

MEDIA ADVISORY

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World AIDS Day 2017 to Focus on “Ending the Epidemics” in South Carolina

COLUMBIA, S.C. – South Carolina government agencies, private-sector organizations, the faith community, public health professionals and others will come together for a World AIDS Day event at 6:00 p.m. on Thursday, November 30, on the North Steps of the State House in Columbia.

During the event, officials will unveil a new statewide campaign – “Ending the Epidemics” – that will highlight the need for integrated prevention and care approaches designed to end the HIV/AIDS, STD, Hepatitis C, and opioid epidemics. “Ending the Epidemics’ in South Carolina will help reduce the number of new HIV, STD and Hepatitis C infections, link individuals to providers, increase viral suppression for those living with HIV/AIDS, and promote prevention efforts,” said Governor Henry McMaster when proclaiming December 1, 2017, as World AIDS Day in South Carolina.

The “Ending the Epidemics” event will include comments by individuals living with HIV; performances by vocalist Jorge Martinez, the Midlands Men’s Chorus and spoken-word artist Lateefah McKee (Miss Benedict College 2017-2018); a tolling of the bells at Trinity Episcopal Cathedral; and a moment of silence for all those impacted by these public health crises.

WHEN: 6:00 – 7:00 p.m. on Thursday, November 30, 2017

WHERE: South Carolina State House, North Steps
1100 Gervais St., Columbia, S.C.

WHO: Sara Goldsby, MSW, MPH
Interim Director, S.C. Department of Alcohol and Other Drug Abuse Services
Dr. Linda Bell, M.D.
State Epidemiologist, S.C. Department of Health and Environmental Control
Elizabeth McLendon
Advocacy Mobilizer, AIDS Healthcare Foundation
Stanley Solomon
Community Advocate, Unity Empowerment Resource Center

MODERATOR: Tony Price
Prevention Manager, STD/HIV Division
S.C. Department of Health and Environmental Control

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DAODAS is the cabinet agency charged with ensuring the provision of quality services to prevent or reduce the negative consequences of substance use and addictions.