



JONATHAN F. THOMPSON
Executive Director & CEO

NATIONAL SHERIFFS' ASSOCIATION

&

DANIEL MORGAN GRADUATE SCHOOL OF NATIONAL SECURITY



ALAN B. KELLY, ESQ.
Executive Vice President
& Special Counsel

D.C. Opioid Roundtable May 3, 2018 JOINT AFTER ACTION REPORT

On May 3rd, 2018, the Daniel Morgan Graduate School of National Security and the National Sheriffs' Association hosted a roundtable in Washington, D.C. to address the opioid crisis. The opioid epidemic is ravaging America. It is the "Crisis Next Store". Key federal, national public and private-sector leaders representing law enforcement, public safety, first responders, education, child welfare, medical, prevention, treatment, recovery, business, labor and faith-based communities came together to clarify the successes and challenges in combatting the opioid epidemic. Isolated interventions cannot achieve long-term reduction in opioid-related overdoses and deaths. The goal, a sustained and metric-based national dialogue, looking beyond law enforcement to create a comprehensive, unified integration between the federal, national and private partners.

More than 80 agencies participated with over one hundred in attendance at this inaugural D.C. Opioid Convening.

Featured speakers included U.S. Attorney General Jeff Sessions; U.S. Secretary of the Department of Homeland Security Kirstjen Nielsen; Assistant to the Secretary for Rural Development of the Department of Agriculture Anne Hazlett; and Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary of Education Jason Botel and Counselor to the President Kellyanne Conway.

Significant takeaways from the distinguished speakers included:

1. Collaboration and "Whole of Government" Approach:

The Opioid Crisis is too big for one agency to address alone, it must be a "Whole of Government Approach".

- The President convened a group of twelve (12) department principles to strategize in combating the opioid epidemic and to assist in educating policy makers on how to combat the opioid crisis.
- Those closest to the people in need know best how to serve them; recognizing and understanding that each community and its resources are unique.
- Rural communities have been gravely affected by the opioid epidemic. Recent survey results from the American Farm Bureau revealed that 50 percent of rural adults have been directly impacted by the opioid crisis with farmers experiencing a 74 percent impact. The USDA is working with local leaders to find local solutions to include model programs such as Telemedicine, which provides remote health care and educational services and a Mobile Medication Assisted Treatment (MAT) clinic which could be replicated in other rural communities.
- The White House identified three major priorities in tackling the opioid epidemic: 1) Education and Prevention; 2) Treatment and Recovery; and 3) Law Enforcement and Interdiction to include:
 - Support and develop an education curriculum, centered around the opioid epidemic in our nation's schools. Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary of Education Jason Botel stated "If we can reach

children and young adults before they ever start down the path of abuse, we feel we have a chance to turn the tide on opioid addiction in America: State by State, Neighborhood by Neighborhood.” The Department of Education’s two-prong approach to reach all children about the dangers of opioid use. Strategies include an open conference with teachers to discuss countering opioid abuse as well as supporting state and local educational efforts to include “Growing Up Drug Free” initiatives mirroring similar alcohol education and prevention programs.

- Increasing support for after-school programming and community faith-based programming to educate on opioid use and substance use disorder.
- The reduction of opioid prescriptions by 30 percent. To date, a 10 percent reduction has been accomplished. A prescription monitoring database is credited in preventing those with substance use disorders from switching doctors to obtain new opioid prescriptions.
- The announcement of an advertising campaign about fentanyl that is crushing our communities was announced by Counselor to the President Kellyanne Conway.
- Support proven treatment plans, such as medicine-based therapy and IMD waivers for Medicaid and a vetting component so that abuse does not occur. Metrics are also needed to show which programs are working and which ones are not.
- Support HIPAA-Crisis Exception which allows health care professionals to share health care information with a patient’s loved ones who has overdosed on opioids and faces a serious and imminent threat through continued opioid abuse upon discharge.
- Increasing grant support for law enforcement in addressing the opioid epidemic to include support for the Drug Take Back Initiative; Shutting down of the Dark Net, Disrupting the flow of Illicit drugs into the country by keeping the poison out; The passing of the International Narcotics Trafficking Emergency Response by Detecting Incoming Contraband with Technology Act (INTERDICT Act), and supporting the High Intensity Drug Trafficking Areas’(HIDTA) new program in Alaska to complete HIDTA’s mission of providing interagency collaboration, promoting the sharing of intelligence and information, and providing specialized training and other resources to law enforcement in all 50 states.; and
- The development of the CrisisNextDoor.gov Campaign, for those impacted by the opioid crisis to share their personal stories with the hope of breaking the stigma associated with opioid use and abuse disorder as well as to share best practices, solutions and encouragement to help a loved one get on the path to recovery.

2. ***Cutting off Supply and Demand:***

Combating the illegal transportation of opioids into the United States is critical in reducing the overall supply.

- In 2016 the number of opioid deaths (including prescription and heroin) was five times higher than in 1999. In a single generation our nation lost more than 600,000 people which is roughly the equivalent of two hundred September 11th attacks.
- *America Is and Will Fight Back!* The White House released the President’s initiative to stop opioid abuse and reduce drug supply and demand. We must do both. We must reduce the supply and we must reduce the demand. To do so, we must cut off the flow of illicit drugs coming into our Country. Strategic partnerships and engagement are powerful tools in reducing the risks in our communities.
- To achieve the President’s call for action, we must stop opioids at their source; prevent them from coming in the country; and Investigate opioid related crimes by:
 - Energizing and strengthening our partnerships with foreign law enforcement, especially in countries where opioid and synthetic fentanyl manufacture occurs. Southern Borders must be tightened and secured.
 - Stopping criminal organizations illegally crossing the border to distribute opioids. To stop this, criminal organizations must be dismantled. The market for illegal opioids must also be destroyed; the Department of Justice is utilizing cyber capabilities to take down markets on the dark web. To prevent illicit drugs from crossing the border, risk-based analysis must be conducted on potential crossing points, and non-intrusive scanning (funded by the Interdict Act) such as sensors and K-9 units will be utilized.
 - Investigating all crimes involving opioids. This ranges from transnational criminal organizations to doctors indiscriminately prescribing opioids. To counter this, the Department of Justice, Federal Bureau of Investigation and the Drug Enforcement Agency will aggressively investigate and prosecute any opioid related crimes. “Project Safe Neighborhoods” plans to target the most dangerous criminals and to pursue them in a unified way. The “Pill Task Force” will investigate and hold companies and distributors criminally liable for violating the law on opioid prescriptions and fentanyl cases will be fiercely pursued.

In addition to the distinguished speakers representing the Administration, the Roundtable included a panel discussion with representatives from the Chamber of Commerce, Child Welfare, EMS, Highway Safety, HIDTA, the Faith-Based Community, Judges, Recovery, SAMHSA and Sheriffs, all addressing the question: “Traditional Problems-Non-Traditional Solutions: What is Your Agency Doing to Address the Opioid Crisis? Where is Your Need?”.

The Roundtable continued with the discussion of all the invited Stakeholders.

The America Cultural Phenomena: What are the Solutions? How Will You Make Change?

Each participating entity was challenged to “Take Action” and come back to “the roundtable” in future convenings to discuss how the stakeholders are working with the Federal, National and Private partners to make change TOGETHER.

Just the Beginning...

This D.C. Roundtable convening is the beginning of the conversation, not the end. The stakeholders will reconvene to discuss progress, failures and changes necessary to battle the crisis. As Kellyanne Conway stated “*We didn’t get here overnight, we will not come out of it overnight*”. Working shoulder to shoulder, remaining united and optimistic in our critical mission-nothing is more important to maintaining the social fabric of communities than solving this problem, together.

To learn more about the D.C. Opioid Roundtable, please see the following resources:

Video Links:

The full D.C. Opioid Roundtable can be viewed at: <https://dmgs.org/news-events/dmgs-co-hosts-opioid-conference-with-national-sheriffs-association/>

Resource Papers:

White papers submitted by Stakeholders summarizing their programs focusing on addressing the Opioid Crisis can be viewed at: <https://www.sheriffs.org/Opioid-Resource-Library>

Media Links:

Washington Times, by Jeff Mordock, “[Sessions unveils plan to keep narcotics officers on the job longer in wake of opioid crisis](#),” May 3, 2018

CSPAN, “[Attorney General Sessions Remarks to National Sheriffs' Association: Attorney General Jeff Sessions delivered remarks to the National Sheriffs' Association 2018 roundtable on combating opioid addiction](#),” May 3, 2018

USA Today, by Em Steck, “[Attorney General Sessions blames corrupt doctors for opioid crisis, calls for tighter borders](#),” May 3, 2018

KUSI TV, by Mike McKinnon III, “[Attorney General Sessions delivers remarks to the National Sheriffs' Association](#),” May 3, 2018

Photos:

Getty Images, “[US Attorney General Jeff Sessions addresses the National Sheriffs' Association opioid roundtable in Washington, DC](#),” May 3, 2018.