

Opioid Epidemic Outreach



District Event and Workshop Ideas

192. That's how many people die every day from a drug overdose. Last year alone, more than 70,000 people died of drug overdoses. People are now more likely to die from an overdose than they are a car crash.

We must take action to end the addiction crisis and save lives. While we work to pass legislation in Washington to end the epidemic, we can also take action in our communities to make a difference.

The following are ideas for events that you can do in your district to highlight the opioid epidemic and learn more about how the issue is affecting your constituents. If you or your staff have questions on how to set up any of these events, please contact Rep. David Trone's District Director at Sonny.Holding@mail.house.gov.

District Event Ideas

- **Schedule a public Narcan Training session with local elected officials and stakeholders in the community**
 - Format:
 - Work with a local organization that provides Narcan trainings and decide in advance if you'd like the event to be smaller (just your office and select stakeholders) or larger (use social media and your email list to publicize the event for your constituents).
 - Press:
 - Invite press to cover the event.
 - Send an email inviting constituents to attend.
 - Do a press availability after the event to talk about the importance of getting trained and reducing the stigma of Narcan.
- **Visit a Medication-Assisted Treatment facility in your district**
 - Format:
 - Have a closed door roundtable with patients at the facility to learn more about how this type of treatment helps patients.
 - Discuss the barriers patients have to full recovery such as housing and employment issues.
 - Find a facility near you: <http://dpt2.samhsa.gov/treatment/directory.aspx>
 - Press:
 - Invite press to cover the event (make sure you have cleared this with the facility and patients in advance).
 - Write a Medium post with your reflections on the event.
- **Visit a sober living facility**
 - Format:
 - Talk to residents to learn more about the facility and the programming.
 - Discuss barriers to full recovery, including long-term housing and employment issues.
 - Press:
 - Invite press to cover the event (make sure you have cleared this with the facility and patients in advance).
- **Visit a local Drug Court**
 - Format:
 - Tour the Drug Court facility and host a roundtable with Drug Court leadership, staff, and stakeholders. Consider inviting a few individuals who benefited from the Drug Court.
 - Learn more about alternative sentencing and its successes in your area.
 - Find a Drug Court near you: <https://ndcrc.org/database/>
 - Press:
 - Invite press to cover the event.
 - Host a press availability to discuss the importance of providing federal funding for Drug Courts.

- **Visit to local prison or detention facility**
 - Format:
 - Hold a roundtable with prison leadership and incarcerated persons about addiction-related efforts in the criminal justice system.
 - Learn about treatment programs in the facility.
 - Press:
 - Invite press to cover the event.

- **Ride along with local police, fire fighters, or paramedics to see the addiction crisis first-hand**
 - Format
 - Member will sit in the front passenger seat of the police car, fire truck, or ambulance.
 - Visit “hot spots” in the community and see the addiction crisis through the lens of law enforcement and/or first responders.
 - Press:
 - Hold a press availability after the ride along to discuss what the Member saw.
 - Write a Medium post with your reflections.
 - Live tweet the ride along (with permission from the law enforcement agencies).

- **Roundtable with law enforcement, firefighters, and/or EMS personnel**
 - Format:
 - Meet with police officers, firefighters, and paramedics to hear their stories and get their opinions on how this crisis is affecting constituents.
 - Hold the roundtable at the police station, fire station, or EMS facility.
 - Press:
 - Invite press to cover the event.
 - Post video clips of the discussion.

- **Visit to local hospital**
 - Format:
 - Visit the Emergency Department to learn how they handle overdose patients.
 - Visit the maternity ward to learn more about services provided to expectant mothers with substance use disorder, the rate of addicted children born in the hospital, and how they handle these patients.
 - Learn about the hospital’s policies related to treating and releasing addiction patients.
 - Press:
 - Invite press to cover the event.

- **Meeting with county health departments**
 - Format:
 - Meet with the Director and top staff of the health department and tour the facility.
 - County health departments are often the recipients of grant funding for addiction initiatives. Learn about their current efforts and ask what funding they would need to address the crisis.
 - Press:
 - Invite press to cover the event.
 - Hold a press conference to talk about the importance of funding addiction-related programs.

- **Visit a behavioral health center**
 - Format:
 - Tour the behavioral health center.
 - Speak with the medical professionals and counselors about what they are seeing on the ground. Ask about trends they are seeing, problems they have identified, and what would help solve the problem.
 - Connect the visit to Mental Health Month or a policy action related to mental health.
 - Press:
 - Invite press to cover the event.
 - Send an email to your constituents related to the importance of mental health, available resources, and policy actions related to mental health.

- **Visit with Head Start programs**
 - Format:
 - Tour the Head Start facility and hold a roundtable with staff and families served by the program.
 - Discuss the intersection of the addiction crisis and Head Start.
 - Find a program near you: <https://eclkc.ohs.acf.hhs.gov/center-locator>
 - Press:
 - Invite press to cover the event.

- **Host a Constituent Service Workshop on the addiction crisis**
 - See the next page for the model on how to create a Constituent Service Workshop.

Constituent Service Workshops – Congressman David Trone, MD06

Event Summary:

Congressman Trone’s Constituent Service Workshops engage the community on a wide variety of issues while providing a service to constituents that they would otherwise not be able to access. The events are tailored around a specific issue and combine a forum or panel discussion with a resource fair, where constituents can browse resource tables to find information and services.

For example, we hosted our first Constituent Service Workshop on seniors’ issues. During the forum, attendees heard from Social Security Subcommittee Chairman John Larson (CT-01), the Director of the Maryland Department on Aging, a representative from AARP, and the Maryland Attorney General’s expert on senior scams. Before and after the forum, attendees visited with more than 25 organizations focused on seniors issues, including Meals on Wheels, the Alzheimer’s Association, and the Social Security Administration, who was on hand to check claims.

We plan on hosting 10 Constituent Service Workshops every year. The topics will vary depending on current events and the needs and requests of our constituents.

Resource Tables:

For resource tables at the event, we start by identifying the key agencies that are a “must have” for the particular subject matter. For example, Veteran Benefits Officers for a Veterans Workshop or the local Social Security Administration and Medicare representatives for a seniors event.

We always ask that these agencies bring with them the means to check claims that constituents have on site. From there, we build out 20-40 tables, depending on the subject matter. Our metric is that every table must be relevant to the subject matter and provide a “value add” to our constituents.

Panel Discussion:

The Congressman will lead the panel discussion. However, he will lean on the panelists as experts in the field to answer the questions from the audience. Our goal in selecting panelists is always to bring someone to the area that the local residents would never normally hear from, such as an agency director or another high-ranking elected official. The panel is one part individual presentations and one part Q&A, moderated by Congressman Trone.

Sample Schedule:

9:00am	Doors open. Attendees browse resource tables, meet with service providers, and grab seats
9:30am	Congressman Trone welcomes attendees and introduces panelists. Panelists give brief 3-5 minute presentations
10:00am	Q&A with audience
10:30am	Congressman Trone concludes panel and the resource fair resumes
11:00am	Event ends

Event Ideas

- Seniors Workshop
- Identity Theft Workshop
- Veterans Workshop
- Opioid Addiction Workshop
- Entrepreneurship Workshop
- Government Contracting Workshop
- Financial Aid Workshop
- Grants Workshop