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OPPORTUNITIES TO ADVANCE COMPREHENSIVE APPROACH TO PREVENTING, TREATING OPIOID ADDICTION IN NORTH DAKOTA

21ST CENTURY CURES ACT

Provides \$1 billion over two years to supplement states' efforts to combat opioid addiction

- Administered by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Administration (SAMHSA)
- Funds are distributed on a formula based on the number of people who abuse or are dependent on opioids with unmet treatment needs and the number of drug poisoning deaths
- The eligible applicant for the state is the Behavioral Health Division at the North Dakota Department of Human Services
- North Dakota has been allocated \$2 million for the first year of the program
- Application is due February 17, 2017
- Among other things, the funds can be used to:
 - Identify effective, comprehensive strategies to prevent opioid abuse
 - Improve prescription drug monitoring programs
 - Implement evidence-based prevention activities
 - Provide training for health care practitioners
 - Expand access to health care services, such as substance abuse treatment programs
 - Support innovative telehealth in rural and underserved areas
 - Address the opioid abuse crisis through other public health-related activities

Reauthorizes:

- The Community Mental Health Services Block Grant
- The Substance Abuse Prevention and Treatment Block Grant
- Provides states with additional flexibility in administering treatment programs funded under these block grants to help better meet local needs

REGION VIII OPIOID CONSULTATION TEAM

- An inter-departmental team headed by SAMHSA Regional Administrator Dr. Charles Smith

- Provides consultation and technical assistance on efforts related to opioid addiction in a six-state region, which includes North Dakota
- Helps to identify and coordinate federal, state and local resources
- Hosts quarterly conference calls with representatives from across the region
- Dr. Smith has offered to work with the Blue Ribbon Commission and provide his team's insights

ILLEGAL SYNTHETIC DRUG SAFETY ACT OF 2016

- Authored by Senator Hoeven and introduced with Senator Chris Coons (D-Del.)
- Closes a loophole in current law that enables companies to circumvent the law and sell synthetic variations of controlled substances by labeling the products as “not for human consumption”
- These synthetic variants, known as analogues, are technically different, but with the same dangerous risks as the original drug
- Synthetic variants of fentanyl, a powerful painkiller, have been identified as the cause of many of the recent overdose deaths in the Fargo area
- The Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) estimates that fentanyl is 50 times more potent than heroin and 100 times more potent than morphine
- Endorsed by the Federal Law Enforcement Officers Association

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