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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Newton Mayor Setti Warren and Newton-Wellesley Hospital Announce Partnership to Combat Opioid Epidemic

Newton, MA – The City of Newton and Newton-Wellesley Hospital are establishing an innovative partnership to combat the opioid epidemic in Newton and the region.

Led by Dr. Antje Barreveld, NWH Anesthesiologist and Medical Director of Pain Management Service, the new Substance Abuse Disorders Service (SAS) team will expand clinical education and training programs for providers, provide coordinated, safe, multi-modal treatment for patients with chronic pain and substance use disorders and help patients transition to long-term care when needed. The team will be comprised of a Director, Associate Director, Social Worker, Medical Assistant, Physician Assistant, Nurse Practitioner, and Recovery Coaches.

“We are excited to continue our work with Newton-Wellesley Hospital as we look to address the opioid epidemic here in Newton,” said Newton Mayor Setti Warren “The resources and experience that NWH brings, both in treating substance abuse and working in our community, are invaluable as we try innovative programs to help those most in need. By providing long-term care through recovery coaches and other support services, this new program will give those suffering from addiction the treatment they need for a successful recovery.”

This new program builds on the well-established partnership between the City of Newton and NWH to address the opioid epidemic. Three doctors from the Hospital participate on the City’s Newton PATH team and NWH provides Narcan doses to Newton’s first responders.

“Since our founding in 1881, Newton-Wellesley Hospital has played an important role caring for the health and well-being of our community and beyond,” said Michael R. Jaff, DO, President, Newton-Wellesley Hospital. “We look forward to building on our important partnership with the City of Newton to address the deepening and deadly substance abuse crisis in our community.”

“I am very encouraged by this program,” said Newton Police Chief David MacDonald. “We are seeing this crisis play out on the front lines in our community, impacting people of all ages and backgrounds. The focus on prevention and treatment are also the priorities of NPD as we seek to serve and protect the Newton community and we look forward to working with Newton-Wellesley Hospital as a resource and partner.”

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