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Gov. Christie & Kellyanne Conway: Opioid Addiction Is A Scourge Across This Country

Monday, September 18, 2017 Tags: [Addiction Taskforce](#)



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Gov. Christie & Kellyanne Conway: Opioid Addiction Is A Scourge ...

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Transcript:

Governor Christie: This problem will not be addressed sufficiently in our country, if we don't have the active involvement and partnership with the pharmaceutical companies. Without their help and their participation, it will be near impossible to be able to accomplish what we need to accomplish for the American people in terms of dealing with the opioid crisis and the overdose crisis in our country. And so when I was at the White House on July 31st to deliver the interim report to the President, I had the opportunity to meet with Doctor Collins, the head of NIH, and we had the opportunity to brainstorm a little bit that day about ways that we could help to improve what NIH is attempting to do, to assist them, and to make the commission's work more meaningful. And so the idea of this meeting today was born at that July 31st meeting that I had with Doctor Collins and others, and the exciting part of today, from my perspective, is that each and every one of those companies who came today have agreed to be part of a partnership with the NIH in two respects: One to help to develop new non-opioid pain medication and to put that on a fast track in partnership with NIH, and secondly, is to help develop additional medication-assisted treatment for those folks who are already suffering from this disease to have additional options beyond the three main options that are available right now.

Kellyanne Conway: This is no longer someone else's coworker, someone else's community, someone else's kid. Opioid addiction is a scourge across the land, it literally has touched every state, every demographic group. And so we feel that since it has touched everyone in that way that it's a challenge that should be shared and born by all.

Governor Christie: Today, I think was a very important day in the progress in this. To have all the major pharmaceutical companies here and making this commitment to the Director of the NIH and to the FDA and to the White House and our commission is really important step in this process and you know we can't predict today, as I said in response to Sal's question, we can't predict today how much time this will take or when we will find it but I'm confident today, now, that we will find, because of this partnership, new treatments and new treatments not only for

pain but for those who are already addicted. And that will mean an enormous difference in the lives of lots of families across this country who are suffering from this problem right now.

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