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Gail M. Taylor, Director Behavioral Health Wellness, Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services served as the keynote speaker at the Historic Triangle Drug Prevention Coalition Town Hall Meeting addressing the Opioid Crisis.

Historic Triangle Drug Prevention Coalition Town Hall Meeting

WILLIAMSBURG, VA – The Historic Triangle Drug Prevention Coalition (HTDPC) held a Town Hall meeting on Oct. 25 at Legacy Hall to address the Opioid Crisis. The event was attended by 80 members of the community including legislators, local government, law enforcement, fire and life safety, social services, health care professionals, substance use treatment and recovery providers, and school representatives. Gail M. Taylor, Director Behavioral Health Wellness, Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services, served as the keynote speaker and presented statewide data of opioid, illicit and prescription drug misuse and the state's response to the crisis.

Following the presentation, a panel discussion of local community leaders focused on the local impact and efforts to reduce harm and encourage recovery. The panel included a physician, a drug enforcement officer, a mother who lost her daughter to an unfortunate overdose and an individual in recovery. HTDPC also hosted an informational table with drug deactivation disposal bags, safe medication lock boxes, and substance use disorder resource cards listing local treatment and recovery resources and year round safe medication disposal sites.

The HTDPC meets monthly and will begin planning another community education event for spring 2020. To learn more about the HTDPC or to become a member, please contact Sheri Newcomb, HTDPC chair, at sheri.newcomb@yorkcounty.gov.

ABOUT THE HISTORIC TRIANGLE DRUG PREVENTION COALITION

The Historic Triangle Drug Prevention Coalition's (HTDPC) mission is to have a coordinated and collaborative approach to prevention, education and advocacy to decrease the negative impacts of substance use in the counties of James City and York and cities of Poquoson and Williamsburg.