



**ATTORNEY GENERAL MARSHALL HOSTS ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING OF ALABAMA OPIOID OVERDOSE
AND ADDICTION COUNCIL;
ANNOUNCES AGREEMENT TO LOWER COST OF ANTI-OPIOID MEDICINE FOR FIRST RESPONDERS**

(MONTGOMERY) – Attorney General Steve Marshall hosted the organizational meeting of the Alabama Opioid Overdose and Addiction Council Tuesday. Marshall is co-chair of the Council, along with Commissioner of the Alabama Department of Mental Health Lynn Beshear and Acting State Health Officer Dr. Scott Harris.

Attorney General Marshall participated in the organizational meeting which focused on strategies to address the state’s ongoing opioid crisis. He recognized the tremendous challenge that opioid abuse represents to Alabamians of all backgrounds and expressed his gratitude to Governor Kay Ivey and the Council co-chairs for their commitment to helping Alabama overcome one of the biggest health threats in decades. In particular, Attorney General Marshall acknowledged the special role of Alabama’s first responders and law enforcement who are risking their lives daily while directly assisting victims of the opioid crisis. He announced an agreement to lower the cost of life-saving medicine for officials to counter the effects of opioid overdoses and accidental exposure.

“Alabama’s public safety professionals are often the first to encounter life threatening situations involving prescription opioids and heroin,” he said. “They not only have the ability to save lives if they can act quickly to administer an antidote drug, but they can also be placed in jeopardy through exposure to similar drugs like fentanyl that are lethal when touched.

“For this reason, I am pleased to announce that the Alabama Attorney General’s Office has reached an agreement with Adapt Pharma to provide Alabama law enforcement officials, first responders, community-based organizations and state and local government with lower cost access to the lifesaving Narcan nasal spray for treatment of an opioid emergency. The agreement is in effect until the end of the year. I would like to thank Adapt Pharma for helping to safeguard the lives of Alabama residents and law enforcement.”

On August 8, 2017, Governor Ivey signed Executive Order 708 establishing the Alabama Opioid Overdose and Addiction Council to “develop and submit a strategic action plan to the Governor by December 31, 2017, that establishes recommendations for policy, regulatory and legislative actions to address the overdose crisis in Alabama.”

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501 Washington Avenue • Montgomery, AL 36104 • (334) 242-7300

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