

**2017****NACo LEGISLATIVE CONFERENCE****NACo**  
NATIONAL  
ASSOCIATION  
of COUNTIES

Washington, D.C. / February 25–March 1, 2017

## Townhall on the Opioid Epidemic: Leading in a Crisis

Sunday, February 26, 1:00PM—3:00PM | Marriott Wardman Park Hotel | **Room:** Thurgood Marshall South-West

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### Meeting Agenda

In countless communities across the nation, abuse of prescription drugs and heroin has reached epidemic levels, leading to unprecedented rates of drug overdoses and related fatalities. As this public health crisis has unfolded, local leaders are taking the lead in formulating effective responses to opioid abuse. Much progress has been made on this front, but much work remains to be done. During this **audience-focused townhall**, NACo members will discuss local stories, successes and challenges with an expert response panel that includes several members of the National City-County Task Force on the Opioid Epidemic. Attendees are encouraged to review the Task Force's report and recommendations, titled *A Prescription for Action* and available at [www.opioidaction.org](http://www.opioidaction.org), prior to the meeting.

#### Response panel:

- **County Executive Kathy Dahlkemper**, Erie County, Pennsylvania (moderator)
- **Judge Gary Moore**, Boone County, Kentucky (co-chair of national city-county opioid task force)
- **Board Chair Phyllis Randall**, Loudoun County, Virginia
- **Mayor Steve Williams**, Huntington, West Virginia
- **Dr. Richard Jorgensen**, Coroner, DuPage County, Illinois
- **Asst. Police Chief Russ Hamill**, Montgomery County, Maryland
- **Dr. Christopher Jones**, Acting Associate Deputy Assistant Secretary, Science and Data Policy, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services

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### Panelist Biographies



**County Executive Kathy Dahlkemper, Erie County, Pa. (moderator):** Kathy Dahlkemper is the County Executive of Erie County, Pennsylvania. She previously served as a member of the U.S. House of Representatives, representing the 3<sup>rd</sup> Congressional District of Pennsylvania from 2009 to 2011. She is a member of the NACo-NLC Task Force on the Opioid Epidemic, and she serves on the board of the County Executives of America and on the National Ocean Council's Governance Coordinating Committee. As Erie County Executive, she is working with public and private partners to build a more vibrant community, to create opportunities for all residents, and to move Erie County forward.



**Judge/Executive Gary Moore, Boone County, Ky.:** Gary Moore has held the highest elected office in Boone County since 1998 and currently co-chairs the NACo-NLC Task Force on the Opioid Epidemic. The Judge also serves as the chair of NACo's Environment, Energy & Land Use Committee and is past president of the National Association of Regional Councils and past president of the Kentucky County/Judge Executives Association. He is also a Trustee of St. Elizabeth Healthcare and a board member of the Northern Kentucky Chamber of Commerce and of the Northern Kentucky University Foundation.



**Board Chair Phyllis Randall, Loudoun County, Va.:** Phyllis Randall was elected in November, 2015 as Chair of the Board of Supervisors of Loudoun County, one of the fastest growing counties in Virginia and in the U.S. She represents the county on the Board of Directors of the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments and has been appointed by Governor Terry McAuliffe to the Virginia State Board of Corrections, where she currently serves as chair. By profession, Chair Randall is a mental health therapist who works with individuals struggling with substance abuse in local jails, a positions she has held for over 15 years.



**Mayor Steve Williams, Huntington, W. Va.:** Steve Williams was elected as the mayor of Huntington, West Virginia, in 2012. Under his leadership, Huntington has gained national recognition for the establishment of the Mayor's Office of Drug Control Policy. The Office has formed several partnerships in developing a harm reduction program and has focused on reducing drug trafficking and related crime while promoting prevention, treatment and recovery. Mayor Williams also serves as a member of the NACo-NLC Task Force on the Opioid Epidemic.

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**Dr. Richard Jorgensen, Coroner, DuPage County, Ill.:** Richard Jorgensen serves as the elected DuPage County Coroner. Prior to his election in 2012, he practiced general/vascular and trauma surgery in the suburbs of Chicago for more than 20 years. Dr. Jorgensen is a Fellow of the American College of Surgery and International College of Surgeons, and is an active member of the Illinois Coroners and Examiners Association. Throughout his medical training, practice of medicine and experience as Coroner, Dr. Jorgensen has witnessed the devastating societal effects of drugs and addiction. Dr. Jorgensen frequently speaks about the opioid epidemic at public meetings, legislative forums and schools in an attempt to raise awareness and understanding of the problem.



**Asst. Police Chief Russ Hamill, Montgomery County, Md.:** Russ Hamill has been a member of the Montgomery County Police Department since 1986. In his time with the police department, Assistant Chief Hamill has held the positions of patrol officer, sergeant, lieutenant, captain and commander before being appointed to the position of Assistant Chief of Police in 2011. In this capacity, Assistant Chief Hamill serves as the Chief of the department's Investigative Services Bureau, which includes the Major Crimes Division, Criminal Investigations Division, Family Crimes Division and Special Investigations Division.



**Dr. Christopher Jones, Acting Associate Deputy Assistant Secretary, Science and Data Policy, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS):** Christopher Jones serves in HHS's Office of the Assistant Secretary for Planning and Evaluation (ASPE). This office is the agency's focal point for policy research, analysis, evaluation, and coordination of public health, science and data policy activities, and provides authoritative advice and analytical support to HHS leadership on public health, science, and data policy issues and initiatives. Prior to joining ASPE, Dr. Jones held senior positions at the Food and Drug Administration (FDA), Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), and the Office of National Drug Control Policy (ONDCP). Dr. Jones is a nationally recognized expert on opioid misuse and overdose and has authored more than 50-peer reviewed publications on the topic.