
Cecil County Drug and Alcohol Abuse Council
Report to the Community Health Advisory Committee
John Bennett, Council Chairman
January 17, 2013

During the Spring of 2012, representatives of the Cecil County Drug and Alcohol Abuse Council (DAAC) reviewed the substance abuse related priorities identified by the Local Health Improvement Coalition (Cecil County Community Health Advisory Committee) and developed target areas for immediate action. Target area initiatives recommended by the Workgroup focused on four goals: (1) Research and Study, (2) Prescription Drug Take Back, (3) Community Education, and (4) Physician Training. Identified progress toward these goals follow:

(1) Research and Study (Consultant)

During October 2012, an independent consultant (Health Resources in Action) was selected from four applicants to complete a comprehensive analysis of, and recommend solutions for Cecil County's substance abuse problem. The consultant will utilize data-driven needs assessment and analysis to identify key contributing factors of substance abuse in Cecil County and recommend solutions. The consultant is expected to release a summary report in June 2013.

(2) Prescription Drug Take Back

Successful prescription drug take back events (safe options for disposal of unused medications) occurred during the Fall of 2012. New programs developed in partnership with the Cecil County Public Library, included events at North East Branch Library with the North East Police Department, and the Perryville Branch Library by the Perryville Police Department on September 29, 2012. Additionally, Household Hazardous Waste Day (with medications acceptance) occurred on October 7, 2012, at the Cecil County Central Landfill.

(3) Community Education

During the last several months, multiple community drug awareness forums entitled "A Conversation on Substance Abuse in Cecil County" were conducted. Topics included "6 Parenting Practices to Help Reduce the Chance Your Child will Develop a Drug or Alcohol Problem," "A Discussion on Prevention, Detection, Enforcement, and Treatment of Substance Abuse," "Heroin Alert" and others. Events were held at the Cecil County Administration Office, the Rising Sun High School, and the Cecil County Public Library Rising Sun Branch.

(4) Physician Training

Progress toward education for health professionals and community members on the effects of prescription drug abuse in Cecil County was also evidenced. On June 6, 2012, DHMH Deputy Secretary for Public Health Services and the DHMH Chief Medical Officer delivered a detailed presentation on "Prescription Overdose" to Union Hospital medical staff. On September 29, 2012, community education occurred during the County's Second-Annual 5K Twelve-Step Recovery Walk, which included distribution of prescription drug addiction information and testimonials from those in recovery from addiction. Additionally, on December 12, 2012, a Delaware Public Health Program Administrator met with DAAC to share information on Delaware efforts to "Reduce Addiction, and Doctor Shopping."