MEDIA ALERT – Addressing the Opioid Crisis

New York to Host AATOD 2018, Largest Global Gathering of Policy Makers, Experts

**When:** Saturday, March 10 through Wednesday, March 14, 2018

**Where:** New York Marriott Marquis Hotel, 1535 Broadway, New York, NY 10036

**What:** American Association for the Treatment of Opioid Dependence (AATOD) 2018 Conference: “Advancing & Integrating Specialized Addiction Treatment & Recovery”

**Co-hosted by:** New York State Office of Alcoholism and Substance Abuse Services (OASAS) Coalition of Medication-Assisted Treatment Providers and Advocates of NY State (COMPA)

- **Speakers include:** Gov. Chris Christie, Patrick J. Kennedy, Elinore McCance-Katz

**Why:** Over 100 Americans DIE EACH DAY from an opioid overdose – Heroin-related deaths are up 286% from 2002 – In any given day, 41,000+ people receive opioid addiction treatment services from NY State – Optimal treatment of affected individuals is critical to curbing the epidemic

**Event Summary:**
- 1,800+ opioid-addiction treatment providers and policy officials attend, representing every state in the US and countries around the world
- 200+ presentations focus on cutting-edge policy and new clinical findings from municipal, state, national and international organizations/groups
- Special Session of World Federation for the Treatment of Opioid Dependence to take place during AATOD 2018, on Sunday, March 11

**VIP Speaker Highlights -- Open to News Media:**

- **Monday, March 12:** 8:45 –10:15 AM -- Opening Plenary: Arlene González-Sánchez, OASAS Commissioner; Mark W. Parrino, MPA, President, AATOD; Icro Maremmani, MD, President, World Federation for the Treatment of Opioid Dependence; moderated by Allegra Schorr, President, COMPA
- **Evening Awards:** 8:45-9:30 PM (Media arrive by 8:30 PM) -- Presentation of AATOD “Friend of the Field” Award to Governor Chris Christie:

  “I am proud to receive AATOD’s prestigious Friend of the Field award, but more importantly, proud to shine a light on this crisis. As the 55th Governor of New Jersey and as Chairman of the President’s Commission on Combating Drug Addiction and the Opioid Crisis, I have worked to end the stigma on the opioid crisis and change public policy to make treatment more readily available. Working with groups like AATOD we have accomplished much, but much more remains to do. I thank AATOD and its Board for this award and look forward to working together on solutions for opioid treatment policies.”

- **Tuesday, March 13:** 8:45 –10:15 AM -- Middle Plenary: Jason A. Helgerson, MPP, Deputy Commissioner/New York State Medicaid Director, NYDOH Office of Health Insurance Programs

- **Wednesday, March 14:** 11:30 –1:00 AM-- Closing Plenary: Patrick J. Kennedy, former U.S. Representative (D-RI) and member of the President’s Commission on Combatting Drug Addiction and the Opioid Crisis; Dr. Elinore McCance-Katz, Assistant Secretary for Health and Substance Use, DHHS; moderated by Allegra Schorr, COMPA

**Call in advance to secure onsite interviews; same-day requests honored as possible.**
**Press to register on 5th floor. Pre-registration is possible. #aatod2018**