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February 12, 2018
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Cumberland County Files Suit Against Opioid Manufacturers & Distributors

Carlisle, Pa. – Today, the Cumberland County Board of Commissioners approved filing a complaint against the manufacturers and distributors of opioid pain medications. The County is seeking to recover public resource damages, which will be used in continuing efforts to confront the ever-escalating opioid epidemic. There is no cost to Cumberland County taxpayers with this filing.

The complaint against more than 20 opioid manufacturers and distributors alleges these companies intentionally misled the public and medical community, and failed in their responsibilities under the law to inform the public of the dangers of using opioids. The behavior of these defendants has strongly contributed to the opioid crisis we are experiencing not only in Cumberland County but throughout our state and nation.

The number of opioid related deaths has rapidly accelerated in Cumberland County over the past several years. In 2013, a person died from an overdose roughly once every two weeks. In 2017, the County lost 83 people, or approximately one person every four days. With 64,000 people dead from a drug overdose in the United States in 2017, overdoses are now the leading cause of death for Americans under 50.

“Every day, we hear in the news, through social media and from our neighbors the devastating effects this crisis is having in our County,” said Vince DiFilippo, chairman of the Board of the Commissioners. “As a County, we have a significant number of programs and initiatives in place

to respond to this crisis. The complaint we have filed, at no financial cost to our residents, is another step we are taking to address this crisis and provide our communities with the resources they need.”

Programs and initiatives Cumberland County has implemented to address the opioid crisis include an Opioid Intervention Court, a Warm Handoff Program, securing grant money to provide Naloxone to first responders, initiating a Vivitrol program at the County Prison, working to expand treatment services through partnerships with various local organizations, providing medication collection boxes and holding many public information sessions. More details on all the County’s efforts to address the crisis can be found at www.ccpa.net/4599/What-Are-We-Doing.

The County has partnered with the [Napoli Shkolnik PLLC](#) firm for this endeavor. Napoli Shkolnik currently also represents York County, in its similar litigation, as well as around 100 other counties and cities that have filed similar cases.

Napoli Shkolnik PLLC has a long and distinguished history of representing counties, cities and other municipalities, and has expertise in pharmaceutical litigation. Numerous state and federal courts across the country have appointed Napoli Shkolnik to leadership positions in many of the largest pharmaceutical cases ever filed and the firm has been involved in nearly every major pharmaceutical mass tort case over the last two decades.

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Cumberland County is the fastest growing county in the Commonwealth and offers the perfect mix of small town, suburban and rural living. Established in 1750, Cumberland County consistently maintains one of the lowest tax and unemployment rates in the State, while providing exceptional services for its nearly 250,000 residents. More information on Cumberland County can be found at www.ccpa.net.

Click [here](#) to view the Complaint document.

Click [here](#) for a PDF fact sheet of the County’s opioid response.