



ZACH KLEIN
COLUMBUS CITY ATTORNEY

Contact: Meredith Tucker
Phone: 614.645.8997
Email: mctucker@columbus.gov

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Columbus, Franklin County Partners with Nationwide and OhioHealth to Convene Businesses to Address Opioid Epidemic

*Corporate Advisory Council Invites Columbus Businesses to Join Franklin
County Opiate Action Plan*

COLUMBUS, OH—This week, Columbus City Attorney Zach Klein and County Commissioner John O’Grady, along with co-chairs Chad Jester of Nationwide and Karen Morrison of OhioHealth, convened the first Corporate Advisory Council meeting, launching the latest subcommittee of the Franklin County Opiate Action Plan.

The Corporate Advisory Council is outlined as an action item of the Franklin County Opiate Action Plan, which was created by the Alcohol, Drug and Mental Health Board of Franklin County (ADAMH) last June to address the devastating consequences of the drug epidemic facing countless families in our community. In partnership with Nationwide and OhioHealth, the Corporate Advisory Committee invites members of our Columbus business community to have a seat at the table and work through ways in which businesses are being affected by the epidemic.

“Addiction is one of the most significant public health issues we’re facing,” said Karen Morrison, Senior Vice President, OhioHealth. “We’re proud to play a role in bringing together business leaders and healthcare professionals to work towards solutions to support area residents, employers and families impacted by addiction.”

According to the National Safety Council, 70% of workplaces are negatively affected by opioid abuse, and 40% of businesses note their employees were missing work due to a painkiller addiction. Employers are having trouble filling open positions, and are reporting decreased productivity, missed work, and increased health care costs.

“The opioid and drug epidemic is reaching every corner of our community, and that includes our businesses, their employees, and therefore our economy,” said City Attorney Zach Klein. “This group will share resources and solutions for businesses feeling the impact of the epidemic, and will be a place for them to join in this critical fight to save lives.”

The Corporate Advisory Council will examine the drug epidemic plaguing our communities, and address data collection, project funding options, and solutions to assist employees and their families.

“The opiate crisis affects every workplace, one way or another,” said Commissioner John O’Grady. “So we’re proud to be working together and marshalling the resources and good ideas from so many Central Ohio employers. It’s the fight of our lives, but together I think we can start to turn the tide.”

“The solution to the opioid epidemic crisis will not come from one entity – public or private. It requires the collaborative effort of all of us,” said Mayor Andrew J. Ginther. “The Corporate Advisory Council adds another important resource to our battle against this disease that is affecting so many families in our community.”

###