

Lakeview Center



BAPTIST HEALTH CARE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

2017 Budget Request Includes Funding to Fight Opioid Epidemic

Pensacola, Fla. (Feb. 26, 2016) – Just this month President Obama released the final budget request of his administration, and among the initiatives supported is a \$1.1 billion request to address the opioid epidemic in the nation. Initiatives to be supported by the funding include:

- \$920 million to expand access to medication-assisted treatment for opioid use disorders. States will receive funds based on the severity of the epidemic and on the strength of their strategy to respond to it. States can use these funds to expand treatment capacity and make services more affordable.
- \$50 million in National Health Service Corps funding to expand access to substance use treatment providers. This funding will help support approximately 700 providers able to provide substance use disorder treatment services, including medication-assisted treatment, in areas across the country most in need of behavioral health providers.
- \$30 million to evaluate the effectiveness of treatment programs employing medication-assisted treatment under real-world conditions and help identify opportunities to improve treatment for patients with opioid use disorders.

“According to the Medical Examiners Commission Report we had a startling increase in prescription drug deaths during 2014,” said Dennis Goodspeed, vice president, Lakeview Center. “We are hopeful that if approved, more funding will help us fight the epidemic through evidence-based practices that we already have in place using medication-assisted treatment, counseling and support.”

The budget request will be evaluated by congress over the next few months as they work to craft their own versions of the twelve annual appropriation bills.

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About Lakeview Center, Inc.

An affiliate of Baptist Health Care, Lakeview Center is a network of behavioral health, vocational and child protective services. These services address a broad spectrum of human needs, reflecting a longstanding commitment to helping people overcome life's challenges. Lakeview Center is based in Pensacola and serves the people of northwest Florida. To learn more, go online to eLakeviewCenter.org.

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