



Lake County Board of Commissioners

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PRESS RELEASE

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Lake and Trumbull Counties Win Opioid Litigation

A jury of 12 individuals recently announced their verdict in favor of Lake and Trumbull Counties against Walmart, CVS and Walgreens in the National Prescription Opioid Litigation. The verdict, announced in the United States District Court Northern District of Ohio Eastern Division, was read by Judge Dan Aaron Polster.

“On behalf of all the residents in Lake County who have been impacted by this epidemic, I would like to extend my sincere gratitude to the jurors who spent seven weeks listening to the impact opioids have had in our communities,” said Commission President John R. Hamercheck.

The trial began on October 4, 2021, and included over 30 witnesses from the Counties and defendants. Lake and Trumbull Counties were selected by the Court as a bellwether trial, or a test case to gauge where future trials may end up. This lawsuit is one of thousands filed throughout the United States.

“I would like to thank our legal representation and county officials who spent countless hours over the past 4 years preparing for this most important litigation. Our work is just beginning as we continue our efforts to address substance abuse in Lake County,” said Commissioner John Plecnik.

It is estimated that 61 million pills were dispensed in Lake County from 2012 – 2016; 265 pills for every resident. Impacts of the epidemic are evident within countless local agencies including law enforcement, children services, local courts, coroner and local treatment facilities.

“Today’s announcement is tremendous news for our families and communities. Most all of us know someone who has been impacted by Opioids and future resources will allow the County and our partners to provide increased resources to get people’s lives back on track,” said Commissioner Ron Young.

Lake County and Trumbull County previously agreed to a settlement in principal with Giant Eagle. The counties, along with their countless partners, remain committed to addressing the opioid problem in our communities. Our work in, among other areas, counseling, educational outreach and providing treatment options are essential to the well-being of our affected families.

“Today’s verdict is a positive step forward in having the necessary resources to do the important work of our countless community partners throughout our social services network, law enforcement agencies and medical providers. Our families in Lake County deserve to have the best tools available to them to address this epidemic,” said Lake County ADAMHS Board Executive Director Kim Fraser.

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