



Date: 10/09/19**MEDIA ADVISORY****NR# 19-24**

**Seminole County Sheriff's Office, Seminole State College, and AdventHealth to Hold
Community Forum - The Opioid Crisis in Seminole County & Beyond**

Seminole Co. Fla., (Oct. 9, 2019) – The Seminole County Sheriff's Office (SCSO), in partnership with Seminole State College of Florida, and AdventHealth, invites the media to attend a Community Forum - The Opioid Crisis in Seminole County & Beyond. Join Sheriff Lemma, topic experts, and those with personal testimonies as they discuss the opioid epidemic in Seminole County.

Eighty-two people died in Seminole County last year because they overdosed on opioids. We are taking steps and becoming the leader on treatment, recovery, and education, but we need your help to lower that number in 2019 and beyond.

The Community Forum will take place at 7:00 p.m. TOMORROW at Seminole State College (Sanford/Lake Mary Campus Room C108), located at 100 Weldon Boulevard in Sanford. This is a free community event, open to the public.

Sheriff Lemma will provide the evening's keynote to present on the history of opioid and address how we got here and the innovative solutions to solving the problem in Seminole County. He will be joined by special guests:

- Dr. Raghu Ganjam, Substance Use Disorder Consultant/Medical Director at AdventHealth. Dr. Ganjam is dually board certified in Addiction Medicine and Internal Medicine. Throughout his career, Dr. Ganjam has been involved in numerous committees and review boards dedicated to improving quality healthcare and oversight. He will speak on how opioids became so prevalent, and how physicians are working with patients to prevent addiction.
- Katie Bowman who provides an inspiring story of hope to those facing addiction based on her own personal testimony; and
- Mother Diane Stevenson who will share her story of losing a child to addiction, and how she has come together with others to provide the resources that she wishes she had herself.
- Seminole State College EMS Director Angel Nater will serve as a panel moderator on this topic with our guest speakers as well.

Treatment personnel and addiction counselors will also be on-site to provide individual resources and answer any questions you may have.

Also discussed will be answers to questions like: how do opioids affect my community; how can I help those struggling with addiction; and where can I turn for resources?

Do not let the opioid epidemic catch you or your family off-guard. Join us and hear first-hand accounts of addiction, loss, recovery, and hope.

For more information contact:

Kim Cannaday (kcannaday@seminolesheriff.org)

(407) 665-6978 - desk

(407) 402-3319 – cell

###

