



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE March 9, 2016 Connecticut Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services Contact: Diana Lejardi (860) 418-6967 (860) 558-0024 (cell)

Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services Launches Statewide 800 Number for Residents Seeking Opioid Treatment and Services

Residents will be linked to walk-in assessment centers by calling 1-800-563-4086

(Hartford, CT) – The Connecticut Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services (DMHAS) today announced a new toll-free number connecting residents seeking treatment and services for an opioid addiction to local walk-in assessment centers. Residents will now be able to call 1-800-563-4086, 24 hours a day, to connect them or a loved one to a walk-in assessment center in their area.

"We need to do everything possible to fight addiction – this is no doubt an alarming nationwide trend. This number is a commonsense step that we hope will support those who need it," Governor Malloy said. "We encourage anyone who needs help to get it."

Callers who dial 1-800-563-4086 from within Connecticut will be directed to a walk-in assessment center in their area. In addition, callers will be followed up with a phone call by trained staff to determine if they were able to connect to necessary services and problem-solve any barriers they may have encountered.

"With the launch of the 800 number, we will now be able to give residents seeking treatment for opioid abuse a central phone number so they may start on the road to recovery," said State Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services Commissioner, Miriam Delphin-Rittmon. "We know that treatment works. By calling this number and connecting to one of our assessment centers, we can get people the support and hope they need to help beat addiction."

Residents seeking treatment and services for opioid abuse can go to any of the state's walk-in assessment centers where they will be evaluated. At the assessment center, it will be determined which course of treatment and services the individual is eligible for, what will work best for them and address any insurance-related issues.

The walk-in assessment centers can be accessed by calling 1-800-563-4086 or visiting the DMHAS website at <u>www.ct.gov/dmhas/walkins</u>. For more information about opioid services and walk-in assessment centers, please contact Diana Lejardi at (860) 418-6967 or <u>diana.lejardi@ct.gov</u>.