



## Governor Brad Little

State Capitol :: Boise, Idaho 83720  
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July 15, 2019

Administrator Melinda Smyser  
Governor's Office of Drug Policy  
P.O. Box 83720  
Boise, ID 83720

Dear Administrator Smyser,

Thank you for your willingness to chair the newly commissioned Opioid and Substance Use Disorder Advisory Group. As you well know, the opioid crisis and substance use disorders pose considerable threats to the well-being and safety of our citizens. I am committed to combatting substance misuse, and I look forward to the advisory group's recommendations to that end.

I am tasking the Opioid Advisory Group with researching, evaluating, and providing recommendations on the following matters:

1. Advancing the goals and strategies from the Idaho Opioid Misuse and Overdose Strategic Plan.
2. Best practices in other states used to combat opioid misuse and substance use disorder.
3. Prescribing practices including usage of the prescription monitoring program, prescription limitations, and required continuing medical education.
4. Policies directing law enforcement and prosecutors to refer first-time, non-violent drug offenders to local crisis centers rather than arrest and indictment.
5. Policies mandating the reporting of overdose deaths
6. Advice and comments I can make to the White House, Congress, and the Department of Health and Human services surrounding further actions that can be taken at the federal level.
7. How to coordinate and integrate efforts with current behavioral health plans.
8. Various treatment pathways possible to combat opioid and substance misuse.
9. Educational efforts within the medical community regarding pain management, opioid regimens, and alternatives to opioids.
10. Opioid awareness, prevention, and risk campaigns through public and social media using available funds.
11. Data integration and coordination across stakeholder groups to inform decision making and a collective approach.
12. Any other areas the advisory group deems necessary to combat opioid misuse, other substance misuse, and substance use disorder.

Again, thank you for your dedication to this important task. I look forward to working with you and hearing the taskforce's recommendations. Thank you for what you do to make Idaho the place where our children and grandchildren choose to call home.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Brad Little', written in a cursive style.

Brad Little  
Governor of Idaho