

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

October 23, 2017

Attorney General contact: James Hallinan, [\(505\) 660-2216](tel:5056602216)

District Attorney contact: Damien Willis, [\(575\) 915-5954](tel:5759155954)

Sheriff's Office contact: Kelly Jameson, [\(575\) 386-4302](tel:5753864302)

LCPD/City contact: Dan Trujillo, [\(575\) 636-5639](tel:5756365639)

## **AG Balderas, DA D'Antonio, Sheriff Vigil & Mayor Miyagishima Bring Project OPEN: *Opioid Prevention & Education Network* Training to Doña Ana County**

*Unified Prevention Coalition for Doña Ana County to provide a free Naloxone training*

*Blake's Lotaburger is sponsoring the training, providing free burritos and refreshments*

**\*\*\*There will be a brief media avail outside council chambers immediately following the opening remarks\*\*\***

Las Cruces, NM – Attorney General Hector Balderas, District Attorney Mark D'Antonio, Sheriff Enrique “Kiki” Vigil and Mayor Ken Miyagishima announced that the Attorney General’s *Project OPEN: Opioid Prevention & Education Network* will host an Opioid Abuse Training in Las Cruces on Friday, October 27, 2017. 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.

In addition, Attorney General Balderas has partnered with Unified Prevention Coalition for Doña Ana County to provide a free Naloxone training. Project OPEN participants will be given the opportunity to receive the training and certification necessary to administer this life-saving drug. **Attached is a full agenda.**

“We can no longer allow opioid abuse and addiction to destroy New Mexico families and the future of our youth,” said Attorney General Hector Balderas. “I created Project OPEN in order to combat the opioid crisis in our state, and will continue training New Mexicans who are on the frontlines of this fight at our free Opioid Abuse Trainings. We must protect southern New Mexico from this public safety emergency and I encourage advocates, law enforcement officials, healthcare professionals and policy makers from all parts of southern New Mexico to attend this training so we can work together to make our families safer and healthier.”

“I applaud the leadership of Attorney General Hector Balderas, and his efforts to proactively address this crisis, which is ravaging our families and placing an enormous strain on our law enforcement resources in Doña Ana

County and across the state,” said **Third Judicial District Attorney Mark D’Antonio**. “Project OPEN provides an opportunity for stakeholders in our community to come together and face this issue head-on.”

“The nation as a whole is struggling with opioid addiction, and Doña Ana County is a gateway to that problem,” said **Doña Ana County Sheriff Enrique “Kiki” Vigil**. “We have dedicated resources to train our deputies in drug recognition, and I am confident that trainings like Project OPEN will only help to better equip our community partners to fight this evolving battle against opioid addiction.”

“Opioid medications are not limited to any group of citizens. Anyone suffering from physical pain could become addicted to these drugs, which could lead to more serious abuses of other opioids. If we act now, we can get a jump on the problem and help reduce this public health crisis,” said **Las Cruces Mayor Ken Miyagishima**.

**Attorney General Hector Balderas** added, “I want to thank our community partners at Blake’s Lotaburger for continuing to sponsor Project OPEN and providing hundreds of free meals to our participants as the battle the opioid epidemic in New Mexico.”

To register for the free training being held on October 27, please contact Tamarra Howard with the New Mexico Office of the Attorney General at [\(505\) 717-3506](tel:5057173506) or [thoward@nmag.gov](mailto:thoward@nmag.gov).

Participants can also register online at this link

- [https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSc6DB8qX\\_yXVF5QRihFq75NuUxH0rDT9UfTiCeM77cCFxj3xg/viewform?usp=sf\\_link](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSc6DB8qX_yXVF5QRihFq75NuUxH0rDT9UfTiCeM77cCFxj3xg/viewform?usp=sf_link)

**Please see attached for a full agenda.**

**WHO:** Attorney General Hector Balderas, Third Judicial District Attorney Mark D’Antonio, Doña Ana County Sheriff Enrique “Kiki” Vigil, Las Cruces Mayor Ken Miyagishima, Las Cruces Police Chief Jaime Montoya, law enforcement, healthcare professionals, government officials, consumer advocates, therapists, and the public

**WHAT:** Attorney General Balderas’ *Project OPEN: Opioid Prevention & Education Network* free Opioid Abuse Training

**WHERE:** Las Cruces City Hall Council Chambers, 700 N. Main Street, Las Cruces, NM 88001

**WHEN:** Friday, October 27, 2017 from 1:00 PM – 5:00 PM

###



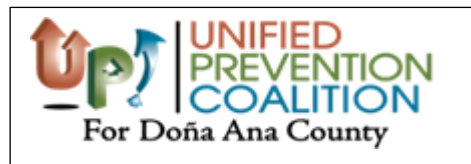
Attorney General Hector Balderas

**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**

**CITY HALL**  
**COUNCIL CHAMBERS**  
**700 N. MAIN ST.**  
**LAS CRUCES, NM**

**October 27, 2017**  
**1:00 pm to 5:00 pm**

# AGENDA

PROJECT OPEN  
OPIOID PREVENTION AND  
EDUCATION NETWORK  
CITY HALL -COUNCIL CHAMBERS  
700 N. MAIN STREET  
LAS CRUCES, NEW MEXICO 88003



**Friday, October 27, 2017**

<b>12:30 pm to 1:00 pm</b>	<b>Registration</b>
<b>1:00 pm to 1:15 pm</b>	<b>Opening Remarks/Welcome to Project OPEN Attorney General Hector Balderas District Attorney Mark D'Antonio Las Cruces Mayor Ken Miyagishima Sheriff Enrique 'Kiki' Vigil</b>
<b>1:15 pm to 1:40 pm</b>	<b>Piper Coalson New Mexico State University</b>
<b>1:40 pm to 1:50 pm</b>	<b>Break</b>
<b>1:50 pm to 2:00 pm</b>	<b>Cristina Gutierrez-Lopez UP↑-Unified Prevention Coalition</b>
<b>2:00 pm to 3:00 pm</b>	<b>Heather A. McMurry Drug Enforcement Administration</b>
<b>Breakout Session 2:00 pm to 3:15 pm</b>	<b>Athena R. Huckaby, MPH Dona Ana County Health and Human Services Marisol Diaz UP↑-Unified Prevention Coalition</b>
<b>3:00 pm to 3:15 pm</b>	<b>Break</b>
<b>3:15 pm to 4:00 pm</b>	<b>Panel Discussion Joe Provencio and Dr. Stefan Schaefer</b>
<b>4:00 pm to 4:15 pm</b>	<b>Break</b>
<b>4:15 pm to 5:00 pm</b>	<b>Panel Discussion Shannon Martin, HIDTA Project Analyst and Ned Rubin, Unified Prevention Coalition</b>
<b>5:00 pm</b>	<b>Closing</b>