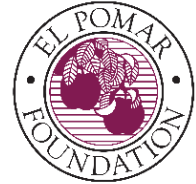


FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Celebrating 85 years

El Pomar Foundation's Forum for Civic Advancement presents "A Forum on Fentanyl"

Colorado Springs, CO — October 30, 2023 — El Pomar Foundation's Forum for Civic Advancement program will present the "Forum on Fentanyl" on **November 14, 2023, from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m.** at Ent Center for the Arts' Chapman Recital Hall (5225 N. Nevada Ave, Colorado Springs, CO 80918). The program will convene local leaders and experts to discuss the fentanyl epidemic in Colorado, with a focus on issues and efforts in El Paso County.

The community is invited to join us for this informative event that aims to educate the public on the rise of fentanyl use in Colorado and to bring together diverse voices to expand understanding of the issue. The program will run from 5:30 to 6:45 p.m., immediately followed by a reception to foster continued conversation from 6:45 to 7:30 p.m.

Dr. Leon Kelly, El Paso County Coroner, will present El Paso County's current statistics on fentanyl abuse. This will be followed by a panel discussion with representatives across a variety of sectors, including government, health, law, education, and community services.

Panelists will include Adrian Vasquez, Colorado Springs Police Department Chief; Dr. Bernadette Albanese and Dr. Paul Mayer, El Paso County Public Health Co-Directors; Longinos Gonzalez, El Paso County District 4 Commissioner; Melissa Chizmar, Southern Colorado Health Network Prevention Services Manager; Michael Allen, Colorado's 4th Judicial District Attorney; Nicole Herrera, Colorado Springs School District 11 Project AWARE Coordinator; and, Dr. Ryan Cole, Serenity Recovery Connection Board Member and Clinical Psychologist.

The event is free and open to the public, but registration is requested. Registration and more information about the event and panelists can be found at <https://www.elpomar.org/programs/forum-for-civic-advancement/>

About Forum for Civic Advancement

Founded in 2002, El Pomar Foundation's Forum for Civic Advancement seeks and supports individuals interested in contributing to the civic health of the Pikes Peak Region. It operates lectures, panels, and seminars in which public-minded citizens can meet other current and aspiring political and civic leaders and engage in cutting-edge political ideas from around the country.

About El Pomar Foundation

El Pomar Foundation is one of the largest and oldest private foundations in Colorado. El Pomar contributes approximately \$25 million annually through grants in the areas of arts & culture, civic & community initiatives, education, health, and human services, as well as community stewardship and leadership development programs to support Colorado nonprofit organizations. Spencer and Julie Penrose founded El Pomar in 1937 with the mission to enhance, encourage, and promote the current and future well-being of the people of Colorado.

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