

2014 Resolution No: 4

Submitted by: Mayor Martin J. Walsh, Boston, Massachusetts

Creation of a National Task Force On Addiction Recovery Services

WHEREAS, the tragic effects of drug and alcohol addiction are negatively impacting residents in cities and towns across the country; and

WHEREAS, individuals struggling with addiction often experience homelessness, or incarceration for crimes related to their addiction; and

WHEREAS, opiate-related overdoses are steadily rising with the increased availability of cheap, highly-potent heroin and opiate prescription drugs; and

WHEREAS, access to detox services, transitional programs, and safe sober housing do not adequately meet the increasingly high demand for services; and

WHEREAS, there are not enough preventative addiction education services for young people; and

WHEREAS, there is a great need for educational and employment training for individuals in early recovery; and

WHEREAS, research efforts by public and private entities have yet to comprehensively assess the scope of the national addiction problem, the quantity and quality of existing resources, or the areas with the largest service gaps,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that The United States Conference of Mayors recommends that the White House convene a National Task Force comprised of representatives from relevant federal agencies including ONDCP, SAMHSA, CDC, FDA, and DEA; along with Mayors; relevant state officials; community-based professionals and experts in the recovery field; foundations; universities; and people in recovery; to identify the gaps in recovery services, examine and share best practices, and make recommendations for action at the federal, state and local levels for the provision of prevention, treatment, social supports, and long-term care needed to keep residents in recovery from addiction healthy.