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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Columbus City Attorney and The Ohio State University College of Public Health Convene Meeting to Address Opioid Epidemic at Colleges and Universities

Collaborative Effort to Tackle Prevention Needs at Higher Education Institutions

COLUMBUS, OH—The Ohio State University College of Public Health and Columbus City Attorney Zach Klein’s office, as part of their work to implement the Franklin County Opiate Action Plan, convened a meeting today to bring colleges and universities together to work on opioid prevention efforts. This collaboration will encourage higher education institutions to share resources for educating students and families of the risk factors they may encounter, the dangers of substance misuse and abuse, and resources available on their campuses. This group will construct policies that encourage students to seek help for themselves or their peers, encourage drug abstinence, and emphasize well-being, mental health promotion, and counseling services.

The meeting was hosted by Community Properties of Ohio, whose Scholar House program provides housing for at-risk student parents. Attendees heard presentations from Community Properties of Ohio, Prevention Action Alliance Ohio College Initiative, and The Ohio State University Higher Education Center for Alcohol and Drug Misuse Prevention and Recovery, which examined varying approaches, existing treatment services, and other programs to assist staff, students, and families on their campuses.

“The need for prevention services for youth doesn’t end when someone graduates high school. When young people go on to attend colleges and universities, they face a host of new changes; being away from home, stresses from course load, and other pressures which may contribute to substance use and misuse,” said Columbus City Attorney Zach Klein. “We are pleased to work with The Ohio State University College of Public Health to convene our colleagues in the higher education system to find how we can be supportive of their prevention needs and curtail the effects of the opioid epidemic on our college communities.”

“Institutions of higher learning face a unique set of challenges wrought on by the opioid epidemic, for our staff, students, and their families,” said Dean William Martin of The Ohio State University College of Public Health. “We’re enthused by this collaborative effort here in Franklin County, and hope to broaden this partnership with colleges and universities across the state.”