



**Albuquerque Journal/KANW Public Forum on  
Heroin and Opioid Prevention and Education  
Tune in to KANW 89.1 FM June 15, 2016 · 7:00-9:00PM**

The New Mexico Heroin and Opioid Prevention and Education (HOPE) Initiative was launched in January 2015 by the UNM Health Sciences Center and the U.S. Attorney's Office in response to the national opioid epidemic which has had a disproportionately devastating impact on New Mexico.

The HOPE Initiative, represented by U.S. Attorney Damon P. Martinez and Vice Chancellor Richard Larson, UNM Health Sciences Center, will join the Albuquerque Journal and KANW from 7:00 pm to 9:00 pm on Wednesday, June 15, 2016, for a live radio public forum on the heroin and opioid initiative that has swept across New Mexico.

**HOPE Public Forum Experts:**

**1. Dr. Snehal R. Bhatt, UNM Psychiatric Center, Medical Director of Addictions and Substance Abuse Programs including Milagro Program**

Dr. Bhatt's interests include the study of barriers to alcoholism treatment to Native Americans; improving access to addiction treatment in communities across New Mexico; novel pharmacological treatments for addictive illnesses; and resident and medical student education.

**2. Michelle Brooks, Parent of Young Adults in Recovery, Healing Addiction in our Community (HAC) Volunteer**

Ms. Brooks joined HAC as a volunteer in 2010. She advocates for families by sharing her experiences as she struggles to help two of her children. Ms. Brooks discovered early that addiction is a family disease. Her personal journey and lessons learned help others navigate the limited resources available to our community as well as helping parents have a better understanding of addiction.

**3. Michel Disco, Assistant Dean for External Programs at UNM's College of Pharmacy and Faculty Advisor for Generation Rx**

As a registered pharmacist, Ms. Disco has worked with prescription substance abuse prevention and education in addition to working with the New Mexico Board of Pharmacy and New Mexico Pharmacists Association to provide education on prevention of substance abuse, as well as the distribution and use of naloxone to reduce the occurrences of death from opioid overdose.

**4. Lou Duran, Prevention Specialist/Event Coordinator, HAC**

After losing her son to addiction, Ms. Duran has worked as an advocate in our community to bring awareness and education to youth and their families by putting an end to the stigma and shame associated with addiction. Ms. Duran provides a voice to those who have lost their battles and for those who continue to struggle.

**5. Dr. Dion Gallant, Medical Director for Primary Care Services, Presbyterian Healthcare Services**

Dr. Gallant supervises over 100 physicians and Advanced Practice Clinicians who are on the front line of demand for opioids in Presbyterian's clinics throughout New Mexico. Dr. Gallant was formerly chief resident in Family Practice at UNM and serves as the chair of Presbyterian's internal governance body for the 800 provider Presbyterian Medical Group. Besides his work at Presbyterian, Dr. Gallant was formerly Chair of the Greater Albuquerque Medical Association (GAMA) and the NM Academy of Family Practice.

**6. Diane G. Gibson, Albuquerque City Councilor, District 7**

In April 2016, Councilor Gibson kicked off a public awareness campaign to educate the community about naloxone, a drug that saves lives by reversing the effects of an overdose. The purpose of the campaign is to encourage anyone who keeps narcotic painkillers in their home or has a family member who is addicted to heroin or prescription painkillers to keep an emergency dose of naloxone on hand.

**7. Brittany Haggard, Chairperson of Generation Rx, UNM's College of Pharmacy, and HOPE Initiative Prevention & Education Presenter**

Ms. Haggard is 3rd year student pharmacist. Her experience with Generation Rx includes educating the youth about the misuse and abuse of prescription medications.

**8. Maggie Hart Stebbins, Bernalillo County Commissioner, District 3**

Commissioner Hart Stebbins has spearheaded several initiatives to improve the behavioral health system in central New Mexico, including the Bernalillo County Opioid Accountability Initiative to raise awareness about the epidemic of substance use disorders and overdose deaths in our community, foster collaboration among stakeholders, and influence public policy to increase prevention, treatment and harm reduction programs and services. She also works with behavioral health stakeholders to secure new funding to support these efforts, and to develop a more comprehensive, better networked and accessible behavioral health care system in Bernalillo County.

**9. Shammara H. Henderson, Smart on Crime Assistant U.S. Attorney and HOPE Initiative Prevention & Education Presenter**

Ms. Henderson's experience as a federal prosecutor includes the prosecution of heroin and prescription opioid traffickers. She collaborates with DEA and Generation RX in delivering education and prevention presentations to high school students.

**10. Katrina Hotrum, Director, Department of Substance Abuse & Treatment Program (DSAP) for Bernalillo County**

Director Hotrum oversees the following DSAP programs: social model in patient detoxification services; supportive after care services—transitional living program focused on continued stabilization and supports for individuals in recovery; Community Addiction Treatment Program, which provides outpatient services to DWI offenders and court ordered individuals with addiction issues; and Addiction Treatment Program court-ordered jail-based treatment program for inmates.



**11. Dr. Steven Jenkusky, Greater Albuquerque Medical Association (GAMA).**

GAMA member Dr. Steven Jenkusky is a psychiatrist specializing in addiction medicine who serves on the New Mexico Medical Board and Governor's Council on Prescription Drug Misuse and Overdose Prevention. He is integrally involved in writing Medical Board regulations around the proper treatment of pain and use of controlled substances. GAMA has been instrumental in educating medical providers about their responsibility in appropriately prescribing opioid medication to treat pain while understanding the danger of opiate addiction.

**12. Dr. Joanna G. Katzman, Director of UNM's Pain Center**

Dr. Katzman is the Director of UNM's Pain Center, which treats over 8,000 patients each year for pain and co-occurring mental health and opioid substance use disorders. She serves as a member of the Governor's Council for Prescription Drug Misuse, Abuse, and Pain Management.

**13. Dr. Christopher Manetta, Medical Director for Behavioral Health, Presbyterian Healthcare Services**

Dr. Manetta is an adjunct Professor at UNM in the Department of Psychiatry. While not an addiction specialist, Dr. Manetta is responsible for Presbyterian's behavioral medicine program and has practical experiences in the full range of behavioral and addiction issues. Dr. Manetta received the Air Force Meritorious Service Medal for his service from 2011-2015.

**14. Ava McGuire, Addict in Recovery and Community Advocate**

Ms. McGuire spent her high school years in Los Alamos and made New Mexico her home in 2006. She shares her journey as she struggled as a teenager and ultimately became addicted to oxycodone. Ms. McGuire has been in recovery for 2.5 years.

**15. Nicole Perea, Chairperson (past) of Generation Rx, UNM's College of Pharmacy, and HOPE Initiative Prevention & Education Presenter**

Ms. Perea is a 4th year student pharmacist. Her experience with Generation Rx includes educating New Mexicans about the misuse and abuse of prescription medications.

**16. Lisa Simpson, Bernalillo County, Public Safety Division, Technical Advisor on Jail Population Management and Developing Alternatives to Incarceration.**

Ms. Simpson provides technical assistance in the analysis of the criminal justice system to identify improvements in practices and efficiencies that would reduce the jail population, bring criminal justice partners together to implement identified improvements in the system and develop alternatives to incarceration for individuals in need of treatment services in order to reduce involvement in the criminal justice system.

**17. Dr. Steven A. Seifert, Professor, UNM School of Medicine, Medical Director, New Mexico Poison Center**

Dr. Seifert is a medical toxicologist and the Medical Director of the New Mexico Poison Center. He evaluates and treats toxicity from drug and substance exposures and serves as a member of the New Mexico Prescription Drug Misuse and Overdose Prevention and Pain Management Advisory Council.

**18. Dr. Mauricio Tohen, UNM Health Sciences Center, Chairman of Psychiatry Department**

Before becoming the Chairman of the Psychiatry Department, Dr. Tohen was the head of the Division of Mood & Anxiety Disorders at the University of Texas Health Sciences Center.



**19. Sean Waite, DEA Assistant Special Agent in Charge**

Mr. Waite is a 20-year veteran of the DEA with law enforcement experience domestically and internationally. He is the senior DEA Agent in New Mexico and has operational oversight for DEA activities in the state.

**20. Dr. William Wiese, Co-Chairman, Bernalillo County Opioid Accountability Initiative**

Dr. Wiese is retired from work as a physician, UNM faculty, and New Mexico Department of Health Director of Public Health Division. He currently works in drug policy across the sectors of treatment, naloxone availability, services for persons in criminal justice system and incarceration, and prevention.

**21. Jennifer Weiss-Burke, Executive Director of HAC & Serenity Mesa**

Ms. Weiss-Burke has been a full-time advocate since she lost her 18-year old son, Cameron, in 2011 to a heroin overdose. She has spent the last five years advocating for change to break the stigma associated with addiction, fighting for more treatment options for youth, increasing prevention efforts in the schools, and helping the community understand that this epidemic can affect anyone regardless of social status, ethnicity, background, or career path.

