

Cigna Sponsors ‘NPR Generation Listen;’ Millennials in Chicago to Discuss Opioids

CHICAGO, 15 September, 2016 - Cigna (NYSE: CI) will continue its work to raise awareness of the country’s opioid epidemic – and how to curb it – on Monday, Sept. 19, from 6 to 8:30 pm CT in Chicago as the company sponsors *NPR Generation Listen: America’s Opioid Epidemic*. This NPR “listening party” is the second in a two-city tour. The first event that took place in Atlanta on Sept. 1.

The Chicago event for Millennials will be free to the public and held at The Ivy Room, 12 E. Ohio St., Chicago. The program will be hosted by NPR reporter Kelly McEvers, with special guest journalist and author Maia Szalavitz. For information or to register for the forum, visit <https://npropioidschicago.splashthat.com/>.

NPR’s listening parties are intimate gatherings where the audience listens to thought-provoking stories, discusses ideas surfaced through these stories, and meets like-minded people interested in addressing issues such as the opioid epidemic. On Sept. 19, the gathered audience will listen to NPR reports from the frontlines of the opioid epidemic. McEvers will then kick off a conversation with Szalavitz, and the audience will be invited to share personal reflections, stories, questions and ideas to better understand how to prevent, treat and communicate about substance use disorders.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has found that prescription opioid overdose rates between 1999 and 2014 were highest among people between the ages of 25 and 54. “The challenges with opioid abuse cut across generations. The Millennial generation has been hard hit, but it is important to recognize they have the potential to help reverse this crisis for themselves, friends, as well as older generations and the generation of the future,” said David M. Cordani, Cigna president and chief executive officer. Cordani will open the forum, and will be on hand to wrap up the evening in a discussion with Loren Mayor, NPR’s chief operating officer.

Cigna is working to eliminate the stigma associated with substance use disorders so that people can find the help they need. The company is taking steps to reduce its customers’ opioid use by 25 percent – which would return to 2006 levels, before the drug crisis. To achieve this goal, Cigna is tapping into its extensive experience with prevention, wellness and chronic disease management programs, and is working with clients, physicians and others to develop ways to increase prevention and treatment of substance use disorders.

In May, Cigna also announced its collaboration with the [American Society of Addiction Medicine](#) (ASAM), in which Cigna furnished customer claims data to ASAM to test and validate three performance measures related to addiction treatment. The goal is to verify what works in the treatment of patients with addiction, make the medical community aware of proven strategies, and hasten the adoption of these successful methods.

The Cigna Foundation has provided \$200,000 in World of Difference grants to Shatterproof, a non-profit organization committed to ending substance use disorders, and gave \$50,000 to make naloxone – a life-saving drug that reverses the effects of a drug overdose – available for use by first responders in Pennsylvania. Cigna also works with Stamp Out Stigma, an initiative spearheaded by the Association for Behavioral Health and Wellness, to change perceptions and reduce the stigma of mental illness and substance use.

For more information on Cigna's leadership in addressing the country’s drug crisis, please visit [here](#).

About Cigna

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About NPR

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