



News Release

Media Contact:

Stacy Shelp, Public Information Officer

Phone: 919.245.2462

sshelp@orangecountync.gov

Orange County Board of Health to Host Expert Panel Exploring Substance Abuse Treatment and the Legal System

Hillsborough, NC (October 17, 2013) – In August, U.S. Attorney General Eric Holder called for a move towards community service and rehabilitation as an alternative to long prison sentences for low-level drug offenses as part of the [Smart on Crime Report](#).

The Orange County Board of Health and the Health Department are inviting residents to attend a panel discussion entitled, “*New Opportunities in Substance Abuse Treatment & the Legal System*.” This will take place on Wednesday, October 23, from 7:00 p.m. – 8:15 p.m. as part of the Orange County Board of Health meeting. The meeting will also be [live tweeted](#) with questions being accepted using hash tag #OCBOH.

Panelists will focus on what these new national guidelines mean for substance abuse treatment and other alternatives to incarceration in Orange County.

The panel features experts in the Orange County legal system and substance abuse treatment, including:

- Lamar Proctor, Orange County Senior Assistant District Attorney
- Patricia Hussey, Executive Director of [Freedom House Recovery Center](#)
- James E. Williams, Orange County Public Defender
- Courtney Kennedy, Orange County Drug Treatment Court Coordinator

Discussion Topics:

- What do the new Federal Guidelines mean for substance abuse treatment as alternatives to incarceration?
- How will this affect the local penal system?
- How does looking at drug-related crime as a public health issue affect it as a criminal justice issue?

The meeting will take place at the Richard E. Whitted Human Services Center, [300 West Tryon Street in Hillsborough](#).

About the Board of Health

The Board of Health is charged with protecting and promoting the public health of Orange County. A current focus of the Board of Health is identifying and promoting effective policies to prevent drug misuse, abuse, and overdose.

To learn more about the work of the Orange County Board of Health, please visit <http://www.orangecountync.gov/health/BoardofHealthlinks.asp>

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