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Subject: Save the Date: 50-State Meeting on Opioid Prescribers - July 17 and 18, 2014

Dear Colleague:

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) and other governmental and non-governmental partners are working hard to respond to the urgent issue of prescription drug abuse in the United States, particularly the alarming increases in opioid-related overdoses and deaths. We also understand the important role of prescribers, who are the general gatekeepers for preventing inappropriate access. A number of promising strategies to address this problem are within purview of state governments, and states are key actors in addressing the important provider-driven facet of this public health problem. To that end, HHS will hold an important meeting with states on this issue July 17-18, 2014 here in Washington, DC. In the near future, our Department will send a letter to your Governor inviting your state to send a team to a working meeting with HHS leadership, staff, and colleagues from all 50 states and the District of Columbia to discuss action plans for prescriber-focused interventions to address opioid-related overdoses and deaths. To facilitate state participation, HHS will provide travel support for up to three individuals from each state.

We will provide more details as soon as they become available. In the meantime, if you have any questions, please contact Jim Mason of my staff at james.mason@hhs.gov or (202) 401-5639.

Paul Dioguardi
Director of Intergovernmental and External Affairs
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services