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Established in 1945, DuPage County Health Department promotes physical and emotional health; prevents illness injury and disability; protects health from environmental risk factors, and strives to assure the provision of accessible, quality service.

October 9, 2019

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**Health Department Hosts Summit:
“Navigating Opioid Safety Across the Continuum of Care”**

DUPAGE COUNTY—Today, in the ongoing response to the opioid overdose epidemic, the DuPage County Health Department hosted a free educational seminar for nearly 150 healthcare professionals, “Navigating Opioid Safety Across the Continuum of Care,” at Medinah Shrine Center in Addison.

Heroin and opioid-related overdose deaths remain at epidemic levels nationally and in DuPage County, and opioid use disorder often starts with prescribed opioids and may lead to overdose.

Featured speakers included Rashmi Chugh, MD, MPH, Medical Officer, DuPage County Health Department and Elizabeth Salisbury-Afshar, MD, MPH, Assistant Professor, Department of Family Medicine, Rush Medical College, Community Behavior Health, Rush Medical College; Director, Center for Addiction Research and Effective Solutions (CARES) American Institutes for Research (AIR), Washington, D.C.

The DuPage County Health Department offered the seminar to prescribers, including healthcare providers of all types, to learn about pain management, tapering, dependency, treatment, and referral to improve patient safety, health outcomes, and clinician well-being.

The seminar supported key elements of the Framework adopted by the DuPage County Heroin/Opioid Prevention and Education (HOPE) Taskforce, including:

- Reduce Access to Drugs
- Reduce Opioid Use and Misuse
- Provide Substance Use Prevention and Education

The DuPage County HOPE Taskforce and the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) provided funds for a portion of the seminar.

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“Navigating Opioid Safety Across the Continuum of Care”

Wednesday, October 9, 2019, 11:30 a.m.

Medinah Shrine Center, 550 N. Shriners Drive, Addison, Ill.

Featured speakers:

“Introduction and Welcome”

Rashmi Chugh, MD, MPH

Medical Officer, DuPage County Health Department

“A guide to new opioid prescribing rules: An update from the Illinois Department of Financial and Professional Regulations.”

Joseph E. Fojtik, MD, FACP

Deputy Medical Coordinator

Illinois Department of Financial and Professional Regulations

“Assisting patients with opioid use disorder: Diagnosis and treatment.”

Elizabeth Salisbury-Afshar, MD, MPH, FAAFP, FASAM, FACPM, Director, Center for Addiction Research and Effective Solutions (CARES) American Institutes for Research (AIR), Washington, D.C.

“The role of opioids in the safe treatment of chronic pain.”

William Campbell, DO

Family Medicine/Pain Medicine

Health Solutions, Tinley Park

“Safe and effective alleviation of acute pain.”

David Ring, MD, PhD

Associate Dean for Comprehensive Care and Professor of Surgery and Psychiatry Dell Medical School, University of Texas at Austin

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