

For Immediate Release

DOCUMENTARY TO BE SHOWN NOV. 9 REVEALS OPIATE DRUG-USE RISKS

CUMBERLAND, Md. – “Chasing the Dragon,” a documentary that powerfully illustrates the grave consequences of opiate abuse, will be screened Thursday, Nov. 9, at Allegany College of Maryland in an educational event intended to generate dialogue and discussion.

Renowned psychiatrist and mental health educator Dr. James S. Gordon of the Center for Mind-Body Medicine will facilitate a dialogue prompted by the 45-minute film, which is subtitled “The Life of an Opiate Addict.”

He is interested to hear about the impact of the opioid epidemic on individuals, families and the community in Western Maryland and any ideas they may have for tackling the problem.

Additionally, ACM’s on-site counseling partner and certified addictions counselor Karl Glocker will be present to answer questions and provide support, including to any viewer affected by the film’s challenging content.

The program in the College Center Theater starts at 11 a.m.

Gordon will lead a professional-level training session the following day on a community approach to wellness, with special emphasis on ways to address the opioid crisis. He is attending Nov. 9 event to hear community concerns and responses to opiate abuse.

“Chasing the Dragon,” which was produced by the FBI and the Drug Enforcement Administration, features sometimes graphic testimony about the tragic consequences of opioid drug addiction from users and their family members as well as footage of drug use and lifestyles.

The documentary, which has been screened nationwide since it debuted early last year, underscores the serious and widespread effects of a public health crisis that saw more than 60,000 Americans die from drug overdose last year.

Maryland Gov. Larry Hogan and President Donald Trump have each declared a state of emergency in response to the epidemic.

The loss of human life due to heroin and opioid use, which exceeds combined U.S. deaths from car accidents and gun violence, takes a human face in the film with first-person accounts of teenagers and young adults from a cross-section of America.

“Chasing the Dragon” is presented by ACM’s Office of Student and Legal Affairs for student prevention, education and awareness. The local community is welcome and encouraged to attend and to participate in the discussion following the film.

Attendees at the Nov. 9 event are asked to be seated in the College Center Theatre at 11 a.m. The film will start approximately 10 minutes later.

For more information contact Dr. Renee Conner, ACM dean of student and legal affairs, at 301-784-5206 or rconner@allegany.edu. Information is also available on the college website, www.allegany.edu.