National Academy of Medicine’s Action Collaborative
American Psychiatric Association Commitment Statement

The American Psychiatric Association (APA), the medical specialty society representing over 38,500 physicians who specialize in the treatment of mental illnesses, including substance use disorders, seeks to join the National Academy of Medicine’s Action Collaborative on Countering the U.S. Opioid Epidemic. For 175 years, APA has been the voice and conscience of modern psychiatry and its vision is a society that has accessible quality psychiatric diagnosis and treatment.

APA has worked extensively in many of the Action Collaborative's focus areas, but primarily in the following areas: health professional education and training; prevention, treatment, and recovery services; and research, data, and metric needs. Currently, we are an active partner in the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration’s (SAMHSA) Providers’ Clinical Support System and the Opioid Response Network. Through these programs, we have trained thousands of psychiatrists and other physicians at the local level to provide evidence-based practices in prevention, treatment, and recovery of opioid use disorder. APA is a clinical site for a SAMHSA-funded pilot program to provide technical support to health care organizations integrating substance use disorder services, especially the use (or expansion) of medication for addiction treatment (MAT) for patients with opioid use disorder. Additionally, APA leads the Quality Measure Development Initiative, a CMS-funded effort to develop meaningful measures for patients with mental health and substance use disorders. The initiative will prioritize developing measures for initiation of medication for addiction treatment (MAT) among individuals for OUD.

APA is committed to providing psychiatric leadership in the study, prevention, and treatment of opioid use disorders. We stand at the ready to join the Action Collaborative to combat this public health crisis and appreciate your ongoing efforts. Thank you for your consideration and we look forward to participating as an Action Collaborative Network Organization.