

## **PRESS ADVISORY – MONDAY, APRIL 3RD**

### **Legislative Commission on Behavioral Health Promotion and Upstream Prevention (Promote Prevent Commission) convenes State of the State on Behavioral Health**

Features U.S. Senator Markey, HHS Secretary Sudders, & Trial Courts Chief Justice Carey

#### **FOR MORE INFORMATION:**

Rep. Jim Cantwell, House Chair of the Commission  
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PROMOTEPREVENT.COM

Boston, MA....Promote Prevent Commission convenes State of the State on Behavioral Health on Monday, April 3<sup>rd</sup>, 1:30PM to 3:00PM, at the Massachusetts State House, Rm 428.

#### **Presentations from:**

**U.S. Senator Ed Markey**, A national leader in the fight against the opiate epidemic

- Consequences of the opiate epidemic, federal efforts, and a call to action

**Marylou Sudders**, Mass Secretary of Health and Human Services

- Overview of Behavioral Health disorders in Massachusetts, including incidence and impact of addiction, mental illness, and violence.

**The Honorable Paula M. Carey**, Chief Justice of the Trial Court

- Relationship between criminality and behavioral health, incarceration rates, and challenges to the courts

**Joan Mikula**, Commissioner of Department of Mental Health

- Major mental health issues in the Commonwealth, including incidence, comorbidity, social impact, and gaps in the system

**Monica Bharel**, Commissioner of Department of Public Health

- Major public health issues surrounding behavioral health disorders, including the nature of the disorders, incidence rates, and costs of services

The meeting will focus on the nature and gravity of behavioral health issues in the Commonwealth, including the opiate epidemic, mental illness, impacts on our criminal justice system, and the effects for individuals, communities, and the state.

The Promote Prevent Commission (signed into law in Aug. 2016) is tasked with identifying barriers and innovative solutions to increase investment in proven promotion and prevention programs and system changes in the Commonwealth. This is the Commission's first substantive meeting.