

# The DPH Bulletin

From the Delaware Division of Public Health

November 2017



Several dignitaries attended the Oct. 26, 2017 Delaware Health and Social Services (DHSS) conference, “A Vision for Substance Use Disorder Treatment.” From left: Division of Public Health Director Dr. Karyl Rattay, Attorney General Matt Denn, DHSS Secretary Dr. Kara Odom Walker, Senator Stephanie Hansen, and Representative David Bentz. Lieutenant Governor Bethany Hall-Long also attended and spoke. Photo by Donna Sharp.

## DHSS Secretary presents vision for substance use disorder treatment

Delaware Health and Social Services (DHSS) Secretary Dr. Kara Odom Walker recently shared the DHSS vision for improving the system of care for substance use disorders. The system of care will identify and reach people quickly and match them with the treatment services they require.

The vision includes Centers for Excellence to provide comprehensive substance use disorder evaluation; induction and maintenance of medication-assisted treatment; group and individual counseling; and strategic outreach using peers at key touch points to engage new or lost-to-care clients. The centers can offer a wide array of services, including case management, links to transitional housing, and family engagement.

DHSS held the Oct. 26, 2017 conference, “A Vision for Substance Use Disorder Treatment” to share best practices and innovative work. Twelve presentations, links, and literature are posted at: [dhss.delaware.gov/dhss/dph/hsp/opioidconres.html](http://dhss.delaware.gov/dhss/dph/hsp/opioidconres.html).

DHSS asks those with thoughts on Delaware’s system to share them by sending an email to: [dhss\\_dph\\_web@state.de.us](mailto:dhss_dph_web@state.de.us). The email address will remain open until Dec. 1, 2017. Early next year, DHSS will announce plans to evolve the Delaware treatment system.



**DELAWARE HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES**  
Division of Public Health

## Create a safe zone around your home to protect it against wildfires

Since wildfires can occur anywhere, fall yard clean-ups should create 30-foot borders from homes that are free of wood piles, dried leaves, and newspapers, according to the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). FEMA recommends that yards have “fuel breaks” (driveways, gravel walkways, and lawns), and that homeowners remove underbrush and thin continuous canopies up to 200 feet away.

Homeowners should also prune tree branches 10 feet off the ground and keep gutters and roofs free of debris, according to [www.SmokeyBear.com](http://www.SmokeyBear.com). Store gas grills, propane tanks, mowers, and gas cans 30 feet away from any structure. Review homeowner’s and renter’s insurance policies and inventory household contents. Photograph rooms and keep records in a safety deposit box.

In Delaware it is illegal to burn leaves, grass clippings, stumps, and household trash at any time, according to the Delaware Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control. It is permissible to burn very small amounts (less than 27 cubic feet) of cut or fallen tree limbs or trimmed residential shrubbery between October 1 and April 30 between 8:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. Before homeowners conduct open burning activities (except barbecues, patio fire pits, and chimeneas), they must notify the local County Fire Board: New Castle County, 302-571-7331; Kent County, 302-734-6040, and Sussex County, 302-856-6306. Read the Citizen’s Guide to Open Burning at link <http://www.dnrec.delaware.gov/Air/Pages/OBCitizenGuide.aspx>.

## DPH Director receives award



Frances A. Russo-Avena, RN, MSN, MSM, left, and Karyl Rattay, MD, MS.  
Submitted photo.

DPH Director Dr. Karyl Rattay received atTAcK addiction’s Medal of Honor on Oct. 19 for her ongoing work with the Prescription Drug Action Committee, for increasing access to the overdose-reversing medication naloxone and for her “empathy, compassion and dedication” to reducing the impact of addiction on Delaware families.