

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

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May 16, 2017

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## **AG Balderas Responds to Trump's Empty Opioid Talk; Announces Project OPEN Coming to San Miguel County**

*Balderas: "President Trump continues to turn his back on the thousands of New Mexicans struggling with opioid addiction"*

*Project OPEN's goal is to confront the crisis to make New Mexico families safer*

*Las Vegas, NM* – This morning, New Mexico Attorney General Hector Balderas announced that his initiative to combat the opioid abuse and addiction crisis in New Mexico will be coming to San Miguel County in April. *Project OPEN: Opioid Prevention & Education Network* will host an Opioid Abuse Training in Las Vegas on Saturday, April 7, 2018. The training is free and will expose government officials, counselors, attorneys, policy advisors, investigators, healthcare professionals, consumer advocates, law enforcement and others to the impact and results of opioid abuse on New Mexico communities. It is intended to enhance the participants' knowledge and understanding of opioid addiction and the countless issues involved, and to afford participants the opportunity to explore program materials and solutions to addressing the opioid epidemic. The Office of the Attorney General will also update the public regarding Attorney General Balderas' lawsuit against the opioid manufacturers and distributors.

"President Trump continues to turn his back on the thousands of New Mexicans struggling with opioid addiction, but I will continue to aggressively sue the opioid manufacturers and distributors to bring real resources to New Mexico to combat this addiction crisis fueled by the drug industry," Attorney General Balderas said in response to President Trump's empty announcement on opioids yesterday. "Our Project OPEN: Opioid Prevention & Education Network will convene again on April 7th in San Miguel County as we continue to address this epidemic on the frontlines in New Mexico."

To register for the free training being held on Saturday, April 7<sup>th</sup> please contact Tamarra Howard with the New Mexico Office of the Attorney General at [\(505\) 717-3506](tel:(505)717-3506), [thoward@nmag.gov](mailto:thoward@nmag.gov) or fill out the following form - <https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSd6sMNd6Tx8wbEikpM9DRZw9U5Rbjb1f3NKp8h-92FI3W3ukw/viewform>.

**WHO:** Attorney General Hector Balderas, Fourth Judicial District Attorney Richard Flores, Las Vegas Police Chief Chris Lopez, New Mexico Highlands University, San Miguel County Substance Abuse Prevention Coalition, DEA, New Mexico Department of Health, law enforcement, healthcare professionals, government officials, consumer advocates, therapists, and the public

**WHAT:** Attorney General's *Project OPEN: Opioid Prevention & Education Network* will host a free Opioid Abuse Training in Las Vegas

**WHERE:** New Mexico Highlands University, Student Union Building Ballroom, 800 National Ave., Las Vegas, NM 87701

**WHEN:** Saturday, April 7, 2018 from 8:30 AM - 2:00 PM

Please see attached for a detailed agenda.

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Attorney General Hector Balderas

**PROJECT OPEN**  
**OPIOID PREVENTION AND EDUCATION**  
**NETWORK**

Attorney General Balderas formed a statewide partnership with public officials and law enforcement agencies to target prevention, education and awareness of the opioid abuse problem. This program will expose policy advisors, investigators, consumer advocates and others to the impact and effect of opioid abuse in New Mexico. It will enhance the participants' knowledge and understanding of opioid addiction and the complex issues involved. The primary goal is to afford participants the opportunity to explore program materials and solutions to addressing the opioid epidemic.

REGISTRATION LINK: [PROJECT OPEN](#)

Project OPEN is a free training and open to the public. If you would like to attend contact Tamarra Howard at (505)717-3506 or email [thoward@nmag.gov](mailto:thoward@nmag.gov)



**PROJECT OPEN**  
**OPIOID PREVENTION**  
**AND EDUCATION**  
**NETWORK**

**CONFRONTING THE**  
**CRISIS TO MAKE**  
**NEW MEXICO**  
**FAMILIES SAFER**

**ATTORNEY**  
**GENERAL**  
**HECTOR BALDERAS**

**SAN MIGUEL**  
**COUNTY SUBSTANCE**  
**ABUSE PREVENTION**  
**COALITION**

**NEW MEXICO**  
**HIGHLANDS**  
**UNIVERSITY**  
**STUDENT UNION**  
**BLDG.-BALLROOM**  
**800 NATIONAL**  
**AVENUE**  
**LAS VEGAS, NM 87701**

**MORA, SAN MIGUEL,**  
**GUADALUPE**  
**LC4 IS THE LOCAL**  
**(BEHAVIORAL HEALTH)**  
**COLLABORATIVE #4**  
**WILL BE PROVIDING**  
**LUNCH**

**April 7, 2018**  
**9:00 am to 2:00 pm**

# AGENDA

PROJECT OPEN  
OPIOID PREVENTION AND  
EDUCATION NETWORK  
NEW MEXICO HIGHLANDS UNIVERSITY  
STUDENT UNION BLDG.-BALLROOM  
800 NATIONAL AVENUE  
LAS VEGAS, NM 87701



**Saturday, April 7, 2018**

<b>8:30 am to 9:00 am</b>	<b>Registration</b>
<b>9:00 am to 9:20 am</b>	<b>Opening Remarks/Welcome to Project OPEN Attorney General Hector Balderas District Attorney Richard Flores</b>
<b>9:20 am to 9:30 am</b>	<b>Desiree Martinez-Coordinator for San Miguel County Substance Abuse Prevention Coalition</b>
<b>9:30 am to 10:00 am</b>	<b>Brian McMath, Assistant Attorney General Opioid Litigation Update</b>
<b>10:00 am to 11:00 am</b>	<b>Panel Discussion Diego Rains, Yvette Arellanes, Clarence Romero</b>
<b>11:00 to 11:15 am</b>	<b>Break</b>
<b>11:15 am to 12:15 pm</b>	<b>Heather A. McMurry Drug Enforcement Administration</b>
<b>12:15 pm to 1:15 pm</b>	<b>Panel Discussion Dr. J. Rocky Romero, Chief of Police Chris Lopez, Lou Duran</b>
<b>1:15 pm to 2:00 pm</b>	<b>Dominique Martinez and Valentina White Department of Health</b>
<b>2:00 pm</b>	<b>Closing</b>