[INSERT COUNTY SEAL]

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE** **Contact**: [NAME] [DATE] [PHONE NUMBER]

 [EMAIL ADDRESS]

**[NAME]/[COUNTY NAME] Hosts Opioid Leadership Forum**

**[INSERT TOWN/CITY], NC** – On [INSERT DATE], [NAME/COUNTY NAME] hosted a County Leadership Forum on Opioid Abuse to bring together local elected leaders and other key partners to discuss ways to address opioid abuse in the community. The meeting included [List those who participated in the meeting and any specific contributions they made to the discussion].

[Insert quote from Commissioner or other county official on the success of the meeting].

In recent years, North Carolina has seen a spike in opioid related overdose deaths. According to data provided by the NC Department of Health and Human Services, more than 13,000 North Carolinians have died from unintentional overdose deaths since 1999. [Add any county-specific data on the effects of opioid abuse in your community].

The [COUNTY NAME] County Leadership Forum on Opioid Abuse is part of a Presidential Initiative established by the President of the North Carolina Association of County Commissioners (NCACC) and Davidson County Commissioner, Fred McClure. Earlier this year, he called on all counties throughout the state to bring together local elected officials and other leaders to have an informed discussion on ways to combat the opioid crisis. NCACC is supporting the effort by providing planning materials and technical assistance to enable each county to hold their own forum. The materials are available online at [www.ncacc.org/opioidforum](http://www.ncacc.org/opioidforum).

[Discuss any specific opioid-related issues facing your county that came up during the meeting and ideas that were shared to address the problem].

**About the NCACC:** *The North Carolina Association of County Commissioners (NCACC) is the official voice of all 100 counties on issues being considered by the General Assembly, Congress and federal and state agencies. The Association provides expertise to counties in the areas of advocacy, research, risk management and education and leadership training.*

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