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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.

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **Three National Awards for DuPage County Health Department, including Prestigious “Model Best Practice”**

**DUPAGE COUNTY**— The DuPage County Health Department has been honored with two awards by the National Association of County and City Health Officials (NACCHO), and a National Public Health Information Coalition (NPHIC) communication award.

NACCHO recognized the DuPage Narcan Program (DNP) as a “Model Practice Award” which celebrates local health departments for developing programs that demonstrate exemplary and replicable best practices in response to a critical local public health need.

“The Model Practice Award is a confirmation of our commitment to developing responsive and innovative public health programs that improve the health of local residents,” said Karen Ayala, Executive Director.

The DNP, which was created in 2013 in response to a striking increase in heroin-related deaths in DuPage County, is the first county-wide overdose prevention program in Illinois to be approved by the Division of Alcoholism and Substance Abuse (DASA). Narcan, also known as naloxone, reverses the effects of heroin and other opioids when administered.

With a focus on health departments that have built strong alliances with partners in order to bridge the gap between clinical medicine and population health, DuPage County Health Department was recognized by NACCHO among large health departments serving more than 500,000 residents with the “Silver Local Health Department of the Year” to DuPage County Health Department. The integrated primary care partnership with AMITA at Southeast Public Health Center, the Ready, Set, Smile dental initiative and Engage DuPage program, were highlighted as key accomplishments.

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Finally, the National Public Health Information Coalition (NPHIC) presented the Bronze Award for Excellence in Public Health Communication in the “Thinking on Your Feet—Real Time Risk Communication” category to DuPage County Health Department for communication preparedness that translated into a successful emergency response action. The committee recognized the health department’s communications with external and community partners regarding a multi-state outbreak of Seoul virus (a type of Hantavirus) infection of 17 people in seven states in early 2017. The messaging included recommendations for the handling of the brown or Norway rat, the known carrier of Seoul virus, and precautions to take when cleaning of areas occupied by rodents.

For more information regarding programs and services provided by the DuPage County Health Department, please visit our website at: [www.dupagehealth.org](http://www.dupagehealth.org) or call (630) 682-7400.

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*The National Association of County and City Health Officials (NACCHO) represents the nation's 2,800 local governmental health departments. These cities, counties, metropolitan, district and tribal departments work every day to protect and promote health and well-being for all people in their communities.*

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