



**MEDIA ADVISORY
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

WHAT: [A National Event: From Pain to Promise – Addressing Opioids & Suicide in Communities Across America](#)

The United States is experiencing a drop in overall life expectancy for the first time in nearly 25 years, due in part to increases in two of the nation’s most heart-breaking and yet preventable public health challenges: the increasing rate of suicide and the increasing misuse of opioid drugs. This one-of-a-kind event will focus on what can be done on a community level to address these national crises. Public and private sector thought leaders will discuss potential solutions for reducing so-called “deaths of despair” – death by drugs, alcohol and suicide - - restoring hope, and saving lives in communities across the country. Our discussion comes in the wake of the Administration’s call to declare the opioid crisis a “national emergency” and on the eve of delivery of final recommendations of the President’s Commission on Combating Drug Addiction and the Opioid Crisis.

WHO:

- **Dr. Alex Crosby**, Senior Medical Advisor on Suicide Prevention, Division of Violence Prevention (DVP), National Center for Injury Prevention and Control (NCIPC), Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
- **Dr. Arthur C. Evans**, Chief Executive Officer, American Psychological Association
- **Ms. Brooke Feldman**, Mental Health and Addiction Recovery Advocate; Blogger, *Huffington Post*; Voice of Lived Experience
- **Mr. Patrick Kennedy**, Founder, The Kennedy Forum; Member, President’s Commission on Combating Drug Addiction and the Opioid Crisis, Executive Committee Member, Action Alliance
- **Mr. Gary Langis**, Substance Abuse Prevention Consultant, EDC; Voice of Lived Experience
- **Dr. Elinore McCance-Katz**, Assistant Secretary for Mental Health and Substance Use, Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration
- **Dr. Jerry Reed**, Senior Vice President, EDC; Executive Committee Member, Action Alliance
- **Ms. Kay Warren**, Co-founder, Saddleback Church; Executive Committee Member, Action Alliance

WHEN: Wednesday, September 27, 2017 from 3:00-5:30 p.m.

WHERE: Ronald Reagan Building and International Trade Center
Rotunda, North Tower, 8th Floor
1300 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20004

RSVP: Media must RSVP to this event by emailing or calling Alison Cohen and/or Kimberly Torguson.

Alison Cohen, EDC
617-875-1240
acohen@edc.org

Kim Torguson, Action Alliance
202-572-3737
ktorguson@edc.org

The event is hosted by [Education Development Center \(EDC\)](#) and the [National Action Alliance for Suicide Prevention](#) (Action Alliance).