

Blueprint to combat opioid abuse in Nevada

By Pashtana Usufzy, Las Vegas Review-Journal

Gov. Brian Sandoval's Prescription Drug Abuse Prevention Summit concluded Thursday with a laundry list of recommendations to reduce opioid abuse in Nevada, at least some of which are expected to be included in a legislative package the governor will send to the Legislature next year.

Suggestions from about 400 health care professionals, politicians and others attending the two-day summit included identifying physicians and others who overprescribe opioids, ensuring that patients who abuse drugs are connected with rehabilitation services and increasing access to the overdose-reversing drug naloxone.

The summit also revealed some hopeful news: The number of reported opiate-related overdose deaths declined statewide in 2015, though state officials say they don't yet know why.

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