



2023 ANNUAL CONFERENCE & EXPOSITION | JULY 21-24

**TRAVIS
COUNTY**
TEXAS

The Opioid Epidemic in Rural America: Creating Justice System Pathways to Care

Monday, July 24, 2023, 3:00 PM – 4:15 PM | Location: Room 9BC Level 3

While no corner of the country has been untouched by the opioid epidemic, the overdose crisis has hit rural America particularly hard. Between 1999 and 2015, overdose deaths increased 325 percent in rural counties. Additionally, people with substance use disorder are often routed into the legal system and incarcerated, which may disrupt treatment and increase overdose risks. Hear from members of NACo's Opioid Solutions Leadership Network and the Reaching Rural Initiative about how rural counties are adopting solutions to the persistent challenges in addressing substance use disorder.

Meeting Agenda

3:00 PM – 3:15 PM: Welcome and Opening Remarks

- **Major Elijah Bazemore**, Consultant, Vital Strategies
- **Kathy Rowings**, Institute for Intergovernmental Research (IIR), Reaching Rural Initiative

3:15 PM – 3:35 PM: Overview of County Strategies

Creating Access to Medications for Opioid Use Disorder (MOUD) in Jails

- **Christopher Appel**, Senior Staff Attorney, Harnett County, N.C.
- **Jeff Armstrong**, Captain / Accreditation Manager, Harnett County Sheriff's Office, N.C.

Sustaining Access to Medications for Opioid Use Disorder (MOUD) in Jails

- **Dr. Jenine Miller**, Behavioral Health Director, Mendocino County, Calif.

Promoting Continuity of Care Upon Release

- **Ashley Berkshire**, Criminal Legal Systems Program Coordinator, Voices of Hope, Madison County, Ky.

3:35 PM – 3:55 PM: Moderated Discussion

- **Major Elijah Bazemore**

3:55 PM – 4:15 PM: Audience Q&A

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