
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE



FOR INFORMATION CALL

June 8, 2018

Ald. Khalif J. Rainey
(414) 286-3764

Saturday: Community Engagement Session Hosted by Heroin, Opioid and Cocaine Task Force

Tomorrow (**Saturday, June 9**) the community will have the opportunity to weigh in on the heroin and opioid epidemic during a community engagement session hosted by the **City-County Heroin, Opioid and Cocaine Task Force**.

Alderman Khalif J. Rainey, a Task Force member, said the Task Force will host the community engagement session **from 12:30 - 3:00 p.m.** at Klieger Auditorium in St. Joseph Hospital, 5000 W. Chambers. All youth (16+), adults, residents and medical professionals are welcome to attend the session and add their voice to the conversation.

“We (Task Force) want to hear the personal stories about how drugs are impacting lives and specific neighborhoods,” Alderman Rainey said. “This input is critical as community members can make a convincing case to the Task Force about creating new strategies to address deadly substance abuse. I strongly encourage individuals to come tomorrow and provide their part of the picture to us.”

The meeting will also include design thinking activities and small group discussions to enhance the Task Force’s work plan.

The Task Force is looking to address the community impact of various drugs. The Task Force understands that various drugs impact communities differently and is seeking to address the community impact of substance abuse.

Saturday’s session and two additional engagement sessions yet to be announced will help gather input before a final plan is adopted by the Task Force.

-More-

Saturday engagement session/ADD ONE

In late April, Task Force released its preliminary report that included initial recommendations to address the fatal and nonfatal overdose epidemic in Milwaukee and Milwaukee County. These recommendations included the development of programs that are in collaboration with the criminal justice system that treat addiction as a disease, while actively working to reduce the availability of illicit substances, to ensure that there is adequate access to timely, affordable and quality services for those people with substance disorders and to enhance collaboration between community-based initiatives and government agencies.

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