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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
November 28, 2018

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**DETROIT WAYNE MENTAL HEALTH AUTHORITY
JOINS OPIOID LITIGATION**

DWMHA Seeks to Hold Drug Companies Accountable for Deceptive Marketing Practices

DETROIT – The Detroit Wayne Mental Health Authority (“DWMHA”) President and CEO Willie Brooks announced today that DWMHA is joining the fight against multiple drug manufacturers and distributors alleging the deceptive marketing and sale of opioids – a dangerous, highly addictive and often lethal class of painkillers, including OxyContin and Fentanyl.

The lawsuit alleges that the catastrophic nationwide opioid epidemic is being driven by drug manufacturers’ deceptive marketing and sale of opioids to treat chronic pain, including their concerted, coordinated strategy to shift the way in which doctors and patients think about pain and to encourage the widespread prescribing of opioids. As a result, DWMHA has been responding to a significant increase in need for medical care, along with serious social and emotional consequences for substance users and their families that continue to grow as a result of opioid over-prescription and addiction. In joining this litigation DWMHA hopes to bring to light the suffering the epidemic has caused individuals and their families in Wayne County, along with the increased costs for substance abuse prevention and treatment, medical care services, and diversion programs incurred by DWMHA.

The Detroit Wayne Mental Health Authority (DWMHA) is the largest and most diverse CMH system in Michigan. We are committed to being consumer and community focused, data driven and evidence based. Through programs and services that utilize promising best practices we hope to promote a community that is supportive and embraces individuals with mental illness, developmental disabilities and substance use disorder. We offer supports in Infant Mental Health, Integrated Healthcare, Supportive Housing, and Recovery to support self-determination and improving the health and quality of life for nearly 80,000 consumers and their families.

“As the largest community mental health agency in the state of Michigan it is our duty to protect the 80,000 individuals that we serve every day,” said President and CEO Willie Brooks. “Today we join in this class action lawsuit to seek justice for those individuals who have been deceived by drug manufacturers and distributors who are clearly putting profits over people. Tactics such as these will not be tolerated and these companies must be held accountable for their actions.”

The complaint alleges that defendants intentionally misled doctors and patients about the appropriate uses, risks, safety, and efficacy of prescription opioids while downplaying the risks of addiction. The defendants in the case are Purdue Pharma L.P., Purdue Pharma, Inc., The Purdue Frederick Company, Inc., Rhodes Pharmaceuticals L.P., Cephalon, Inc., Teva Pharmaceutical Industries Ltd., Teva Pharmaceuticals USA, Inc., Endo International PLC, Endo Pharmaceuticals, Inc., Endo Health Solutions, Inc., Par Pharmaceutical Companies, Inc., Janssen Pharmaceuticals, Inc., Janssen Pharmaceutica, Inc., Noramco, Inc., Ortho-McNeil-Janssen Pharmaceuticals, Inc., Johnson & Johnson, Insys Therapeutics, Inc., Mallinckrodt PLC, Mallinckrodt LLC, SpecGx LLC, Allergan PLC, Allergan Finance LLC, Actavis Pharma, Inc., Actavis LLC, AmerisourceBergen Drug Corporation, Cardinal Health, Inc., and McKesson Corporation.

“These companies focused their efforts on getting more doctors to prescribe these dangerous drugs while distorting the conversation about addiction,” said Lead Counsel **E. Powell Miller** of The Miller Law Firm, which is representing DWMHA. “Justice demands that the companies responsible for this epidemic, who have reaped tremendous profits from their practices, pay for the suffering they’ve created.”

The complaint was filed today in the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Michigan. It is expected to soon be transferred to the Northern District of Ohio to join other pending cases in the ongoing Multi-District Litigation, *In Re: National Prescription Opiate Litigation*, Case No. 1:17-md-02804. Plaintiff Detroit Wayne Mental Health Authority is represented by The Miller Law Firm, P.C. and Robbins, Geller, Rudman & Dowd LLP.

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