Dannel P. Malloy
GOVERNOR
STATE OF CONNECTICUT

October 29, 2015

Miriam Delphin-Rittmon
Commissioner
Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services
410 Capitol Avenue
Hartford, CT 06106

Joette Katz
Commissioner
Department of Children and Families
505 Hudson Street
Hartford, CT 06106

Re: Alcohol and Drug Policy Council Charge

Commissioners Delphin-Rittmon and Katz:

Alcohol and substance use disorders are diseases affecting every community in the state of Connecticut. We know that individuals from every subset of society live with this disease and we know that addiction and overdose among the users of certain substances, such as opioids, is growing. Opioid overdose deaths have been on the rise in Connecticut and in 2014, they passed 300 for the first time in recent history. It is time for our state to take a coordinated and evidence-based approach to preventing and treating addiction and preventing overdose.

During this past legislative session, I introduced and signed *An Act Concerning Substance Abuse and Opioid Overdose Prevention* into law. That bill, now Public Act 15-198, reconstitutes the Alcohol and Drug Policy Council with the commissioners of your two agencies as the co-chairs. I ask that you both take a lead role in our state's efforts to coordinate substance use prevention and treatment through the work of the Council. This reconstituted council includes new members from the medical, recovery and treatment communities and is uniquely positioned to make expert recommendations to guide our prevention and treatment efforts.

As you consider the Council's goals and objectives, I ask that you study and make recommendations in the following areas:

1. Best practices in the treatment of alcohol and substance use disorders, including Medication Assisted Treatment (MAT) and other evidence-based treatment programs
2. A coordinated, audience specific, prevention message including modern messaging to be used by school districts, parents, medical professionals, municipal leaders, state agencies and law enforcement
3. A collaborative effort, with medical professionals including doctors, nurse practitioners, dentists and physicians assistants to educate all prescribers on the dangers of overprescribing narcotics

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and the current best practices in identifying substance use disorder and the resources available for treatment

4. A strategy to make the overdose reversing drug naloxone widely available and affordable to first responders, in pharmacies and to any individual who may be able to use it to reverse and overdose

As your work in these areas progresses, please make recommendations to my office on issues requiring legislative change, administrative action and statewide cooperation. Thank you for everything that you are doing and will do to fight addiction and overdose. I look forward to reviewing your recommendations and working with you on a continuing basis to prevent and treat alcohol and substance use disorders in Connecticut.

Sincerely,

Dannel P. Malloy
Governor