



For Immediate Release
Thursday, November 10, 2016

Contact Peter Komendowski
515-729-7334

Iowa Officials Unveil Statewide Listening Post Tour to Reduce Opioid and Other Drug Abuse

(DES MOINES) – Iowa Governor’s Office of Drug Control Policy Director Steve Lukan and Partnership for a Drug-Free Iowa President Peter Komendowski, along with the Iowa National Guard Counter-Drug Program and the US Department of Justice Northern and Southern Districts of Iowa, today announced the start of the “Iowa Caring Communities Tour” series of community listening posts across the State.

Representatives will conduct community outreach to build community capacity to effectively meet the threat of substance abuse, with an emphasis on the evolving opioid epidemic.

The purpose of the listening posts is to hear directly from local citizens about top community concerns, needs and solutions related to illegal drug activity impacting Iowa youth.

Listening posts will be open to the public. Starting in the Des Moines area, meetings are also being planned in Knoxville, Clinton, Davenport, Sioux City, Mason City, Cedar Falls/Waterloo, Council Bluffs, Ames, Dubuque, Cedar Rapids, Iowa City/Coralville, Ottumwa, Marshalltown and Fort Dodge. More locations will be added in 2017, and communities interested in hosting a Caring Communities listening post should contact the Partnership for a Drug-Free Iowa.

“We invite Iowans to participate in the listening posts because we want to hear directly about emerging substance abuse concerns in their community, share that information to help others, and plan accordingly to address those concerns,” said Lukan.

Information gathered at the listening posts will assist in defining Iowa priorities and shaping drug control strategies for public education, safety and health initiatives, as well as strengthen local community coalition efforts to prevent substance abuse.

“Listening post input will help the Partnership for a Drug Free Iowa provide more targeted drug education programs and prevention tools that better meet local needs,” said Komendowski. “It’s important for us to know about new or emerging challenges in our communities, and to share information important to understanding the dangers and risks associated with the recent surge in drug overdose deaths involving prescription, illicit and non-medical synthetic opioids.”