



Association for Behavioral
Health and Wellness

*Advancing benefits and services
in mental health, substance use
and behavior change.*

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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ABHW President and CEO Set to Attend White House Opioid Summit

Washington, DC (March 1, 2018) – The Association for Behavioral Health and Wellness (ABHW), the national voice for payers that manage behavioral health insurance benefits for over 175 million people, today announced that Pamela Greenberg, MPP, ABHW President and CEO, will attend a major summit at the White House highlighting the Administration’s efforts to fight the nationwide opioid epidemic. The Summit is being held today, Thursday, March 1st from 1:00 p.m. to 3:00p.m. EST.

The Opioid Summit will include multiple Administration department heads, including Health and Human Services Secretary Alex Azar, Veterans Affairs Secretary David Shulkin, Department of Housing and Urban Development Secretary Ben Carson, Department of Homeland Security Secretary Kirstjen Nielsen, Attorney General Jeff Sessions, as well as, Jim Carroll, who was newly appointed Acting Director of the Office of National Drug Control Policy.

Panel discussions will focus on Congressional Action, Education, Prevention and Treatment, and Law Enforcement.

“ABHW and our members have been at the forefront of advocating for legislative and regulatory action to combat this public health crisis. Now is the time for action,” noted Greenberg.

ABHW recommendations to the Administration include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Better alignment, of patient privacy laws specific to addiction with the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA),
- Waiver approval for states to eliminate barriers to treatment resulting from the federal Institutes for Mental Diseases (IMD) exclusion within the Medicaid program; and
- Creation of a national prescription drug monitoring program (PDMPs) that health plans can access.

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[ABHW](http://www.abhw.org) is the leading health plan association working to improve access and quality of care for mental health and substance use disorders. ABHW’s members include national and regional health plans who care for more than 175 million people. Together we work to reduce stigma and advance federal policy on mental health and addiction care. Member companies - Aetna Behavioral Health, Anthem, Beacon Health Options, Centene Corporation, Cigna, New Directions Behavioral Health, Optum, and PerformCare.