FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Contact: Katherine Hoyer
(208) 415-5108

Panhandle Health Brings Community Together for Opioid Solution Symposium

HAYDEN, ID -- Panhandle Health District (PHD) invites community members who have an interest in collaborating to reduce opioid misuse, abuse and overdose within our region to the North Idaho Rx Opioid Solution Symposium on September 12th. At the symposium, attendees will hear national, state and local perspectives on opioid misuse.

“Our goal in hosting this symposium is to have community partners work together to create a strategic plan that we can implement in our five northern counties,” said Lora Whalen, Panhandle Health District Director. “We are looking forward to hearing the diverse perspectives from the attendees knowing that this issue is something that effects everyone.”

The Symposium’s informational session from 9:00am to noon will feature a variety of experts able to speak about the current state of opioids in our region. Ron Weaver, Director of A Way Forward, an educational peer counseling program for people struggling with pain management, will be speaking about his 30-year journey with chronic pain and his battle with medications. Other speakers include Kelsey McCall, Panhandle Health District Health Education Specialist, Dr. Bill Miller, MD with Kootenai Health and a representative from law enforcement.

The U.S. is in the midst of an opioid overdose epidemic. According to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, opioid overdoses accounted for more than 42,000 deaths in 2016, meaning 116 people died every day from opioid -related drug overdoses. That is more than any previous year on record. An estimated 40% of opioid deaths involved a prescription opioid. Equally as concerning is the fact that 11.5 million people misused prescription opioids in 2016 and 2.1 million had a diagnosed opioid use disorder.

The North Idaho Rx Opioid Solution Symposium will bring more understanding to the opioid crisis and the devastating consequences this epidemic has on our community.
EVENT DETAILS:
North Idaho Rx Opioid Solution Symposium

WHEN: Wednesday, September 12, 2018 from 9:00am – 3:00pm
Informational Session: 9:00am – Noon SEATS AVAILABLE
Work Group Session: SOLD OUT

WHERE: Coeur d’Alene Kroc Center
1765 W. Golf Course Rd.
Coeur d’Alene, ID 83815

Register online: www.eventbrite.com/e/north-idaho-rx-opioid-solution-symposium-registration-45874406585

Who Should Attend?

INFORMATIONAL SESSION
North Idaho community professionals working directly or indirectly with the opioid issue.
Examples include: providers, pharmacists, law enforcement, emergency responders, dentists,
mental health professionals, elected officials, etc.

WORK GROUP SESSION - Sold Out
Community stakeholders committed to implementing a North Idaho plan to combat the opioid
issue. Willingness to attend future meetings, skills and insight to move a work group forward.

If you are hoping to join this session but are registering after 8/8/2018 please email
kmccall@phd1.idaho.com with your interest.

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Panhandle Health District provides over 40 different public health programs to families,
individuals and organizations in northern Idaho. From food and drinking water safety to health
education and disease control, public health services are critical to ensure our community is a
safe and healthy place to live, work and play.

The PHD team is made up of nurses, nutritionists, environmental health specialists, health
educators and many other dedicated professionals with a common goal to deliver vital public
health services.

Panhandle Health District is one of seven health districts in the state of Idaho.