

## Media Advisory

### Holyoke District Court to hold public forum on drug use and addiction

Holyoke District Court, in concert with the National Center for State Courts, will present a panel discussion and public forum on community-based strategies to address drug use and drug addiction in the community.

“Like many other cities and towns in Massachusetts and throughout the United States, Holyoke is facing many challenges related to substance abuse, including criminal activity, overdoses and drug related deaths,” said Holyoke District Court First Justice William Hadley. “We have been working with local law enforcement officials, healthcare providers and others in the community to develop strategies to reduce opioid misuse and addiction by increasing opportunities for immediate and effective treatment of individuals who may come in contact with the criminal justice system.”

The panel discussion and public forum event will feature multiple speakers from law enforcement, the courts, and behavioral health professionals. Following the panel, audience members will have an opportunity to ask questions, provide comments, and make suggestions.

Panelists include:

Manuel Febo, Chief of Police for the City of Holyoke  
Nick Cocchi, Sheriff of Hampden County  
Ari Kriegsman, M.D., Attending Physician, Opioid Treatment Program at Providence Hospital  
Elizabeth Evans, PhD., MA, Assistant Professor, School of Public Health, UMASS, Amherst  
Debra Flynn-Gonzalez, Program Director, Hope for Holyoke Peer Recovery Support Center  
Maria Quinn, MSN, PMHNP-BC, Psychiatric NP, Holyoke Hospital  
William Hadley, First Justice, Holyoke District Court  
Manuel Moutinho, Clerk Magistrate, Holyoke District Court  
Sean McBride, Chief Probation Officer, Holyoke District Court

**When:** Wednesday, October 30, 2019, from 2-4 pm

**Where:** War Memorial Building, 310 Appleton St., Holyoke, MA.

Press are welcome to attend and cover the event. For more information please contact Janet Klofas, Holyoke District Court at [janet.klofas@jud.state.ma.us](mailto:janet.klofas@jud.state.ma.us)