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**NEWS**  
Office of Macomb County Executive  
Mark A. Hackel



Health & Community Services

## ***For Immediate Release***

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### **Macomb County Department of Health & Community Services to host a Heroin and Opioid Epidemic 360 Town Hall Meeting**

In collaboration with the Detroit Division of the FBI, the Department of Health and Community Services of Macomb County will host the “Making a Safer Macomb” opioid and heroin epidemic town hall meeting.

The event will take place on Wednesday, January 31 from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. at the Van Dyke Community Auditorium, 22900 Federal Avenue, Warren. Amy Lange, reporter for Fox 2 News, will be the moderator for the evening. Special guests include Macomb County Executive Mark A. Hackel and Van Dyke Public Schools Superintendent Piper Bogner.

A unique panel for the event will include a variety of law enforcement agencies at the federal, state, county and local level, along with experts in the areas of prevention, treatment and recovery for the evening’s “on-the-record” conversation and an audience question and answer session.

Participating agencies include: Macomb County’s Medical Examiner, Office of Substance Abuse, Prosecutor’s Office, and Sheriff; also the Michigan State Police, DEA, FBI, Families against Narcotics, Warren/Center Line Prevention Coalition, CARE of Southeastern Michigan, The Arab American and Chaldean Council, and the U.S. Attorney’s Office-Eastern Michigan District.

“Families in every community, regardless of socioeconomic status, are suffering from this crisis.” Stated Rhonda Powell, Director of Macomb County [Health and Community Services](#). “We must work together at every level to have an impact and be successful in this important fight.”

The Macomb County [Medical Examiner’s Office](#) documented in its 2016 annual report 201 heroin and/or fentanyl related deaths in 2016 compared to 138 in 2015, a 46% increase. The epidemic has also been on the front pages nationally. The Center for Disease Control reported that opioid overdose deaths were five times higher in 2016 than 1999.

Local agencies and resources will be present to distribute information at the event. Doors will open to the public at 5:30 p.m. Light refreshments will be served. For more information, contact the Macomb County Department of Health and Community Services at (586) 469-7190.