



**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 Welcomes White House Commission on Opioids

WASHINGTON (March 30, 2017) – The Association for Behavioral Health and Wellness (ABHW), an association of the nation's leading behavioral health and wellness companies serving over 170 million people, today issued the following statement in response to a new White House Commission on Combatting Drug Addiction and the Opioid Crisis. The Commission will make recommendations to the President for improving Federal response to drug addiction and the opioid crisis.

“We are encouraged by the actions of the Administration in their effort to address this unprecedented opioid epidemic here in the United States. According to the Centers for Disease Control, nearly two million Americans struggle with opioid addiction which killed more than 33,000 people in 2015, more than any year on record. Death rates from opioid overdoses now exceed those from HIV/AIDS at the height of the epidemic in the 1990s.

“Much work has already been done to solve this crisis, yet more attention to this issue is needed. ABHW member companies employ a variety of approaches to help identify and treat individuals who have an opioid addiction. We support policies that will help individuals receive medically necessary, evidence based care that they need in order to recover and lead full and productive lives.

“We look forward to working with the Commission and the Administration on eradicating this epidemic that is killing almost 100 people each and every day.”

ABHW Whitepaper on the Opioid Crisis: [Behavioral Health Organizations' Current and Future Approaches to Addressing the U.S. Opioid Crisis](#)

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ABHW is an association of the nation's leading behavioral health and wellness companies. These companies provide an array of services related to mental health, substance use disorders, employee assistance, disease management, and other health and wellness programs to over 170 million people in both the public and private sectors. ABHW and its member companies use their behavioral health expertise to improve health care outcomes for individuals and families across the health care spectrum. Member companies - Aetna Behavioral Health, Anthem, Beacon Health Options, Centene Corporation, Cigna, Humana Behavioral Health, New Directions Behavioral Health, Optum, and PerformCare.