

**COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
COMMITTEE ON HEALTH
COMMITTEE ON HOSPITAL AND HEALTH EQUITY
NOTICE OF PUBLIC ROUNDTABLE
1350 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20004**

**COUNCILMEMBER CHRISTINA HENDERSON, CHAIRPERSON
COMMITTEE ON HEALTH**

AND

**COUNCILMEMBER GRAY, CHAIRPERSON OF THE
COMMITTEE ON HOSPITAL AND HEALTH EQUITY**

ANNOUNCES A PUBLIC ROUNDTABLE

ON

Combatting the Opioid and Fentanyl Crisis in DC

ON

Wednesday June 28, 2023, 10:30 a.m.

Virtual Meeting via Zoom Video Conference Broadcast

To Watch Live:

<https://dccouncil.gov/council-videos/>
<https://www.christinahendersondc.com/live>
<https://www.youtube.com/@cmhenderson>

Councilmember Christina Henderson, Chair of the Committee on Health, and Councilmember Gray, Chair of the Committee on Hospital and Health Equity announce a joint roundtable on Combatting the Opioid and Fentanyl Crisis in DC. The hearing will be held at 10:30 a.m. on Wednesday, June 28, 2023.

The purpose of this hearing is to address the urgent and multifaceted challenges posed by the opioid and fentanyl epidemic in Washington, DC. By convening a forum of invited witnesses, this hearing seeks to comprehensively explore various aspects of the crisis and gather expert insights on understanding its scope, implementing prevention strategies, improving treatment and recovery approaches, engaging healthcare providers, adopting harm reduction measures, fostering community engagement and support, addressing stigma, promoting compassion and public education, allocating funding and resources effectively, establishing robust evaluation and monitoring systems, and devising sustainable long-term solutions. In addition, the purpose of this hearing is to develop a comprehensive understanding of the issue and identify evidence-based

policies and initiatives that can be implemented to combat the opioid and fentanyl crisis, ultimately saving lives, and alleviating the devastating impact it has on individuals, families, and communities across the nation.

The roundtable also coincides with the launch of the Department of Behavioral Health's Office of Opioid Abatement and the Opioid Abatement Advisory Commission. These entities will oversee the \$50-80 million that the District is set to receive over the next 15-18 years from opioid litigation settlements. The roundtable will provide an opportunity for community members to share their input on how these funds should be used to address the opioid crisis.

The roundtable will have a hybrid format, with the government and expert witnesses appearing in-person, and the public witnesses appearing virtually using the Zoom platform. Public witnesses will be limited to 40 witnesses and will have 5 minutes to speak if they are representing an organization, and 3 minutes if they are speaking for themselves. Public witnesses who sign up after the 40 person limit will be waitlisted. The public should sign up at <https://bit.ly/OpioidRoundtable>. Witnesses who anticipate needing spoken language interpretation, or require sign language interpretation, are requested to inform the Committee office of the need as soon as possible but no later than five business days before the proceeding. We will make every effort to fulfill timely requests, although alternatives may be offered. Requests received in less than five business days may not be fulfilled. If you have additional questions, please email Ashley Strange, Legislative Assistant at astrange@dccouncil.gov.

The Committee will accept written testimony from the public which should be submitted to astrange@dccouncil.gov. The public may also leave a voicemail testimony at (202) 430-6046. The record will close at 5:00pm on Wednesday, July 12, 2023.