



City-County Heroin, Opioid and Cocaine Task Force

CHAIR
Ald. Michael J. Murphy

VICE-CHAIR
Michael Lappen

MEMBERS
Karen Loebel, James Mathy, Ald. Khalif J. Rainey, Mayor CoryAnn St. Marie-Carls, Brian Peterson, Christine Westrich, E. Brooke Lerner, Marisol Cervera, Michael Macias



City Hall, 200 E. Wells St., Room 205, Milwaukee, WI 53202 | (414) 286-2221 | Fax (414) 286-3456

January 29, 2018

UnitedHealth Group
Attn: Steve Nelson, CEO
P.O. Box 1459
Minneapolis, MN 55440

UnitedHealthcare
Wisconsin Main-Milwaukee
10701 W Research Drive
Milwaukee, WI 53226

Dear Mr. Nelson:

The Milwaukee City-County Heroin, Opioid, and Cocaine Task Force (CCHOCTF) is charged with investigating and making recommendations regarding ways to ensure long-term health and safety of Milwaukee City and County residents by reducing fatal and nonfatal overdose from misuse of opioids, heroin, synthetic analogs, and cocaine (in both powder and crack form) through data-driven public health prevention approaches. One goal of the task force is to ensure access to timely, affordable, and quality services for people with substance use disorders.

It was recently brought to our attention that UnitedHealthcare has initiated changes to the way it offers coverage of treatment to those suffering from substance dependence. According to several community members, UHC discontinued Wisconsin Medicaid treatment coverage of intensive outpatient programming for substance abuse, causing hardships to patients and area clinics servicing patients with opioid addiction, for a period of months in 2017. In addition, community members indicated UHC commercial and Medicaid plans have limited the number of drug tests for patients to 18 total drug tests per calendar year.

The Milwaukee City-County Heroin, Opioid and Cocaine Task Force respectfully requests that UnitedHealthcare attend its next task force meeting on Friday, February 9, 2018 at 9 a.m., Room 301-B, Milwaukee City Hall, 200 E. Wells St., Milwaukee, WI 53202 to discuss these two recent changes in treatment coverage, UHC practice and policies of contracting clinics, limiting substance abuse treatment or services, and fair, consistent coverage of substance abuse. If a representative is unable to attend, please provide a written response to the task force before February 9, 2018.

The task force looks forward to a discussion with UHC at its next meeting to improve the efficiency of treatment and the search for better treatment options, and to eliminate a range of obstacles preventing individuals from entering or gaining access to substance abuse treatment.

Please contact my office directly with regard to our next task force meeting as referenced above at 414-286-2074 or mmurph@milwaukee.gov.

Sincerely,

Ald. Michael J. Murphy, Chair
City-County Heroin, Opioid and Cocaine Task Force