



# MHSD

METROPOLITAN HUMAN  
SERVICES DISTRICT

*Where We Change Lives!*

January 24, 2017

Contact: Ariel Wilson  
Email: [Ariel.Wilson@la.gov](mailto:Ariel.Wilson@la.gov)  
Office: 504.620.2210  
Cell: 504.390.4639  
[www.mhsdla.org](http://www.mhsdla.org)

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **Metropolitan Human Services District Awarded Grant to Reduce Drug & Opioid Death Rates**

**NEW ORLEANS, LA** - Metropolitan Human Services District has received a \$3 million grant over three years from the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration. These funds will allow MHSD to provide medication assisted treatment services for prescription drug and illicit opioid users.

The program will decrease substance use and reduce the local high rates of death currently reported due to the use of this dangerous category of drugs. "This award is a significant indicator that MHSD and partnering agencies have expertise in treatment for those in need of addiction services." Dr. Rochelle Head-Dunham, MHSD Executive/Medical Director says. She added that MHSD partnership builds capacity to ensure that the program is a success.

MHSD and all partners are CARF accredited agencies, which provide evidence-based, culturally specific and person centered services to individuals struggling with opioid addiction. The grant funding is anticipated to increase the number of previously untreated individuals with opioid addiction by 250 or more.

**Metropolitan Human Services District** is the local lead agency for mental illness, addictive disorders and intellectual/development disability services. MHSD provides community-based services for all ages in Orleans, St. Bernard and Plaquemines parishes through agency clinics and community partners. State and Federal funding are the primary resources for MHSD. For more information, visit [www.mhsdla.org](http://www.mhsdla.org) or call 504-568-3130.

###