



State of New York County of Broome Government Offices

Broome County Departments of Mental Health and Social Services
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Broome County to Partner with Columbia University as Part of the \$86 Million Awarded by the Federal Government to Reduce Opioid Deaths in New York

(BINGHAMTON, NY) Broome County will receive approximately \$2 million over the next four years to implement a collaborative, evidenced based Opioid Use Disorder treatment model.

The National Institute on Drug Addiction, NIDA, is allocating funding to Columbia University and three other research sites that will contribute to a multi-year study. This is part of the NIH HEAL (Helping to End Addiction Long-term) Initiative, a bold, trans agency effort to speed scientific solutions to stem the national opioid crisis. The study is being carried out in partnership with the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA), which provides support for many of the local prevention, treatment, and recovery support services to be studied.

“This is a major step in our efforts in Broome County as we are in the fight of our lives with the opioid epidemic,” said Broome County Executive Jason Garnar. “We are ALL working together in Broome County with a common goal: to save lives. Our Mental Health department, Health Department, Sheriff and our treatment providers made securing this funding a priority and this award will make a difference as we fight to end this epidemic plaguing our community.”

This federal grant, one of Columbia’s largest ever, brings together Columbia’s School of Social Work, the Department of Psychiatry, the Mailman School of Public Health, the Data Science Institute, as well as researchers from Albert Einstein School of Medicine/Montefiore Health System, City University of New York, Weill Cornell Medical College, New York University School of Medicine, University of Miami, and Yale School of Medicine.

Columbia University will be working in 15 pre-selected New York counties that have been heavily affected by the opioid crisis. The principal researcher from Columbia University and the investigative team brought together New York State Office of Alcohol and Substance Abuse Services, New York State Department of Health, New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, and 15 state and local health or mental health commissioners to help solve this intractable issue.

Broome County Mental Health Commissioner Nancy Williams and the Director of Public Health Rebecca Kaufman assisted with the development of the proposal that was submitted. Support from the Broome County Sheriff’s Department and local hospitals and treatment providers was also included in the application for funding. The first phase of the project is scheduled to begin in late spring.