



## City-County Heroin, Opioid, and Cocaine Task Force



March 16, 2017

Ald. Michael J. Murphy  
(414) 286-3763

### **First meeting tomorrow for City-County Heroin, Opioid and Cocaine Task Force**

The newly-created **City-County Heroin, Opioid and Cocaine Task Force** will meet for the first time **tomorrow (Friday, March 17)** at City Hall.

According to task force member **Alderman Michael J. Murphy**, the meeting will take place **at 1 p.m. in room 301-B at City Hall, 200 E. Wells St.** The task force is charged with studying the problems of drug abuse in Milwaukee County and presenting policy recommendations to address the issue.

“The stark data shows that drug overdose deaths continue to climb in our community, and that the deaths are impacting all groups and all areas,” Alderman Murphy said.

“The important work of the City-County Heroin, Opioid and Cocaine Task Force will include analyzing the problem with the help of stakeholders from throughout the community and producing policy recommendations to help address this startling, deadly trend,” he said.

The **roster of task force members** is **attached**.

Alderman Murphy was the primary sponsor of the legislation creating the task force, which will build on the city’s partnership with the Medical College of Wisconsin and data analysis by Alderman Murphy’s office. An early examination of overdose figures showed the county was on pace to endure a record number of heroin and opiate overdose deaths in 2016.

“Drug abuse and addiction affect nearly every citizen in our community,” **Milwaukee County Executive Chris Abele** said. “Instead of stigmatizing these individuals and their families and addressing addiction solely through the criminal justice system, it is imperative that we tackle this public health crisis with supportive, evidence-based resources. The county looks forward to working with the city, the medical community, law enforcement, the courts, faith-based and community organizations, and partners at every level of government in taking a proactive approach to preventing and treating addiction.”

When its work is completed the task force will issue a report of recommendations later this year that will be transmitted to the Common Council and to Milwaukee County officials.

# City-County Heroin, Opioid, and Cocaine Task Force

11 Member Body (6 quorum)

## Membership

1. **Michael Murphy** Common Council President appointee  
10<sup>th</sup> Aldermanic District
2. **Khalif Rainey** Common Council President appointee  
7<sup>th</sup> Aldermanic District
3. **Bevan Baker** Commissioner of Health  
Commissioner of Health
4. **Karen Loebel** Milwaukee County District Attorney designee  
Deputy District Attorney
5. **CoryAnn St. Marie-Carls** Milwaukee County Intergovernmental  
Cooperation Council representative  
Mayor of St. Francis
6. **Marisol Cervera** Mayoral community appointee  
United Community Center
7. **E. Brooke Lerner** Mayoral medical profession appointee  
Ph.D, Research Director  
Medical College of Wisconsin  
Department of Emergency Medicine
8. **Hector Colon** Milwaukee County Executive appointee  
Director  
Department of Health and Human Services
9. **Michael Lappen** Milwaukee County Executive appointee  
Administrator  
Behavior Health Division
10. **Brian Peterson** Milwaukee County Executive appointee  
Medical Examiner  
Medical Examiner's Office
11. **Christine Westrich** Milwaukee County Executive appointee  
Director  
Office of Emergency Management