

ASSOCIATION OF STATE AND TERRITORIAL HEALTH OFFICIALS



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@ASTHO

May 18, 2018

Dr. Kathryn K. Matthew  
Director  
Institute of Museum and Library Services  
955 L'Enfant Plaza North, SW, Suite 4000  
Washington, D.C. 20024-2135

Dear Dr. Matthew,

On behalf of Association of State and Territorial Health Officials (ASTHO), I am pleased to write in support of the project by the Public Library Association (PLA) and OCLC, to engage experts, conduct research and develop and disseminate case studies on public libraries and their role in addressing the opioid epidemic.

ASTHO sees value in this proposal. We believe there is no single strategy to solve this public health crisis and it is in clear interest of the broader communities we serve that all partners – libraries, government, community development, medical providers, public health and safety organizations and more – work collectively to respond to the opioid epidemic in their communities.

ASTHO is the national non-profit organization representing the state and territorial public health agencies of the United States, the U.S. Territories and the District of Columbia. ASTHO's members, the chief health officials of these jurisdictions, are dedicated to formulating and influencing thoughtful public health policy and assuring excellence in state-based public health practice. ASTHO currently is supporting states across the nation address the opioid epidemic by providing policy guidance and technical assistance on several important fronts, from the use of prescription drug monitoring programs (PDMPs), overdose prevention, primary prevention, as well as the importance of expanded treatment options that can be implemented at the state level.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "John Mericsko". The signature is fluid and cursive.

John Mericsko  
Chief Financial Officer  
Association of State and Territorial Health Officials