

## **Healthcare Leadership Council Commitment Statement on Countering the Opioid Epidemic**

The responsibility for addressing the urgent public health crisis that is the opioid epidemic does not rest exclusively with either the public or private sector, or with any single healthcare sector. The Healthcare Leadership Council (HLC), comprised of leading companies from all health disciplines, is committed to confronting the problem of drug misuse and addiction and doing so through a multi-faceted strategy involving legislative and regulatory reforms as well as bold private sector leadership. HLC is proud to work with the National Academy of Medicine and to be part of the NAM Action Collaborative in bringing improved health and well-being to our communities.

HLC has applied its National Dialogue for Healthcare Innovation (NDHI) platform to the opioid crisis. Through NDHI, HLC amplifies its own diverse and high-level membership with leaders from healthcare, business, academia, government, patient advocacy organizations and, for this issue, addiction and recovery experts. On May 14, 2018, under the NDHI auspices, HLC hosted an Opioid Crisis Solutions Summit in Washington, D.C. bringing together this broad-based collection of leaders as well as key figures from Congress and the executive branch.

The Summit focused on developing consensus solutions covering five key priorities: (1) improving healthcare system approaches to pain management; (2) improving healthcare system approaches to prevent opioid misuse; (3) expanding access to evidence-based substance use disorder treatment and behavioral health services; (4) promoting improved care coordination through data access and analytics; and (5) developing sustainable payment systems that support coordination and quality care.

The Summit's participating organizations coalesced around over 30 specific recommendations compiled in [A Roadmap for Action](#). Several of these proposals were included in the opioid-focused legislative package passed by Congress in 2018. Others are still being advanced through both the public and private sectors.

HLC's approach to this challenge will continue to be a comprehensive one. It is essential to recognize the needs of those suffering from chronic and acute pain and to support safe opioid prescribing as part of an integrated pain management approach. Beyond that, it is critical to pursue a robust menu of game-changing actions and reforms, whether these involve breaking down data barriers to better diagnose and treat patients with substance use disorders or expanding access to evidence-based treatment. Positive steps have been taken but more remains to be done if we are to make this health crisis a part of our past instead of a present-day dilemma. We look forward to working within the Collaborative to achieve this shared goal.