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**Cecil County Drug and Alcohol Abuse Council**  
Report to the Community Health Advisory Committee  
John Bennett, Council Chairman  
July 19, 2012

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The following is a summary of the recent activities of Cecil County Drug and Alcohol Abuse Council (DAAC).

At a meeting of the DAAC on March 21, 2012, a Council Workgroup for Local Health Improvement was activated. The Workgroup was charged by the DAAC Council Chairman to review the substance abuse related priorities identified by the Cecil County Community Health Advisory Committee / Local Health Improvement Coalition, and develop target areas for immediate action. On May 17, 2012, the Workgroup identified goals and objectives for initial focus (abbreviated below). On June 13, 2012, the Workgroup presented their recommendations to the DAAC.

The initiatives recommended by the Workgroup focus on four goals: (1) Research and Study (2) Prescription Drug Take Back, (3) Community Education, (4) Physician Training. Respective initial objectives are listed below:

**(1) Research and Study (Consultant)**

- Increase and enhance research and data analysis on prescription drug abuse and its applications.
- Investigate alternative methods of treating pain.
- Improve research and data analysis related to local communities and the prevalence of substance abuse in Cecil County.
- Analyze data to draw conclusions to make recommendations on how to prevent substance abuse in the county.
- Research different methodologies used by other communities to tackle prescription drug abuse.
- Conduct a needs assessment that identifies the number of providers available in the county.

**(2) Prescription Drug Take Back**

- Increase training and education for the proper storage and disposal of medications.
- Increase the frequency of drug disposal opportunities in Cecil County.

**(3) Community Education**

- Work with other community organizations to implement a media campaign that educates the community and gets them involved in prevention situations

**(4) Physician Training**

- Increase education for health professionals and community members on the effects of prescription drug abuse in Cecil County. Provide training for staff in physician offices on appropriate prescribing practices and inappropriate use of opioids.