



**For Immediate Release: January 18, 2017**

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## **Delta Dental Plan of Vermont supports the Chittenden County Opioid Alliance**

*Winooski* - The Chittenden County Opioid Alliance (CCOA) and Delta Dental Plan of Vermont (DDPVT) are announcing the investment of \$150,000 over the course of the next three years to combat opioid abuse and dependency. On September 9, the DDPVT Board of Trustees approved the grant in light of the severity of the epidemic and the importance of effectively combating it to improve the overall health of the residents of the region.

Delta Dental Plan of Vermont's mission is to advance the oral health and overall wellness of its customers and the general public, and sees the impact of opioid abuse and dependency as a key issue limiting the health of Vermonters. The CCOA has been built by stakeholders, using targeted investments by many partners in the model of collective impact, to address not only the symptoms of this issue, but attack the causes of addiction. Together, DDPVT and CCOA see this as a critical moment in time to bring about real change.

"As a wellness-focused company, with a mission to advance the oral health and overall wellness of our customers and the general public, Delta Dental Plan of Vermont cannot ignore the severity of the opioid epidemic. We are proud to partner with the Chittenden County Opioid Alliance and work together to help solve this important population health issue," said Chair of the Delta Dental Plan of Vermont Board of Trustees, Paul Averill, DDS.

"The CCOA is proud to be the recipient of funds from DDPVT in order to advance our efforts on the many effects of opioid substance use disorder on the residents of this region. Our mission is to reduce the burden of opioids in our community by creating a coordinated system of care to prevent addiction, treat those and their families suffering from substance use disorder and support recovery and this generous gift will enable us to further our important work with another key community partner", says Aikman, Project Director for the CCOA.

Delta Dental Plan of Vermont's investment will be primarily used to pilot concepts developed by the CCOA Action Teams focusing on treatment, prevention, workforce development, and collaborative data systems. Additionally, the CCOA will be collaborating with oral health experts to identify opportunities to target investments into oral health interventions that are the specific result of opioid addiction.

Recognizing a persistent need and our community readiness, in January of 2016, a group of state and community partners proposed to more effectively organize our Chittenden County response to the opioid crisis. The proposal brought together the existing efforts to address the complex causes and effects of opioid addiction under one strategic umbrella structure- the Chittenden County Opioid Alliance.

**About Delta Dental Plan of Vermont:** Delta Dental Plan of Vermont is one of three Delta Dental Plans doing business jointly as Northeast Delta Dental. Headquartered in Concord, New Hampshire, with sales offices in Burlington, Vermont, and Saco, Maine, Northeast Delta Dental administers dental benefits for more than 832,000 people in Maine, New Hampshire, and Vermont, including organizations of all sizes and individuals and families with no access to employer-sponsored dental benefits. Learn more at [nedelta.com](http://nedelta.com).

**About Chittenden County Opioid Alliance:** The Chittenden County Opioid Alliance is funded by the University of Vermont Medical Center, the Stiller Family Foundation through the United Way of Northwest Vermont, the Green Mountain Care Board through State Innovation Model funds, and Delta Dental Plan of Vermont, while the Chittenden County Regional Planning Commission, the cooperative regional forum for the development of policies, plans and programs that address regional issues and opportunities in Chittenden County, is the fiscal and administrative agent of the grant funds.

For more information, please contact CCOA Project Director Cathy Aikman at [caikman@ccrpcvt.org](mailto:caikman@ccrpcvt.org) or (802) 861-0138, or visit [ecosproject.com/chittenden-county-opioid-alliance](http://ecosproject.com/chittenden-county-opioid-alliance).

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