 20, 2016:

Attorney General Loretta Lynch will travel to Lexington, Kentucky, to hold a student town hall at a high school, meet with parents who have lost their children to overdose, and then close the day at the University of Kentucky for a policy speech on how the Administration is addressing the epidemic through prevention, enforcement and treatment. Press inquiries should be directed to the Office of Public Affairs at press@usdoj.gov.

Organized Crime Drug Enforcement Task Forces Director Bruce Ohr will travel to New Mexico to hold meetings with the leaders of three communities in the Espanola Valley. During his visit, he will talk with tribal leaders to discuss federal assistance to address the epidemic in Indian Country and best practices for first responders to carry naloxone. Press inquiries should be directed to the Office of Public Affairs at press@usdoj.gov.

Veterans Affairs Secretary Robert McDonald, Principal Associate Attorney General Bill Baer, and National Drug Control Policy Director Michael Botticelli will participate in a roundtable discussion

on the Administration's efforts to assist our nation's veterans suffering from opioid use disorder. Press inquiries should be directed to the Office of Public Affairs at press@usdoj.gov.

Thursday, September 22, 2016:

Director Botticelli will speak at the Association of State and Territorial Health Officials Annual Meeting in Minneapolis on the important role that public health leaders must play in addressing the epidemic. Press inquiries should be directed to Mediainquiry@ondcp.eop.gov.

Office of Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS) Director Ron Davis will hold an event on federal support for targeted enforcement strategies at the Indianapolis State Police Headquarters. Press inquiries should be directed to the Office of Public Affairs at press@usdoj.gov.

Additional information on recent Administration actions to address the opioid epidemic:

August 31, 2016: [HHS Awards \\$53 Million to Help Address Opioid Epidemic](#)

August 17, 2016: [Obama Administration Funds New Projects to Disrupt Prescription Opioid, Fentanyl and Heroin Trafficking](#)

August 5, 2016: [White House Hosts Panel on Effective Treatment for Overdose Survivors for More Than 600 Medical Providers and First Responders](#)

July 6, 2016: [Obama Administration Takes More Actions to Address the Prescription Opioid and Heroin Epidemic](#)

June 29, 2016: [White House Releases Estimated State Opioid Treatment Funding Levels under President's Budget Proposal](#)

April 8, 2016: [White House Director of Drug Policy Joins National and Local Leaders in Announcing Medication-Assisted Treatment Trainings](#)

March 28, 2016: [Obama Administration Announces Additional Actions to Address the Prescription Opioid Abuse and Heroin Epidemic](#)

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