

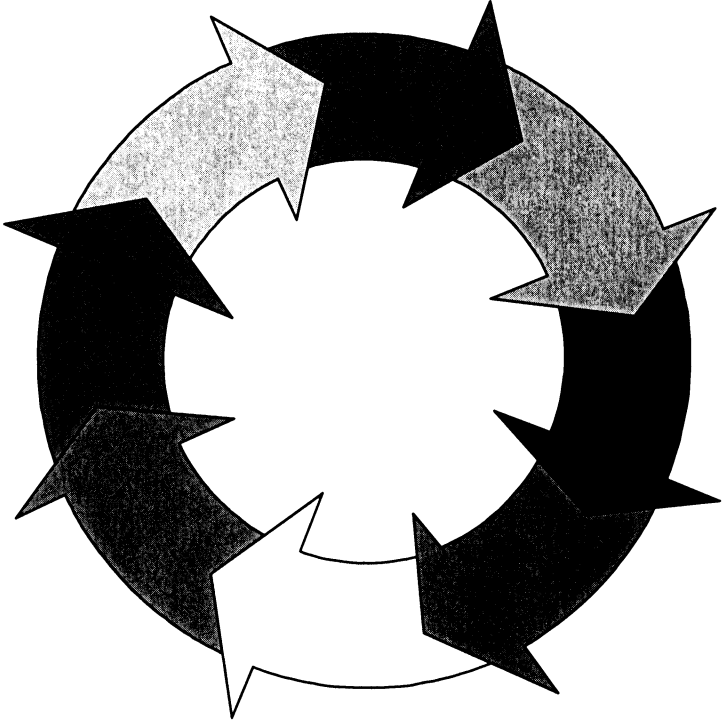
**The Governor's Interagency Substance Abuse Task Force
Subcommittee**

Substance Abuse Strategic Plan Recommendations

January 18, 2002

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The following objectives and activities were designed by incorporating the synthesis of information gathered in the fall of 2000 at eleven (11) regional focus groups meets, and the concerns and suggestions offered by direct service level representatives during a meeting in early spring of 2001.

As the strategy is to be comprehensive in nature it was the intention of the regional focus group participants to represent a diverse group from every area in the continuum. The participants included legislators, judicial system, local government, adult and juvenile corrections, state and local law enforcement, educators, Health and Welfare, physicians, program and service providers, and representatives from the State Board of Education and Department of Transportation. In April of 2001 a meeting was held at Boise State University with service level representatives from the each of the continuum areas.

During the information gathering process two additional areas surfaced, which obviously tied to the task force goals: Communication and Information Management. The areas have been included in this document.

Task Force Identified Goals:

***Identify current substance abuse systems to increase service coordination and reduce substance abuse in Idaho.**

***Invest available funds in cost-effective programs to optimize service outcomes using best practices and “what works”.**

***Improve information management to assure quality, accountability, and effectiveness of substance abuse services.**

Continuum of Services: Prevention, Intervention, Assessment, Education, Treatment, and Aftercare. Plus* Collaboration, Coordination, Communication and Information Management Systems

PREVENTION – Prevention pertains to activities designed to prevent the use of alcohol, tobacco and drugs by providing programs and increasing opportunities for positive and law-abiding behavior, which includes various levels and types of approaches.

Objectives and Activities

- 1. Deter first-time alcohol, tobacco and other drug use among young people and other high-risk populations**
 - Sustain a consistent message regarding substance use
 - Increase activities through research-based alternatives to substance abuse
 - Support programs that incorporate asset building
 - Support school based prevention programs

- 2. Increase involvement of parents and families in prevention efforts**
 - Increase opportunities for parent awareness and education i.e. workplace
 - Build partnerships within communities for families

- 3. Provide sustainable funding to programs to attain measurable outcomes**
 - Strengthen relationships with local and county governments
 - Build partnerships with faith based and community organizations

INTERVENTION – Intervention pertains to activities designed to intercede in and address behavior that leads to or may result from alcohol, tobacco and drug use or abuse.

Objectives and Activities

1. Expand intervention for substance use/abuse

- Recognize and fund intervention as a component of the substance abuse continuum
- Support Health and Welfare social worker/resource worker in the schools
- Support and expand intervention efforts such as drug-free workplace programs, drug courts, DUI Court, employee assistance programs and student assistance programs
- Support and expand family intervention efforts such as Family Court
- Expand intervention through the medical community including perinatal care, emergency care, and primary care
- Provide training on recognizing the signs and symptoms of substance use/abuse

2. Examine Idaho Statutes to identify and enhance opportunities for early intervention

- Review child protection laws
- Evaluate DUI laws
- Explore Chemical dependency commitment laws

3. Reduce the supply of drugs

- Reduce production of methamphetamine ("Meth" initiative)
- Strengthen law enforcement with adequate resources
- Support local Multi-jurisdictional task forces
- Require coordination of enforcement efforts among federal, state, and local agencies
- Provide community training
- Reduce availability of precursors

4. Restrict access to alcohol, tobacco, and other drugs among youth

- Provide merchant training
- Conduct alcohol and tobacco compliance checks

ASSESSMENT – Assessment is the process used to determine the nature and extent of a candidate’s substance use and its impact on the individual’s quality of life. Assessment results guide judgment of the suitability for placement in a specific alcohol, tobacco or drug treatment modality or setting.

Objectives and Activities

- 1. Establish statewide alcohol/drug/DUI assessment standards.**
 - Develop protocol for use by applicable agencies for both adults and juveniles
 - Utilize validated and age appropriate assessment tools
 - Require adherence to standards by vendors/grantees

- 2. Expand comprehensiveness of assessment**
 - Address co-occurring disorders such as: mental illness, criminality, developmental disabilities
 - Identify the underlying family issues of adults and juveniles involved in substance abuse

- 3. Reduce the amount of time between requesting and receiving an assessment.**
 - Explore procedures/structures to expedite assessment process
 - Expand access to treatment

- 4. Assure quality of assessments provided**
 - Collaborate with higher education to provide standardized curriculum
 - Establish professional standards for providing alcohol/drug assessments

EDUCATION – Education pertains to activities designed to provide pertinent information on aspects of alcohol, tobacco or drug use and abuse.

Objective and Activities

1. Improve quality and effectiveness of the education component within the substance abuse services continuum

- Standardize education services based on research
- Create quality assurance systems

2. Implement a continuing comprehensive Education process from childhood through adult

- Support research based comprehensive school based programs
- Promote effective parent education groups that focus on healthy families, and healthy choices related to alcohol, tobacco, and other drugs
- Develop standards for School Resource Officer programs, including training and assessment

3. Include educational classes as part of accountability process

- Use the court system to mandate parental involvement.
- Develop education programs that effectively engages family systems as they related to substance abuse
- Provide additional education classes for student who are identified as at the beginning stages of use

4. Expand education strategies

- Utilize the media to inform the community
- Provide interagency training
- Educate legislators on substance abuse issues
- Develop a statewide website
- Maintain up-dated resources at the state library

TREATMENT – Treatment pertains to activities for people who have received clinical alcohol, tobacco or drug assessments indicating they are in need of a range of individualized services designed to halt the progression of the disorder.

Objectives and Activities

1. Expand availability of appropriate treatment

- Pursue additional funding from all potential sources
- Collaborate to fully leverage available resources across state agencies
- Streamline referral to all qualified treatment providers
- Pursue parity in insurance coverage for the disease of addiction with other medical conditions
- Include substance abuse treatment in the Medicaid program

2. Remove barriers to accessing treatment

- Address the issues of access of treatment in rural areas
- Analyze impact of prior authorization (gate-keeping) on access to treatment
- Decrease the number of clients on treatment waiting lists
- Decrease timeframe from assessment to treatment

3. Increasing number of treatment professionals

- Make field more competitive – provide competitive environment
- Reciprocity in certification requirements
- Build partnerships with colleges and universities

4. Improve quality and effectiveness of treatment programs

- Address the need for detox within the treatment continuum
- Use appropriate assessments for placement into treatment
- Design treatment to meet the needs of special populations (juveniles, methamphetamine, women and pregnant women, offenders, non-English speaking)
- Address family needs
- Require accountability and outcome reporting by service providers

AFTERCARE – Aftercare pertains to post-treatment services designed to meet the ongoing needs of the recovering individual.

Objective and Activities

1. Develop aftercare systems for adults and juveniles

- Define the role of public agencies in aftercare
- Build on the role of families, friends, faith based, and community organizations in providing aftercare activities

2. Enhance relapse prevention efforts

- Incorporate aftercare activities as part of the treatment plan
- Strengthen aftercare activities as part of formalized supervision for persons on probation and parole.
- Expand partnerships with schools to provide support for juveniles transitioning back to the classroom
- Refine “life skills” programs for the recovering individual

3. Encourage the development of transitional housing resources

- Develop programs such as halfway houses, sober living homes, and self governing recovery houses for adults
- Develop programs such as emancipation homes and recovery foster homes for juveniles

COLLABORATION, COORDINATION AND COMMUNICATION

Objectives and Activities

1. Effectively collaborate on a statewide substance abuse strategic plan

- Create a statutory office of Drug Policy within the executive office of the Governor
- Maintain the Governor's Interagency Substance Abuse Task Force as policy advisors for implementation and impact assessment of the strategic plan

2. Assure cross-agency coordination

- Build coordination into rules, bylaws and policies
- Develop methods for coordination of grants, contracts and other resources
- Develop strategies for coordination with local and regional planning efforts to simplify processes

3. Increase effective communications

- Formalize state agency communication
- Explore existing statutory language regarding interagency coordination
- Establish a statewide media and marketing point of contact
- Encourage and support a centralized "Idaho Alcohol and Drug Awareness Clearinghouse"
- Create a mechanism to effectively address questions on critical issues surrounding substance abuse, such as: duplication of services, rural verses urban, regional verses state decision making, training availability, allocation of resources, availability of funding resources, etc... (Webpage, point of contact, sounding board, or similar)

INFORMATION MANAGEMENT STRATEGIES

Objectives and Activities

1. Improve and expand information systems that provide agencies with the tools to effectively counter substance abuse and the consequences.

- Provide a central repository that would collect, analyze and disseminate data (state agency data)
- Insure confidentiality of individuals